ON THE COVER:
The Paul & Yetta Gluck School of Visual Arts Held Its First Class in January
see page 11 for upcoming class options

INSIDE:
Mitzvah Day 2020 Will Include a Soup Cook-off
see page 14
Where the Top Presidential Candidates Stand on Jewish Issues
see page 18
Musings with Mary Lou: Women’s Heart Month

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Did you know that February is Women’s Heart Month? It is recommended that men and women wear red on the first Friday of February which this year, is Feb. 7, so find something red to wear to show solidarity.

I have two questions: Why is it “women’s heart month” and why February? Well, of course, I don’t have all the answers (haha!); but stop and think that in February we celebrate St. Valentine’s Day. I know originally it started as, and actually still is, a religious holiday, but for many of us it just means love, hearts, hugs, and kisses. Sometimes even flowers, if you are lucky enough to get them, and also a beautiful card from a loved one. One year, I reversed it and sent my husband flowers at work. I’m not sure to this day whether he was pleased or embarrassed. I hope he was pleased. He never really said, and I can no longer ask him. I still exchange cards with my kids and a few friends.

I remember when I was young - I was once you know - it was a big deal to take valentines to school in a decorated shoe box. Then we had to go through the ones received to check to see how many were received and who had the most. When I was a little older, we looked for that one special card from that one special person and cherished it for months, until the next new crush came by. It could be a very happy time or sad time, depending what you were looking for. Remember? Those were the days. Valentine card sales are second only to Christmas cards. Mother’s Day comes in a close third. Interesting.

Heart month celebration began in 1963 in order to bring more attention to heart diseases, etc. You know, heart disease can start as early as 18, so no one is immune. I think, in my uneducated mind, that it is women’s heart month because for so many years it was difficult to diagnose heart problems in women. We generally don’t have the same warning signs as men, for one thing, and for another, women have a higher pain tolerance than men so we don’t read the warning signs that so often occur with heart attacks. I know my sister had problems, but she always knew when it was a heart attack. I think a couple of times she had to have stints placed in order to keep her heart going properly.

You can also have problems with arteries or veins that could amount to large heart problems, and there is no warning. To me, that is the biggest problem. How can you correct something if you don’t even know it is a problem? Of course, we have all heard that diet and exercise are so necessary to keep the body going. It doesn’t necessarily make you immune, but it helps with recovery. I know that exercise is very important to keep us going in the right direction. That’s why we have so many exercise centers and amazing, expensive equipment. For instance, those bikes that talk back to you and sing with you, or the mirrors that help you with your program of exercise. Wouldn’t work for me; I only look in the mirror long enough to put on my eyebrows or my lipstick. Yuck!

I do try and watch what I eat, though sometimes it is gone before I knew it was there. Not good! Anyway, don’t do as I do. Follow the experts; they know what they are talking about. Here’s to better heart health to all, and don’t forget to wear red on Feb. 7.

At 17, I’m the Youngest Woman to Complete the Seven-Plus Year Study of the Talmud

By Hila Schlakman

EFRAT, West Bank (JTA) — I didn’t start learning the Talmud to take a stand or voice an opinion. When I started learning a page of Talmud per day (Daf Yomi) at age 10, I didn’t realize that anyone would even notice. To me, it was just something I did, a part of my day that was dedicated to learning Torah with my brother and father.

At ages 9 and 10 respectively, my brother and I had no idea what the commitment really meant. I knew that our being so young was pretty unusual. When my older brother had finished the Daf Yomi cycle at 17 years old, it was considered a big deal. But other than that, studying Talmud daily seemed very normal to me. I wasn’t even aware that the fact that I am a girl was a factor to consider.

The Daf Yomi has been a part of my home for as long as I can remember. My father and my older brother, Ari, first finished Shas (the 2,711-page Babylonian Talmud) in 2012. They had started learning Talmud together in 2005 when I was 3 years old. I always saw them learning and bonding together. It seemed very natural, meaningful, and important to me, but not out of the ordinary.

As a new cycle was approaching, my younger brother Yosi said he wanted to begin learning with my dad as well. I was ten at the time and looking for a project that I could take on for my Bat Mitzvah, so I decided to join. A few years later, my younger sister, Bracha, joined as well. And ever since my grandparents moved to Israel, I’ve had the privilege of learning with my grandfather too.

In my experience, the hardest part of learning the Daf is starting the practice. Deciding to learn every day for seven and a half years is an intimidating goal. Luckily, my dad was very determined, so once we decided we were starting, that was it. There were no exceptions: if you missed a Daf, you had to make it up another day. It can be hard at times, but that’s part of the beauty of it — the Torah is always a part of our lives, no matter what else we are doing.

It wasn’t always easy. Not every Daf is interesting (although my dad might say otherwise), and with everything going on in our lives, it can be hard to find the time for learning. Thankfully, I had tons of support. My father always took time out of his day to learn with us, make sure that we understood the page, point out all of the interesting details, and encourage us to develop our own thoughts and opinions. My family and friends were always there for me, displaying patience, understanding, and encouragement.

The experience has taught me many things. I now have an understanding of what our religion is based on — the concepts and ideas that go beyond mere technical points of Jewish law. I enjoyed reading the stories about Jews who lived during Talmudic times, the way our ancestors thought, and how they shaped our religion and practice. These things have changed the way I think about Judaism and life in general.

Often, I found that what I learned in the Daf was directly connected to my life at the time. I think that anyone can relate to the Gemara (Talmud) and that it affects each person differently.

Talmud continued on page 23
Film Screening and Discussion Commemorates Bloody Sunday

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee, Sojourn to the Past, and the Mahoning Valley Historical Society will present “Selma: 55 Years Later” at 6 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Tyler History Center, 325 W. Federal St.

“After Selma,” a documentary film about the Civil Rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Bloody Sunday, voting rights history, and voter repression, will be shown. Speakers and community discussion will follow. Joanne Bland, co-founder and former director of the National Civil Rights Museum in Selma, Ala., will be the main presenter. At age 11, Bland participated in the events of Bloody Sunday in 1965.

The event is free.

This program is presented in partnership with Baptist Pastors Council of Youngstown; Community Mobilization Coalition; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnae Chapter; Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; League of Women Voters; Links, Inc. Youngstown Chapter; Mahoning Valley Association of Churches; Nonviolence Week Committee; Unitarian Universalist Church; Youngstown Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; and Youngstown Warren Black Caucus.

For more information, call 330.743.2589 or visit mahoninghistory.org/events.

Contents

Commentary .......................... 2
Synagogues ..................... 4–5
Human Services .................. 6–8
Federation ......................... 9
JCC ............................... 10–14
Condolences ...................... 15–16
Education ......................... 16–17
Presidential Candidates... 18–23

The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
Rodef Sholom

Overcoming Life’s Disappointments

Rabbi Franklin Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

This month we find ourselves in the annual cycle of Torah readings which are at the heart of the Book of Exodus. The Israelites cross the Red Sea in their dramatic escape from Egyptian bondage, Moses receives the Ten Commandments from G-d, and according to tradition, the entire written and oral law, which he proceeds to communicate to the people of Israel. If the Revelation at Mt. Sinai is the seminal event of the Torah, and indeed it would be hard to argue with that assertion, then certainly Moses must be considered the hero of our most important document of faith. After all, the Torah is also called the Five Books of Moses, indicating his predominance in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Not all, however, was rosy in Moses’s life. He endured crushing disappointments, such as the incident involving the Golden Calf and G-d’s refusal to allow him into the Promised Land after, in an impatient moment, he struck the rock rather than speaking to it. No, Moses wasn’t perfect. Yet he was able to overcome the vicissitudes of his life by the way in which he responded to them, by seeking a resolution and trusting in his own ability to do so.

There is much that we can learn from Moses in terms of responding to the disappointments in our own lives. One of my favorite books by Rabbi Harold Kushner is called “Overcoming Life’s Disappointments.” Rabbi Kushner writes, “What does a person do with all the dreams that don’t come true in life—dreams of education, careers, dreams of success and recognition, dreams of marriage and family?”

In his book, Rabbi Kushner describes many types of people who have few coping mechanisms to deal with their problems. For example, and as a contrast to Moses, there are people we all encounter who are bitter, unapproachable, and who have been unable to cope with life’s misfortunes. Rabbi Kushner explains that these people feel that life has been unfair to them and that they haven’t gotten everything they are entitled to.

The message of this excellent book, however, is that people should trust in their own abilities to overcome the disappointment of dreams unrealized, and certainly should never become so forlorn that we stop dreaming altogether. The wisdom in Rabbi Kushner’s words can help us do what Moses did, which is that when a dream we have collides with the reality of life and it shatters, hold onto the pieces of the dream to remind you of what you had hoped for, but don’t let it control your emotions for the rest of your days. Find a new dream, a more realistic one, and move on from there.

May all our dreams in life come true, but if for some reason they don’t, may G-d give us the power to reprogram our thinking so that not all is lost, and we find other dreams to fulfill, and other Promised Lands to journey toward.

Interfaith Women of the Valley to Hold Tea

This year’s Annual Women’s Interfaith Tea, sponsored by the Interfaith Women of the Valley, will be at 1 p.m. Feb. 18, at Congregation Rodef Sholom, 1119 Elm St.

The theme for the 73rd annual event is “We are better together.” The keynote speaker will be Rabbi Franklin W. Muller, D.D.

The Interfaith Tea brings women of all faiths together in a safe and respectful environment for an afternoon of conversation. Each year, it is hosted by a different faith community. The area Temples take turns when the Jewish community hosts. This year’s event is hosted by the Sisterhood of Congregation Rodef Sholom. Last year’s event was at St. John the Baptist Russian Orthodox Church in Campbell.

For more information, call Sally M. Blau at 330.759.2267 or the Rodef Sholom office at 330.744.5001.

Interfaith Women of the Valley is a gathering of women from nearly every religion in the Mahoning Valley. They promote unity and celebrate diversity through programs of social awareness, mutual respect and a desire to learn about one another and each other’s faiths.
El Emeth

COMMUNITY PURIM CELEBRATION

Monday evening, March 9, 2020

Temple El Emeth, 3970 Logan Way
(across from Logan Swim Club)

MEGILLAH READING AT 5:30 PM
Salad Bar Extravaganza, Hot Dog Dinner & Celebration
Immediately Following (with vegetarian options)
No charge for dinner but reservations appreciated
to your own Synagogue by March 5, 2020

- Everyone is invited to come in costume
- Prizes for all children!
- Creations by Balloon Artist Joe Sullivan!
- Purim Band!
- Purim Photo Booth!

TEMPLE EL EMETH

DON'T FORGET FEBRUARY 14TH

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SAY JUST HOW MUCH YOU CARE ABOUT SOMEONE - AND HOW YOU'D LIKE THEM TO FEEL ABOUT YOU. SO DON'T GET TONGUE TIED, JUST ASK US FOR ROSES THAT SAY EVERYTHING YOU WANT, AND MORE

Edward's Florist
911 Elm Street
Youngstown, Ohio 44505
330-744-4387

Pristine Dental

127 Churchill Hubbard Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44505
330-759-4550 • PristineDentalPros.com

Nothing Gets You This Faster Than Roses

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SAY JUST HOW MUCH YOU CARE ABOUT SOMEONE - AND HOW YOU'D LIKE THEM TO FEEL ABOUT YOU. SO DON'T GET TONGUE TIED, JUST ASK US FOR ROSES THAT SAY EVERYTHING YOU WANT, AND MORE

DON'T FORGET FEBRUARY 14TH

Temple El Emeth Events

Feb. 4
The Temple El Emeth board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. The executive committee will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Feb. 5
Jewish Christian Dialogue - Refreshments are at 12:30 p.m. with the program beginning at 1 p.m. This year's theme is “Civilization and the Jews: The Roots of Monotheistic Religion” and will feature the PBS Documentary by Abba Eben. All are welcome to attend.

Feb. 6 and 7
The Liberty Food Pantry set up will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6 and food distribution will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7. Call the Temple office to volunteer.

Feb. 8
Tu B'Shevat Seder - Shabbat services begin at 9:30 a.m. with the Seder starting at 11:30 a.m. A Kiddush luncheon will follow at noon and February birthdays will be celebrated. Call the Temple office to RSVP for lunch.

Feb. 11
The Sisterhood open board meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow the meeting.

Feb. 13
Temple El Emeth will host PJ Library from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Children will celebrate Tu B'Shevat with crafts and snacks. Children up to the age of 8 and their parents are invited to attend.

Feb. 16
Bagels with the Rabbi - Minyan begins at 9:45 a.m. with bagels and coffee. The program begins at 10:30 a.m. Marcia Levy will give a video presentation on famous Jewish men. Call the Synagogue at 330.759.1429 to RSVP.

Feb. 17
Shmoozing with Shmulik is at 10:30 a.m. Join Sam Kooperman and friends for fun in Yiddish. All are welcome to attend.

Feb. 26
Minyan and a Meal - Minyan is at 5:45 p.m. with dinner following at 6 p.m. Officer David Rankin of the Liberty police department will attend with his K9 police dog, Leo. He will speak about K9 training and the department’s work with Leo. Reservation forms are in the Temple bulletin and have been sent to members’ homes.

March 9
Community Wide Purim Celebration at Temple El Emeth - The Megillah reading begins at 5:30 p.m. with a salad bar extravaganza and hot dog dinner following the service. There will be prizes for the children, a photo booth, band, and balloon artist. Please RSVP to your own synagogue or the El Emeth office at 330.759.1429.
JFS Offers Mobile Meal Program
By Ken Bielecki
Director of Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Services, like many social service agencies, has a history of providing many different services, normally responding to the needs of the community served. One such program we offer is our mobile meal program. There are other home delivered meal programs in the area, but what makes ours unique is that the meals are kosher, meeting the dietary rules of those in the Jewish community who are observant of the religious restrictions.

Historically, the meals were provided, normally only temporarily, to those who lived alone and were acutely ill or recovering from a hospital stay. Currently, our kosher meals are delivered mostly to the elderly population throughout the Mahoning Valley. Our mobile meal program receives referrals from Direction Home of Eastern Ohio (formerly known as Area Agency on Aging) and those who qualify for Passport services. These qualifying consumers are on a fixed income and qualify for Medicaid. Almost all of the individuals we serve are homebound, alone, and unable to leave their residence independently. JFS staff members speak with them weekly, determining allergies, food preferences, and delivery dates. The weekly contact also serves as a bridge to ensure other needs of our consumers are met.

Deliveries are Mondays and Tuesdays with the exception of Jewish holidays. Many of our clients receive one to two weeks of meals in each delivery. Currently, JFS employs two part-time staff members who assist with calling consumers and packing meals and delivering the meals. We’re currently working with 10 participants, so if you or anyone you know is interested in being a part of the Life Stories project please contact Shay Kahani-Erez at 330.746.7929 ext. 199 or serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

Spring 2020 Life Stories Project Underway
By Jillian Maynard
Jewish Family Services Intern

My name is Jillian Maynard and I am a junior at Youngstown State University pursuing a bachelor’s degree in professional and technical writing. I am beyond excited to announce that I will be joining Jewish Family Services this spring to intern for their Life Stories Project.

For the Life Stories project, which is a form of narrative therapy, participants were interviewed about their life. As part of my internship with the project, I will be doing the transcription of the interviews and turning them into short books participants are able to keep and share as they please.

Shay Kahani-Erez moved to Youngstown four and a half years ago from Israel. Almost as soon as she stepped off the plane, Kahani-Erez got involved with Youngstown’s Jewish community. Her goal: to make this unfamiliar country and city a home. Kahani-Erez tells me “being of the Jewish faith gives you an international community; you can find people that you can relate to anywhere you go”.

The easiest way to really get involved and meet people is to lend a helping hand wherever it is needed. Kahani-Erez went on to say, "being on the outside of the community really helped me see problems that needed to be addressed. The biggest one I saw was in the connection of the elderly Jewish community members to the rest of the community.”

In order to fix this problem, Kahani-Erez founded Youngstown’s Life Stories Project. Kahani-Erez got the idea in Israel. “My mother-in-law volunteers with a program where elderly Jewish community members are interviewed and given a space to tell their story that is then transcribed into a short book for them to keep and share. I knew immediately that this was something that would benefit Youngstown, as well.”

Behold, Kahani-Erez’s brainchild: The Life Stories Project. Kahani-Erez explains, “The Life Stories project is a form of narrative therapy.” She says that “other nursing homes have this but without the therapy as the central focus and without a book to give to the participant at the end.”

Kahani-Erez finds people with different needs to be a part of the program. “Some haven’t participated in the Jewish community in years and this is a way to reconnect them. Others are heavily active in the community and in Temple. We always have a variety” Kahani-Erez explains. However, the one constant is that all participants are at least 70 years old.

We’re currently working with spring 2020 participants. There are five participants who will be receiving a Life Story book at the end. The Life Stories Project will be looking to add more participants in summer 2020.

All of our frozen meals are produced at Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community by the cooking staff. Meals are delivered frozen and are easily heated and ready to be served. Our mobile meal program serves a wide range of clients throughout the Mahoning Valley, delivering anywhere between 350 to 1,000 meals per month. Meals can also be purchased on a private pay basis for $6 per meal for those who don’t qualify for Passport services. Jewish Family Services is a proud partner with United Way of the Mahoning Valley, who assists our agency with funding to make this program possible.
Ukulele Players Entertain at Levy

The Steel Valley Ukers performed for the tenants of Levy Gardens Assisted Living in January. The tenants sang along as the Ukers played songs such as "Ain’t She Sweet," "Home on the Range," "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," and "Old MacDonald." Pictured is Sidney Rusnak learning to play the ukulele with the group.

New Year’s Eve Party at Heritage Manor

Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community hosted a New Year’s Eve party for residents and their families on Dec. 31. Participants enjoyed live music and refreshments. Pictured from left is Bill Good and his brother Ralph.

Milestone Birthday for 2 Heritage Manor Residents

Two residents of Heritage Manor Rehabilitation & Retirement Community turned 100 in January. A party was held for them and other residents and Adult Day Services participants celebrating a January birthday. Above left is Rose Lockso (wearing a crown) is pictured with her son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Above right is Everlena Harmon.
Human Services

Social Work is Right Fit for JFS’ Cathy Nehlen

By Elise Skolnick

Social work wasn’t Cathy Nehlen’s first career, but it is where she found she belongs.

After leaving a job at a salon to have surgery, Nehlen found herself wondering what she should do next.

“I thought, ‘What comes natural?’” she said.

She recalled an incident in first grade where another little girl was constantly bullied.

“It used to break my heart,” Nehlen said. “So I started walking to school with her.”

She felt the need to support the girl, Nehlen added. And she realized her love for social work started early.

In 2009, she became a licensed social worker. She first worked for hospice, then was offered a position at Jewish Family Services.

“It’s like the piece of the puzzle of my life clicked,” she said. “This is what I’m supposed to do. It feels easy. Not that you don’t have your stresses, but it’s good to know where you’re supposed to be.”

In her role at JFS, Nehlen spends half her time at Heritage Apartments on Granada Avenue. She helps residents find resources and complete tasks, such as filling out an absentee ballot. The remainder of her time is spent counseling clients, working on the mobile meals program, helping guardianship clients, and participating in activities with “Our Gang,” a social group for developmentally-challenged adults.

“I don’t know that I have a favorite part because I like each part of it,” she said.

“It’s always different. Every day is different even when you’re doing some of the same things because you’re dealing with different people all the time and different dynamics.”

Ken Bielecki, JFS director, said, “Although Cathy performs several different duties at Jewish Family Services, it’s easy to see that both her clients served and our JFS staff appreciate Cathy’s work. She’s a dedicated employee who is always helpful, resourceful, and flexible within her job. We appreciate all that she does here at JFS.”

Nehlen is part of a close-knit family that includes her mother, three brothers, three children, and two grandchildren. A brother and daughter live out of state, but the others get together for Sunday dinners at her mom’s house.

“We grew up with that and it’s kind of nice to still have that tradition,” she said.

Adult Day Services Offers Exercise to Program Participants

Adult Day Services at Heritage Manor offers exercise bi-weekly to program participants. They promote exercise to ensure clients are able to stay active and mobile. Pictured from left are Lori Reda, STNA, Illana Council, STNA, and James Young.
Liptalk: 2019: A Year of Accomplishments

A Message from Andy Lipkin
Federation Executive Vice-President

As 2020 got off to a start, I thought back over 2019 and the many achievements our Federation, in partnership with our agencies and volunteers, accomplished. I want to share this list with you, in no particular order:

Created a culture of safety for our community and all who participate in our programs, including a successful response to a threat on the JCC this past August
Completed a successful third season operating the JCC Logan Campus
Provided 4,000 free swim lessons to children in need, people with disabilities, infants, and adult women who could not swim
In partnership with the United Way, provided free Camp JCC tuition to 45 children for four weeks each
Re-model of Heritage Manor lobby (including a new security door) and the offices of Heritage Manor and Jewish Family Services
Heritage Manor chosen as one of seven facilities in the area to meet the criteria of Mercy Health Select Providers Network
Heritage Manor once again selected as the only VA-approved provider in Mahoning County
Hired Heritage Manor’s first full-time Adult Day Services director

Working together, Heritage Manor and JCC formed an Alzheimer’s Support Group
Implementation of a music and memory grant for Heritage Manor residents
Jewish Family Services received $15,000 per year grant from Mahoning County Mental Health Board for outreach
Through hiring an outreach worker to serve more seniors, established a successful Life Story project for Jewish seniors
Increased community awareness of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its agencies through numerous media outlets, including new television commercials for the JCC, Heritage Manor, and Levy Gardens
Established a new position of Federation Marketing Manager to promote programs/services to the community
Restructured management of the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, including successfully finding a new printer after the closure of The Vindicator; the former printer
Established a monthly newsletter for all employees of the Federation and its agencies
Continued building relationships with interfaith and intergroup partners and with public officials, and leveraged them to promote the interests of the Jewish community
Educated the Jewish and general communities about Israel, advocacy, Holocaust education, social action, social justice, and government affairs
Near record turnout for 2019 Inaugural Event with keynote speaker Dr. Deborah Lipstadt, which included invited guests from the general community

Successfully re-organized the Partnership2Gether program to be under the Jewish Community Relations Council, with five volunteers/professionals attending P2G Summit in South Bend, Ind. in July 2019
Federation Governance Transition Committee established to address strategic issues; with recommendations for restructuring of Federation and its agencies to be presented at May 2020 Annual Meeting
Continued with the establishment of a community-wide Jewish Cemetery Association
Conducted numerous security consultations with area synagogues and sponsored approximately 30 active shooter trainings in the Jewish and general communities
Marked increased in the number of donors who are leaving a legacy gift to the Federation that will benefit our community today and for generations to come
Built a new outdoor pavilion and Pickleball courts to benefit the entire community
Worked to establish and strengthen ties with the New Castle Jewish community
In our role as community convener, worked with area synagogues to consider coming together under one roof
Implemented a new process to identify potential grant funding opportunities for the Federation and its agencies
Successfully created one funding process for upgrading facilities at the JCC, Heritage Manor, JFS, and Levy Gardens

Sure, there is more I could list, but I will stop here. I am so inspired and motivated by all that we have accomplished over the past year. I hope you are, too! Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 2020.

IRA Charitable Rollovers: Pension Law Changes Effective This Year

By Lisa Long
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Financial Resource Development Director

Many in our community fulfill their campaign pledges or make major gifts to the Federation and its agencies through their individual retirement account (IRA). As such I wanted to make our donors aware of the “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement” Act, also known as the SECURE Act, that was signed into law Dec. 20, 2019.

The SECURE Act includes many changes to the rules governing retirement plans. These changes took effect on the first of the year. The biggest change when it comes to philanthropy is the increase in the age at which the owner of an IRA must start taking required minimum distributions (RMDs). Before 2020 this rule was 70 1/2. It is now 72.

However, donors can still use RMDs to make philanthropic gifts starting at age 70 1/2. This “charitable rollover” is called a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). Eligible donors can continue to “rollover” up to $100,000 per year. This strategy is especially beneficial to those who do not itemize their deductions.

Please consult your professional advisor or contact me for more information, at llong@jewishyoungstown.org or 330.746.3251, ext. 175.
Weekly Health Club Services
Full Size Locker | $10/month
Towel Service | $10/month
Locker & Towel Service | $15/month
30 Minute Massage | $15/month

Reach Your Goals with InBody
The InBody 570 is one of the most advanced body composition analyzers on the market. In less than a minute, you will see a total analysis of your body fat, muscle distribution, and body weight balance. The first scan is free for members and those in personal training programs.

Monthly Unlimited Scans:
$10/month (Also includes 15 minutes with a personal trainer.)
$15 per test/Member
$25 per test/Non Member

InBody 570 Corporate Challenge
Raise the bar and bring the InBody 570 to your business or organization. It is perfect for fitness challenges, encourages employee wellness, and is quick and easy to use!
InBody Rental Fee: $125/Hour
(2 hour minimum - includes an InBody specialist for support and pre and post body composition measurements for all participants.)

J-Away Program
This personal exercise program is designed to assist homebound Jewish older adults in the Youngstown area. Jewish Community Center personal trainers will create individual exercise plans and train clients in their own homes. Eligible participants will be identified based on financial and physical needs and their ability to travel.
Cost: $3.50/session

Flu Shot Clinic
If you haven’t received your flu vaccine yet, there is still time to protect yourself. Some insurance plans may cover the flu shot. The cost without insurance is $27. Please bring your insurance card.
Date: Thursday, February 6
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: JCC Library
Register by Thursday, February 6.

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Genetic Testing
Dr. Devora Cohen-Karni, Ph.D. will talk about the basic science of genetic inheritance through genetic testing and potential ethical issues to consider. In this talk we’ll explore the role of genetic inheritance, review how genes influence the traits we are able to see, then look at how this can be used in the medical sciences.
Date: Friday, February 7 | Time: 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
This event is free and open to everyone. A light lunch will be served. Register by Tuesday, February 4 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

JCC Get Fit Challenge is Back!
Join JCC this February in a fun “Get Fit” program that is open to all members and local corporations. We will use the InBody 570 to track progress bi-weekly. Prizes will be awarded for top performers.
Dates: Sunday, February 2 – Saturday, April 25
Cost: $35/Member | Corporate: $75/Employee or $750/Company
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.
For more information contact Wellness Coordinator Jaron Howell at 330.746.3250 ext. 153.

Personal Training
Check out our new personal training options!

One-on-One Personal Training
We will design a personalized exercise program to help you reach your goals.
Jumpstart Your Weight Loss
Work with a personal health coach for a workout and eating plan to get you closer to your goal.
Next Steps
JCC Next Steps is a post-rehabilitation exercise program that will help you transition from physical therapy to long-term fitness and wellness.
Healthy Living Foundations for Older Adults
The Healthy Living Foundations package is designed to promote healthy living awareness and to improve stability, increase stamina, and gain self confidence.
Youth Personal Training
A private workout session with a certified professional trainer. Sports specific training is also available.
To begin your personal training journey contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195 or register online at jccyoungstown.org.

Pickleball
A cross between tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, this fast-paced game is fun for players of all skill levels. Equipment is provided.
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Date: Sundays
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium

Catchball
Join other women in a modified version of volleyball. Catchball promotes exercise and is a great way to make friends. Open gyms are free and open to all women.
Date: Mondays | Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: LYRIC (Liberty Youth Recreation & Impact Center)
317 Churchill Hubbard Rd, Youngstown

Open Play Basketball
This time is reserved for basketball only. Shoot hoops with friends or join a pick up game.
Date: Fridays | Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium

Youth Basketball
Children ages 5 and up can enjoy kid friendly basketball time in our gym. Equipment is provided.
Date: Fridays | Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium

Coming Soon: eSports Arena!
ESports describes the world of competitive, organized video gaming. Teams face off in Fortnite, League of Legends, Counter-Strike, Call of Duty, Overwatch, Madden NFL, and more. Beginning Summer 2020, JCC will launch its first eSports programming and competitions for both youth and adults.

Featured Group Exercise Class:
Fit Circuit Burn
Using high intensity circuit training we, will cycle through several exercises, targeting different muscle groups with minimal rest in between. This workout combines cardio and strength moves to blast fat and sculpt muscle.

For more information on Wellness Programs contact Jaron Howell, Wellness Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 153 or jhowell@jewishyoungstown.org.

JCC Next Steps is a post-rehabilitation exercise program that will help you transition from physical therapy to long-term fitness and wellness.
Healthy Living Foundations for Older Adults
The Healthy Living Foundations package is designed to promote healthy living awareness and to improve stability, increase stamina, and gain self confidence.
Youth Personal Training
A private workout session with a certified professional trainer. Sports specific training is also available.
To begin your personal training journey contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195 or register online at jccyoungstown.org.

Pickleball
A cross between tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, this fast-paced game is fun for players of all skill levels. Equipment is provided.
Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Date: Sundays
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Gymnasium

Catchball
Join other women in a modified version of volleyball. Catchball promotes exercise and is a great way to make friends. Open gyms are free and open to all women.
Date: Mondays | Time: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Location: LYRIC (Liberty Youth Recreation & Impact Center)
317 Churchill Hubbard Rd, Youngstown

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**AQUATICS**

For more information on Aquatics Programs contact Tara Bishop, Aquatic Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or tbishop@jewishyoungstown.org.

**Lifeguarding Classes & Recertifications**
These classes provide entry level participants with the knowledge and skills to prevent, recognize, and respond to aquatic emergencies and to provide care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries, and sudden illnesses until EMS personnel can take over. Participants who successfully complete the lifeguarding course receive an American Red Cross certificate for Lifeguarding/First Aid/CPR/AED, valid for two years.

- **First Aid /CPR/AED Class**
  - Dates: Saturdays, February 15, March 14, or April 18
  - Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
  - Cost: $75/Member | $100/Non Member

- **Learn to Swim: Ages 3+**
  - Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the trained swim instructors.
  - Dates: Saturdays
  - Time: 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. or 10:10 – 10:40 a.m.
  - Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

- **Learn to Swim: Ages 3+ (Advanced)**
  - Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the trained swim instructors.
  - Dates: Saturdays
  - Time: 9:35 – 10:05 a.m.
  - Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

- **You & Me Baby**
  - This is a monthly class where parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float and improve their water skills. Swim pants or swim diapers are required. Recommended ages: 6 - 36 months.
  - Dates: Saturdays
  - Time: 9:30 a.m. or 10:10 a.m.
  - Cost: $187/Member | $250/Non Member

**Group Aquatic Classes**

- **Scrapbooking for Beginners**
  - Join a local artist as we are guided through the basic methods of scrapbooking. Learn the essential skills to create beautiful layouts and preserve life’s meaningful moments. Bring a few of your favorite photos to design a page to take home.
  - **Adults:**
    - Date: Wednesday, March 11
    - Time: 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
    - Location: Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
    - Cost: $15/Member | $20/Non Member

- **Paper Quilling Crafts**
  - Take ordinary strips of paper and turn them into beautiful works of art in this workshop with a local artist. Students learn how to roll, fold, and glue paper to create beautiful shapes and pictures. Every person will design a card or project to take home.
  - **Adults:**
    - Date: Wednesday, February 12
    - Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
    - Location: Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
    - Cost: $15/Member | $20/Non Member

- **Craft & Kvell**
  - Gather with friends and work on your latest craft project! Come socialize with us, show off your latest project, or try your hand at a new craft. Bring your own supplies for this monthly event. This event is free and open to everyone.
  - Dates: Wednesdays, February 26, March 25, & April 29 | Time: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
  - Location: Adult Lounge

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      - Cost: $187/Member | $250/Non Member
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    - Date: Wednesday, March 11
    - Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
    - Location: Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
    - Cost: $15/Member | $20/Non Member

**Private Swim Lessons**
Swimmers of any age or level can benefit from private swim lessons. Learn to swim or improve your skills with one of our trained swim instructors. Private lessons are also great for triathletes!

NEW PRICING!
- 5 Sessions: $96/Member | $128/Non Member
- 10 Sessions: $183/Member | $244/Non Member
- 20 Sessions: $348/Member | $464/Non Member

**P.A.L.S.+ Private Swimming Lessons**
JCC offers free one on one swim lessons for persons who are on the autism spectrum or who have developmental disabilities. This program is funded by the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Autism Speaks.

To apply for the P.A.L.S.+ program visit jccyoungstown.org/pals.

**SwimSafe 500**
This program provides free swim safety lessons. Scholarships are provided by The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley and The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation.

To apply for the SwimSafe 500 program visit jccyoungstown.org/swimsafe500.
Enrichment Programming with Community Partners

Students will engage in a wide variety of enrichment offerings in art, music, and science programs brought to us by SMARTS, YSU Dana School of Music, and OH WOW! Science Center.

Free Family Membership to the JCC!

Full-time students are eligible for a free family membership to Jewish Community Center! Some exclusions apply.

Infant & Toddler Private Swim Lessons

The ELC offers one-on-one swim lessons for children ages 6 months and up. These lessons will encourage younger children to become comfortable in the water while teaching older children swimming techniques.

School of Music Classes

Price per month includes four weekly 30 minute lessons. Tuition is due by the first lesson of each month. Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

Piano

Learn to play the piano with Anita Powell. Anita was classically trained at the Dana School of Music and Chautauqua Institution and has over 30 years of experience.

Monthly Cost: $88/Member | $112/Non Member

Percussion

Join seasoned percussionist Evan McCreary to learn the foundations of rhythm and study basic beats and fills on our drum kit. Bring your own drumsticks, or borrow a pair of ours.

Monthly Cost: $60/Member | $80/Non Member

Violin

Join Master Suzuki violin teacher Gina Bagnoli as she provides private and group violin instruction in the Suzuki Method. Students must bring their own instruments. All lessons are 30 minutes each.

Private Lessons: $17/Member | $22/Non Member

Group Lessons: $7/Member | $8/Non Member

Guitar

Learn to play the guitar with instructor Gina Love, who has been playing privately for several years and studied at YSU. Bring your own guitar, or borrow one of ours.

Monthly Cost: $60/Member | $80/Non Member

Voice

Improve breathing, posture, tone quality, and more while studying with our experienced vocal instructor.

Monthly Cost: $60/Member | $80/Non Member

JCC Before and After School Care

Before School Care: 6:00 – 8:00 a.m.
After School Care: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Daily before school and after school care is available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Transportation is available for Liberty Local School students in kindergarten through sixth grade. All day care is also available to all local school districts during breaks and school closures. For a full calendar of when all day care is offered, visit jccyoungstown.org/aftercare.

Kid’s Night In

Enjoy a night out while your child stays in at JCC! We will provide dinner, games, and crafts. For ages 3 through 14. Children must be toilet-trained. Early registration is recommended as space is limited.

Date: Saturday, February 15
Drop-off: 6:00 p.m.
Pick-up: by 9:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $12/Member | $15/Non Member
Register by Monday, February 3 online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext. 195.
Current Exhibit:
Dissonance & Distortion by Jenna Hudock
Jenna Hudock is an art educator and abstract painter. She was accepted into the annual Butler Institute of American Art Midyear National Juried Show, the YWCA Women’s Art Show, and recently spent two weeks at the GOLDEN Educators Residency in upstate New York. This show will feature many of the pieces she created during that time.
Exhibit Dates: January 15 – March 5
Opening Reception: Thursday, January 16
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Upcoming Exhibit:
Kavana! by Hannah Altman
Hannah Altman is a Jewish-American artist from New Jersey. She recently exhibited with the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, Junior High Gallery, and the University of Passau Germany. She is an MFA candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University and 2019 recipient of the Bertha Anolic Israel Travel Award.
Exhibit Dates: March 11 – April 8
Opening Reception: Thursday, March 12
Time: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

All programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on Aging Well Programs contact Shay Kahani-Erez, Outreach Coordinator, at 330.746.3250 ext. 159 or serez@jewishyoungstown.org.

Thursdays at the Cinema:
The Pursuit of Happyness
Struggling salesman Chris Gardner finds himself and his son evicted from their apartment. When Gardner lands an internship at a prestigious stock firm, he and his son endure many hardships in pursuit of his dream of a better life for the two of them.
Date: Thursday, February 6 | Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge
Cost: $5/Members | $10/Non Members
Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Membership Office at 330.746.3250 ext.195.

Grief Support Group at the JCC
If you are grieving a death and would like to connect with others, join us to share your experience in a group setting. Shay Kahani-Erez will facilitate the group.
Date: Tuesdays, February 4, March 3, & April 7
Time: 11:00 – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Ask a Social Worker
Shay Kahani-Erez, LSW & MSW, will offer assistance on different topics such as health insurance, social security, and medication management and referrals to other agencies.
Date: Mondays, February 10, March 9, & April 13
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Mindful Monday
This mindfulness group will practice relaxing and recharging the mind.
Date: Mondays, February 17, March 16, & April 20
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Living with Alzheimer’s Family Caregiver Support Group
This group provides an opportunity to share your experiences and learn from other families. Light refreshments will be served.
Date: Wednesdays, February 19 & March 18
Time: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

For more information or to book a rental contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry
The CHUM Food Pantry aims to feed families in Liberty Township that are in need of extra assistance. Started in 2016, the pantry now feeds over 70 families. Volunteers will help distribute food and make guests feel welcome during their visit.
Date: February 14, March 6, April 3, & May 1
Time: 9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: 189 Churchill Road, Youngstown

Diaper Packing with Making Kids Count
Making Kids Count Diaper Bank volunteers repack diapers to be distributed to local families in need. Volunteers wrap 10,000 diapers into 400 packs a month.
Date: February 14, March 6, April 3, & May 8
Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: 6961 Southern Blvd, Ste. A, Youngstown

For more information about volunteer opportunities contact the Social Action Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org

Specialty Parties
All parties include time in our party room. Custom invitations are available!

Pool Party
Enjoy swim time in our full-size indoor heated pool.

All Star Celebration
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium.

Glow & Dance Hip-Hop Party
Enjoy your next celebration with glow accessories and a mini hip-hop lesson.

Ninja Games Celebration
Tackle our ninja obstacle course and participate in coordination activities.

For more information or to book a rental contact Kelli McCormick at 330.746.3250 ext. 284 or kmccormick@jewishyoungstown.org

Continued on next page.
JCC

Purim Carnival to Be Held at JCC

Jewish Community Center of Youngstown will host a Purim Carnival from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., March 8 at the JCC.

Included will be carnival food, games, prizes, a bounce house, a costume contest, and more. Tickets for games and food will be available for purchase. This event is free and open to everyone. A costume contest will be at noon.

For more information, contact Program Manager Emily Blau at 330.746.3250, ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

Face painting will be one of the offerings at this year’s Purim Carnival. Pictured from left are Shayna Wilschek and Taylor Lody.

Soup Makers Needed to Take Part in Mitzvah Day Project

Soup makers are invited to participate in the Jewish Community Relations Council’s Mitzvah Day 2020 “Souper Bowl” to be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m. March 29 at Jewish Community Center of Youngstown, 505 Gypsy Lane.

The “Souper Bowl” cook-off will raise funds and awareness for Second Harvest Food Bank. Submissions will be accepted in three categories: professional, amateur, and 17 and under. Due to dietary restrictions only vegetarian and vegan soups may be entered. The deadline to register is March 16. Entry forms are available at jewishyoungstown.org. There is no cost to enter.

Other Mitzvah Day activities include a Chametz for Hunger Food Drive, a can sculpture project, blanket making for Project MKC Comfort Kits, toiletry kit packing to benefit Beatitude House and Churchill United Methodist Food Pantry, voter registration, a blood drive, and card making for first responders.

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Genetic Testing

Dr. Devora Cohen-Karni, Ph.D will explore the role of genetic inheritance, review how genes influence the traits we are able to see, then look at how this can be used in the medical sciences.

Date: Friday, February 7
Time: 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Adult Lounge

Rentals

Noah’s Park Party
Play the day away at Noah’s Park or our new Infant and Toddler Playground.

Prince & Princess Royal Bash
Don your crowns and tiaras and take a mini ballet lesson.

Superhero Celebration
Dress up and participate in superhero activities in our secret lair.

Under the Sea Splish Splash Mermaid Bash
Experience swimming and storytelling in our pool with the JCC mermaid.

Campus Rentals
Multi-Purpose Room
Equipped with an overhead motorized projection theater screen, state-of-the-art audio visual system, movable module stage, and commercial kitchen. Catering packages are available for up to 250 guests.

Meeting Rooms
Our small conference room seats up to eight guests, while our boardroom seats 35 and is equipped with a built-in projector and screen.

Gymnasium
Our full-size gymnasium is equipped with six regulation height basketball hoops, bleacher seating, and a dividing curtain.

Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. In-house catering is available.

Adult Lounge
Accommodates 50 guests. An in-house kosher caterer is available.

Outdoor Pavilion
Our outdoor pavilion is centrally located between Noah’s Park and the new outdoor Pickleball complex. The pavilion has picnic table seating for 200+, along with bathrooms and a kitchenette.
Leon Bolotin

Leon Bolotin, a former long-time resident of Sharon, died Dec. 31, 2019 at his home in San Diego of natural causes. His wife of 76 years, the former Harriett Bloch, was at his side.

Born and raised in Sharon, Leon lived almost his entire life here, except for his stint in World War II and a few years in Canton, Ohio, until moving to San Diego in 2015.

After graduating from Sharon High School and then from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania in 1941, Leon returned to Sharon and attempted to enlist in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Turned down due to eyesight issues, he immediately entered the family furniture business, Bolotin Furniture, then on Sharpsville Avenue, with his father, Simon, and grandfather, Moses. That same year, the business expanded to Greenville, Pa. where Leon was the manager.

With the growing need for servicemen in the war, Leon was drafted into the Air Corps in 1942. As he often said, his eyesight must have improved suddenly and dramatically. He was first stationed in Biloxi, Miss. During leave from the service in 1943, he and Harriet expedited wedding plans and married in Youngstown. He continued to serve in Biloxi until being transferred to India and China where he remained until after the war ended.

After serving in the war as a radio repairman, he returned to Sharon and re-entered the business. In time, he took over management of the company. With the entry of his brother, Nate, and his brother-in-law, Abe Rudberg, into the business, they grew the operations to six locations by expanding to New Castle; Ellwood City, Pa.; Youngstown; and Hickory (now Hermitage).

As family members left the business, Leon maintained a respected operation while reducing the locations to one new one in Hermitage. He continued to run Bolotin Furniture until turning it over to his older son, Mark, in 2000.

Throughout his life, Leon was an avid reader (especially of history) and loved to learn.

Leon and Harriett left their beloved Sharon and moved to San Diego in 2015.

In addition to his wife Harriett, Leon is survived by: his sons, Mark (Lynne) and Howard; grandchildren, Michael (Ellen) Bolotin, Lisa (Suresh) Swaminathan, Sarah (Todd) Harrison, Stephen Bolotin, David (Danielle) Singer, and Shanna (Adam) Lovit; and great-grandchildren, Sammy and Harry Bolotin, Gabby and Lila Swaminathan, Shelby Harrison, and Sammy Lovit. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Dorothy Bolotin, and many nieces and nephews, all of whom will miss him.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Joseph; his sister and brother-in-law, Rose and Abe Rudberg; his brother and sister-in-law, Nathan and Ruth Bolotin; and two daughters-in-law, Sheila Bolotin and Lori Singer-Bolotin.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of the donor’s choice.

Graveside services were at El Camino Memorial in San Diego.

Bonnie Chudakoff Apple

Bonnie Chudakoff Apple, 77, passed away peacefully Monday, Jan. 20, 2020, after a short battle with cancer, surrounded by family, friends, and caregivers.

Bonnie was born April 14, 1942, a daughter of Eli and Sally Dumas Chudakoff and lived her entire life in Youngstown.

She was a graduate of The Rayen School and attended The Ohio State University. She was a member of Temple El Emeth and its sisterhood, and a past president of ACLD.

Bonnie brought lots of laughter, joy, friendship, and love to anyone she met.

Bonnie is survived by her husband of 55 years, Les; two sons, Eric and Greg (Lynn); two grandchildren, Jacob and Samantha; a sister, Carole Naft; along with several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

The funeral service was at Its Memorial Chapel, El Emeth Granada Cemetery, Youngstown.

Contributions in Bonnie’s memory may be made to Temple El Emeth, 3970 Logan Way, Youngstown, OH 44505.

Friends may view this obituary and send condolences to Bonnie’s family at shriverallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com.

Ava Michelle “Shelly” Gelbaum

The night sky gained a bright new star Dec. 25, 2019, as Ava Michelle “Shelly” Gelbaum, 69, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her loving family.

Shelly was born April 8, 1950, in Youngstown, the daughter of Jack and Elaine Goldberg, and was a graduate of Liberty High School.

She studied jewelry design at Ohio State University and worked as a supervisor in the collections enforcement department for the city of Youngstown for many years.

She also had a love and talent for art and ran Bitz and Glitz and Javu Ju — a coffee shop that displayed local art work — with her sister-in-law, Wendy Goldberg.

Shelly was so many things to so many people: her smile, laugh, and boundless kindness will live on in all those blessed to have known her.

She is survived by her daughter, Rikki (George McKelvey) Gelbaum; three brothers, David, Rick (Dorothy), and Renny (Brenda) Goldberg; three grandchildren, Jensen, Sloan, and Harlow McKelvey; ex-husband and best friend, Jason Gelbaum; nieces and nephews that she loved like her own children; and more friends than can possibly be listed here.

Her star will be surrounded by the lights of those who have already passed on: her parents; her sons, Jensen and Drew Gelbaum; and her sister-in-law, Wendy Goldberg.

Funeral services were at Temple Rodef Sholom. In Shelly’s memory, contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn. 38105-9959.

Friends may view this obituary and send condolences to Shelly’s family at shriverallisoncourtleyfuneralhome.com.
Condolences

Gregg L. Bogen

Gregg L. Bogen, M.D., 56, passed away Jan. 12, 2020 at St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital.

Gregg was born Jan. 3, 1964, in Warren, a son of Robert H. and Beverly S. Reisman Bogen.

He was a 1982 graduate of Warren G. Harding High School, got his bachelor of science Integrated Life Science degree in May 1985 from Kent State University, and graduated from Northeastern Ohio University College of Medicine in May 1989.

Gregg did his surgical residency at Western Reserve Care System from 1989 to 1994, then a fellowship in surgical oncology at the University of Mississippi Medical center from 1994 to 1996.

Gregg maintained clinical privileges in general surgery at various area hospitals and was in private practice for 21 years. He was devoted to his patients and to the process of teaching medical students and residents to be both technically skilled and compassionate. He loved to make house calls and to perform minor surgery at his kitchen table. He has impacted the lives of physicians who now practice all over the United States.

Gregg was currently employed by River Valley Physicians at East Liverpool City Hospital.

Above all things, Gregg was most proud of his three sons. He always made a superhuman effort to be present in their lives and to make them feel special, cherished, and loved. Above all else, he set an example of kindness, selflessness, generosity, and patience.

Gregg had a passion for his friends, all Cleveland sports teams, Disney, Batman, Star Wars, and Sonic. He loved a corny joke and made frequent confusing life references to bad movie dialogue. He spent nearly every Monday washing dishes at The Dorothy Day House. He loved his cats Dexter, Dillon, and Cleo.

He leaves cherished memories to his wife, Jill M. Berquist, whom he married May 1, 1992, at St. Christine Church; his sons, Benjamin M., Daniel J., and Matthew P. Bogen, at home in Canfield; his brother, Curt P. Bogen, and sister, Pami Bogen, of Warren; his father-law and mother-in-law, Gilbert M. and Janice Berquist; brothers-in-law, Gilbert M. Berquist III and Joseph A. (Ann) Berquist; and nieces Isabel, Eleanor, and Molly Berquist.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Gregg continued to give in death with his donation to Lifebanc to help others.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Gregg’s honor to The Dorothy Day House, P.O. Box 863 Youngstown, OH 44501.

Gregg’s family would like to especially thank the medical and nursing staff of the Neuro Intensive ICU staff at Mercy Health St. Elizabeth Youngstown Hospital for the amazing efforts and care they provided to Gregg.

Family and friends may visit foxfuneralhome.org to view this obituary.

Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, Youngstown State University

Events and Information

Feb. 20
Lecture by Dr. Linda Borish (Western Michigan University), “Israel and the Historical Lives of American Jewish Women: culture, Americanization, and Achievement.” This will be the keynote address of the annual History Across the Humanities conference, sponsored by YSU Phi Alpha Theta, History Honors.
4:30 p.m., Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor (Steel Museum)

March 4
Film Screening and Discussion: “93Queen” (USA, 2018). The story of how Hasidic women founded the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in NYC. Co-sponsored by the Club for Jewish Culture, the department of Nursing, and the department of Health Professions in commemoration of Women’s History Month.
6 p.m., YSU, Moser Hall 2000 “Schwebel Auditorium”

March 25
Jewish Muslim Forum featuring rabbinical student Armin Langer. Langer will speak about his experiences as a founder of the Salaam-Shalom Initiative in Berlin, which brings Muslims, Jews, and others together.
7 p.m., YSU, Kilcawley Center, President’s Suite

April 2
Book Reception and Lecture by Dr. Adam Fuller (YSU): “Is Neoconservatism Jewish?” Dr. Fuller’s new book is titled, “Israel and the Neocons: Zionism and American Interests.”
5:30 p.m., Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor (Steel Museum)

April 3
Lecture by Louis Schmidt in commemoration of the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. An Emmy-Award winning TV producer and writer, Schmidt will talk about his experiences interviewing Holocaust survivors for the USC Shoah Foundation.
5 p.m., YSU, Moser Hall 2000 “Schwebel Auditorium”

April 5
Film Screening and Discussion: “93Queen” (USA, 2018). The story of how Hasidic women founded the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in NYC. Co-sponsored by the Club for Jewish Culture, the department of Nursing, and the department of Health Professions in commemoration of Women’s History Month.
4:30 p.m., Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor (Steel Museum)

May 20 to 24
The 25th annual conference of the Working-Class Studies Association will be held at YSU. The Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies will be sponsoring a Jewish-studies panel.

Scholarships
Jewish students and students interested in pursuing Jewish studies at YSU should contact the Office of Financial Aid. There are a number of scholarships available.

CJHS Information
Contact Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz, director of YSU’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, at 330.941.1603 or jlabendz@ysu.edu with any questions or to be placed on an electronic mailing list.

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Events and Information

Feb. 20
Lecture by Dr. Linda Borish (Western Michigan University), “Israel and the Historical Lives of American Jewish Women: culture, Americanization, and Achievement.” This will be the keynote address of the annual History Across the Humanities conference, sponsored by YSU Phi Alpha Theta, History Honors.
4:30 p.m., Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor (Steel Museum)

March 4
Film Screening and Discussion: “93Queen” (USA, 2018). The story of how Hasidic women founded the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps in NYC. Co-sponsored by the Club for Jewish Culture, the department of Nursing, and the department of Health Professions in commemoration of Women’s History Month.
6 p.m., YSU, Moser Hall 2000 “Schwebel Auditorium”

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Ariella Westreich Wins Akiva Spelling Bee

Akiva Academy held its annual spelling bee Jan. 10. The bee went 19 rounds, culminating with the word Giza, spelled correctly by Ariella Westreich, 8th grade. Gabriel Anderson, 5th grade, came in second place. Third place went to Sophie Heschmeyer, 8th grade. The enunciation award winners were Cameron Silverman, 6th grade, and Heschmeyer. Westreich will represent Akiva at the Youngstown State University spelling bee. Pictured from left are Westreich, Anderson, Heschmeyer, and Silverman.

Akiva Students Participate in MLK Service and Workshop

Akiva students Rhyell Moore (left) and Kaleb Harrison represented the Jewish community at a service and workshop in commemoration of Martin Luther King. The students read a prayer for world peace.

After School Family Fun in the Pool: Toy Story 4

Join us for a fun filled dive in movie! We’ll relax in our indoor heated pool and watch the movie Toy Story 4. Refreshments will be provided.

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August 2017 as “baring the fangs of racism, those who marched in Charlottesville, Va. in the launch of his candidacy, Biden describes Charlottesville a key part of his campaign. In

What about domestic antisemitism?

ugly head. It’s on the rise in too many parts of the world, particularly in Europe.”

What about domestic antisemitism?

Biden has shaped his presidential campaign as a battle for the “soul of the nation” and has made Trump’s reaction to Charlottesville a key part of his campaign. In the launch of his candidacy, Biden describes those who marched in Charlottesville, Va. in August 2017 as “baring the fangs of racism, chanting the same antisemitic bile heard across Europe in the 1930s.”

When Trump called American Jews who vote for Democrats “disloyal,” Biden responded: “Mr President, these comments are insulting and inexcusable... It may not be beneath you, but it is beneath the office you hold.”

When he released a statement about the Poway synagogue shooting, Biden said, “we must speak out against bigotry and gun violence,” and again emphasized that “We’re in the battle for the soul of this nation,” something he’s tweeted about 30 times.

After Rep. Ilhan Omar was criticized for making what some saw as antisemitic remarks about Jewish wealth and influence in February, the House voted on a resolution to condemn antisemitism. It was largely seen as a rebuke of Omar’s comments.

Biden has not spoken about Omar’s divisive comments, but he did urge the Netanyahu government to allow her to visit after Trump urged Israel to keep her out.

What does he say about the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel — commonly referred to as BDS?

He’s firmly against the movement.

Speaking at AIPAC in 2016, Biden said, “It’s wrong. It’s wrong. I know it’s not popular to say, but it’s wrong, because as the Jewish people know better than any other people, any action that marginalizes one ethnic and religious group imperils us all.”

Okay, now let’s get in-depth about his thoughts on Israel and its policies.

In 1986, in a speech to the Senate about arms sales to the Middle East, Biden said, “It’s about time we stop apologizing for our support for Israel, there’s no apology to be made. It is the best $3 billion investment we make. If there weren’t an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an

Israel to protect her interests in the region.”

In 1973, as a 30-year-old senator from Delaware, Biden’s first overseas trip was to Israel. It was the eve of the Yom Kippur War, and Biden met with then-Prime Minister Golda Meir. He has called it “one of the most consequential meetings I’ve ever had in my life.”

The anecdote of Biden meeting Golda Meir, as JTA’s Ron Kampeas has noted, is another “staple of his Jewish speechmaking.”

“I remember meeting for close to an hour with her,” Biden recalled in a 2015 speech on Israeli Independence Day. “She went through what happened in the Six-Day War, and the price that was paid. And I just had come from Egypt... It turns out it was maneuvers taking place in the desert. And I was really worried. And we went through, and she painted a bleak, bleak picture — scared the hell out of me, quite frankly, about the odds.”

“She said, Senator, you look so worried. I said, well, my God, Madam Prime Minister, and I turned to look at her. I said, the picture you paint. She said, ‘Oh, don’t worry... we have a secret weapon in our conflict with the Arabs. You see, we have no place else to go.’”

Biden has since called himself a “stalwart supporter of Israel,” a country that “shares our democratic values.” He also told J Street in 2013 that “there is no contradiction between being progressive and being a supporter of Israel.”

Biden tweeted in November 2019 in the wake of rocket attacks from Gaza that “Israel has a right to defend itself against terrorist threats.

Where does he stand on solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

In August, Biden told the Council on Foreign Relations, “I believe a two-state solution is the only path to long-term

security for Israel, while sustaining its identity as a Jewish and democratic state. It is also the only way to ensure Palestinian dignity and their legitimate interest in national self-determination. And it is a necessary condition to take full advantage of the opening that exists for greater cooperation between Israel and its Arab neighbors.”

He continued, “At present, neither the Israeli nor Palestinian leadership seems willing to take the political risks necessary to make progress through direct negotiations,” explaining that as president, his goal would be to “urge both sides to take steps to keep the prospect of a two-state outcome alive.”

When asked about Jared Kushner’s prospects on making progress, Biden laughed and said, “What credentials does he bring to that?”

Biden has gone on record to say that he would not move the U.S. embassy back to Tel Aviv after Trump moved it to Jerusalem in a controversial move. But Biden would reopen a consulate in East Jerusalem for Palestinians.

When asked by IfNotNow activists if he would “commit to meaningfully pressuring the Israeli government to end the occupation,” Biden replied, “Yes, but you also gotta pressure the Palestinians, to stop the hate, to stop calling for violence.”

Jewish fun fact

Biden isn’t Jewish, but he has lots of Jews in his family. Two of his daughters-in-law have been Jewish — his son Hunter’s wife is Melissa Cohen, from South Africa, and his now deceased son, Beau, was married to another Jewish woman, Hallie Olivere. (After Beau passed, Hallie and Hunter dated. It’s messy.) One of Biden’s two daughters, Ashley, is married to Howard Krein, a Jewish otorlaryngologist and plastic surgeon.
Michael Bloomberg

By JTA Staff

(JTA) — On Nov. 24, 2019 former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg made a belated entrance into the crowded 2020 Democratic field — despite insisting in March that he would instead “double down on the work that I am already leading and funding” rather than run.

The move has been polarizing in Democratic circles, but some are quick to point out that his vast wealth — over $54 billion, to be more specific — could still help him leave a big mark on the race.

If he’s successful, Bloomberg could become the first Jewish nominee of a major U.S. party, and maybe the first Jewish president.

What’s Bloomberg’s Jewish background?

Bloomberg grew up in an area of Massachusetts with few other Jewish families, yet lived in a kosher-keeping household and was bar mitzvahed. His hometown synagogue, Temple Shalom, was renamed the William and Charlotte Bloomberg Community Center of Medford after Bloomberg endowed the synagogue. He still attends High Holiday services, but his two daughters were not bat mitzvahed.

What has Bloomberg said about antisemitism?

In 2019, Bloomberg was the commencement speaker at Washington University in St. Louis. “We face a lot of hard challenges in America today — from climate change, to gun violence, to failing schools, to the opioid epidemic, and on campuses from the frightening trend toward racism, sexism, hatred, antisemitism, and intolerance of unpopular views and opinions,” he told the graduates. “To have any hope of overcoming these challenges, we have to start by reclaiming our civic dialogue from those who are debasing and degrading it — and preventing us from getting things done.”

Ahead of the 2018 midterms, Bloomberg released an ad with images of Pittsburgh in the aftermath of the synagogue shooting. “Political violence tears at the heart of our democracy. And violence against a religious group, in a house of God, tears at the heart of our humanity. At these moments of great national tragedy, we look to Washington to lead, to offer solutions, to bring us together; and to appeal to all of us as Americans,” Bloomberg says in the voiceover.

He also made a lot of statements on the topic during his 11-year tenure as mayor of New York City. Here’s an example from 2011 in response to antisemitic property crimes (“this kind of hateful act has no place in the freest city in the freest country in the world”).

**What does Bloomberg say about the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel — commonly referred to as BDS?**

In 2013, Mayor Bloomberg said he “couldn’t disagree more violently” with BDS, and in 2014 called the movement “an outrage” that is “totally misplaced,” according to reporting from Jodi Rudoren.

However, he defended Brooklyn College’s decision in 2014 to co-sponsor a panel discussion about the movement.

“If you want to go to a university where the government decides what kind of subjects are fit for discussion, I suggest you apply to a school in North Korea,” Bloomberg said at a press conference in regard to the Brooklyn College controversy.

**What is Bloomberg’s relationship with Jewish groups?**

Bloomberg is a prolific philanthropist and has given to many Jewish causes. In addition to sponsoring the redesign of his childhood synagogue, his name is emblazoned on the Jerusalem headquarters of Magen David Adom — which he named the William H. Bloomberg MDA Jerusalem Station in honor of his father — and also dedicated the Charlotte R. Bloomberg Mother and Child Center at Jerusalem’s Hadassah University Medical Center to his mother for her 95th birthday in 2003.

While mayor, Bloomberg helped initiate (and donated $100 million to the effort to create) Cornell Tech, the high-tech research university on Roosevelt Island that is a joint venture between Cornell University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

In September, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched Hazira, an innovation program to improve Israeli cities.

Back when Bloomberg was a Republican, as mayor in 2004, he attended a reception at the party’s convention, held in that year in his city, hosted by AIPAC and the Jewish Federations of North America. Speaking to Jews he assessed were skeptical of reelecting George W. Bush, Bloomberg said Bush was better than his Democratic rival, John Kerry, because Israel was “the one issue that matters.”

“No two people agree on everything, but when it comes to standing up for America, which I think is like standing up for America, George Bush has been there,” Bloomberg said.

**What does he think about Israel?**

In 2005, he visited Israel as New York mayor, leading a U.S. delegation in honor of the dedication of Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust Museum. Bloomberg said, “This visit went to the very heart of why the State of Israel exists, and why it must always endure. This spring marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust. We must never forget the enormous atrocities that were committed then.”

As we wrote at the time, Bloomberg is “conventionally pro-Israel.”

During the 2014 Gaza War, Bloomberg flew to Israel, defying a Federal Aviation Authority ban on flying into Israel. Bloomberg tweeted that he was there to show support for Israel’s right to defend itself, and he wrote an op-ed in Bloomberg View explaining why.

**Jewish fun fact**

In 2013, Bloomberg received the inaugural Genesis Prize — nicknamed the Jewish Nobel — which honors “individuals for their accomplishments and commitment to Jewish values.” Bloomberg used his prize money to establish a challenge for projects “guided by Jewish values.” The prize has since gone to Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Natalie Portman, and Michael Douglas, among others.

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(JTA) — Pete Buttigieg, the charismatic mayor of South Bend, Indiana — a community home to a growing Orthodox Jewish population — has risen from relative unknown to near household name (for those who can pronounce his) over the course of the 2020 campaign. He is young, gay, moderately liberal on most issues, and outspoken about his Christian faith.

Here’s where he stands on Jewish issues.

**What has Pete Buttigieg said regarding antisemitism?**

In May 2019, at a meeting with Jewish community groups, Buttigieg accused the White House of welcoming people who “are blatantly antisemitic” and excusing “people who walk the streets chanting ‘Jews will not replace us.’”

He was referring to the neo-Nazi march on Charlottesville, Va., when President Trump said there were “very fine people” on “both sides” of the violence that broke out. (Joe Biden has made Trump’s Charlottesville remarks a central part of his campaign.)

Buttigieg’s Twitter account wrote in August 2017, “No, ‘both sides’ are not responsible for a neo-Nazi terrorist murdering a woman in Charlottesville,” and that what happened was “beyond politics.”

In the aftermath of the Pittsburgh synagogue attack, on Oct. 27, 2018, his account tweeted: “South Bend stands united with the people of Pittsburgh, the Jewish community, and all who have suffered from gun violence in other cities as in our own.” He tweeted about the one-year anniversary as well.

Buttigieg later stumbled into his own antisemitic controversy of sorts in April 2019, when he continued to refer to Vice President Mike Pence as a “Pharisee.”

The Pharisees, a group subject to intense criticism by Jesus in Christian texts, are among the intellectual forebears of modern rabbinic Judaism. Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg explains that the word is seen by many as antisemitic, telling the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, “When you use that as an insult, you’re saying that Jews are bad. It perpetuates antisemitism: Jew as bad guy, as Christ killer, is one of the ways people have justified murder and pogroms and the Inquisition and the Holocaust for centuries.”

Buttigieg’s communications advisor Lis Smith subsequently tweeted that Buttigieg would no longer use the term.

After Rep. Ilhan Omar was criticized for making what some saw as antisemitic remarks about Jewish wealth and influence in February 2019, the House voted on a resolution to condemn antisemitism. It was largely seen as a rebuke of Omar’s comments.

Buttigieg didn’t comment specifically on the resolution, but he has clashed with Omar, especially when she said that Americans should be as alert to religious discrimination in Israel as they are in Iran.

“People like me get strung up in Iran,” Buttigieg told “The View.” “So, the idea that what’s going on is equivalent is just wrong.”

However, Buttigieg said he was “disappointed” to see Israel bar Omar and Rashida Tlaib, another congresswoman who backs the boycott Israel movement, from entering the country.

**Where does Buttigieg stand on the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel — commonly referred to as BDS?**

Mayor Pete, as he is affectionately called by some, has never addressed BDS.

He has said he would not move the U.S. embassy back to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem, telling Axios “what’s done is done.”

However, he is also critical of Israeli policy at times: In a Q&A with The New York Times, Buttigieg called Israel’s human rights record “problematic” and “moving in the wrong direction under the current right-wing government.”

In October, Buttigieg told the Council on Foreign Relations, “I disagree with... overreach in the West Bank and Gaza and short-sighted focus on military responses.

The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza has gone on far too long and provides a ripe environment for the very extremist violence that threatens Israel.”

In spite of all this, Buttigieg thinks support for Israel should be non-partisan: “There’s a risk that support for Israel could come to be regarded as a partisan issue and I think that would be really unfortunate,” he said in 2018, after that AJC trip to Israel. “One of the first things you realize when you get on the ground is that this is not a left versus right issue — at least it shouldn’t be. The Democratic Party is, I think, ultimately committed to the idea of peace and security and stability and fairness for everybody.”

In April 2019, when Netanyahu announced ahead of the Israeli elections that he will begin annexing West Bank if he were to be elected, Pete Buttigieg tweeted, “This provocation is harmful to Israeli, Palestinian, and American interests. Supporting Israel does not have to mean agreeing with Netanyahu’s politics. I don’t. This calls for a president willing to counsel our ally against abandoning a two-state solution.”

In a foreign policy speech in June 2019, he reiterated this, stating, “If Prime Minister Netanyahu makes good on his threat to annex West Bank settlements, a President Buttigieg will take steps to ensure that American taxpayers won’t foot the bill.”

**What has Buttigieg said about a two-state solution?**

Buttigieg said that “A two-state solution that achieves legitimate Palestinian aspirations and meets Israel’s security needs remains the only viable way forward.”

“The security of Israel and the aspirations of the Palestinian people are fundamentally interlinked. To visit the West Bank and Gaza is to understand the fundamental need for a two-state solution which addresses the economic, security, and moral rights of both Israelis and of the Palestinians who live there,” Buttigieg told the Council on Foreign Relations.

One of the biggest issues, he told Jewish groups in May 2019, is that “we don’t have the right kinds of partners in leadership on the Palestinian side, is that we have to invest more energy in constraining their worst impulses than in trying to get a good outcome.”

**Jewish fun fact**

While Buttigieg would be the first openly gay major ticket nominee, he’s not the first candidate: Fred Karger, who is Jewish and gay, sought the Republican nomination in 2012.
By JT A Staff

Bernie Sanders

(JTA) — Bernie Sanders is trying to make Jewish and political history. The senator from Vermont is one of three Jewish candidates vying to become president of the United States in 2020 — the other two being former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg and author Marianne Williamson.

But barring a strong showing from Bloomberg, who joined the fray late, Sanders, the self-described democratic socialist from Brooklyn, currently has the best chance to become our first Jewish president.

His father was a Jewish immigrant from Poland, and his mother was born in America to immigrant Jewish parents from Poland and Russia. In 1963, he lived and worked on Kibbutz Shaar Haamakim in northern Israel.

Sanders has said he is proud to be Jewish. In a June 2015 interview, Sanders said being Jewish taught him “in a very deep way what politics is about.”

“A guy named Adolf Hitler won an election in 1932. He won an election, and 50 million people died as a result of that election in World War II, including 6 million Jews. So what I learned as a little kid is that politics is, in fact, very important,” he said.

(Quick fact check: Hitler didn't really win an election, but we get Bernie's point.)

**What has Bernie Sanders said regarding antisemitism?**

He wrote an entire essay on the subject in Jewish Currents in November 2019, “How to Fight Antisemitism”:

“The threat of antisemitism is not some abstract idea to me. It is very personal. It destroyed a large part of my family. I am not someone who spends a lot of time talking about my personal background because I believe political leaders should focus their attention on a vision and agenda for others, rather than themselves. But I also appreciate that it’s important to talk about how our backgrounds have informed our ideas, our principles, and our values,” Sanders wrote.

His essay also shows that Sanders views antisemitism as a universal, intersectional threat and calls opposing it a “core value of progressivism.”

“Like other forms of bigotry — racism, sexism, homophobia — antisemitism is used by the right to divide people from one another and prevent us from fighting together for a shared future of equality, peace, prosperity, and environmental justice,” he added.

He also outlines what his plan would be to fight antisemitism. In Sanders’s words, he will:

“direct the Justice Department to prioritize the fight against white nationalist violence.”

“appoint a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism immediately.”

“rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council, which Trump withdrew from.”

The U.S. left the UN Human Rights Council in 2018 largely for what then-U.S. ambassador to the international body Nikki Haley called “chronic bias against Israel.”

**What else has Sanders said on antisemitism?**

In November 2015, Sanders spoke to NPR about visiting the Polish village where his dad grew up. “It was a very traumatic experience for me as a young man to know that my father’s family was killed by Nazis — killed by Hitler. And that left — if not intellectually — at least an emotional part of me that would say: God, we have got to do everything we can to end this kind of horrific racism and antisemitism, and I’ve spent much of my life to fight that.”

After Rep. Ilhan Omar was criticized for making what some saw as antisemitic remarks about Jewish wealth and influence in February, the House voted on a resolution to condemn antisemitism. It was largely seen as a rebuke of Omar’s comments.

Sanders said that Omar should be more careful in how she speaks to the Jewish community, but that the resolution was part of an effort to unfairly silence Israel critics.

**What does Sanders say about the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction Israel — commonly referred to as BDS?**

Unlike many other progressives, Bernie is against BDS. He has stated that antisemitism is a driver of the anti-Israel movement:

“Israel has done some very bad things, so has every other country on earth,” Sanders said on MSNBC in March 2016. “I think the people who want to attack Israel for their policies, I think that is fair game. But not to appreciate that there is some level of antisemitism around the world involved in that I think would be a mistake.”

Sanders also said in May 2017 that he did not respect BDS as a tactic.

However, Sanders voted against the recent anti-BDS bill in Congress, telling the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "While I do not support the BDS movement, we must defend every American's constitutional right to engage in political activity. It is clear to me that this bill would violate Americans' First Amendment rights."

In September, Sen. Sanders named Linda Sarsour, a Palestinian-American activist, outspoken critic of Israel, and BDS supporter, as a surrogate for his campaign.

**What are Bernie’s general policies on Israel?**

His public record on Israel goes back to 1988, when Sanders was mayor of Burlington, Vt. The First Intifada had begun a year earlier, and Sanders said, “What is going on in the Middle East right now is obviously a tragedy, there’s no question about it. The sight of Israeli soldiers breaking the arms and legs of Arabs is reprehensible. The idea of Israel closing down towns and sealing them off is unacceptable.”

However, he continued, “You have had a crisis there for 30 years, you have had people at war for 30 years, you have a situation with some Arab countries where there are still some Arab leadership calling for the destruction of the state of Israel and the murder of Israeli citizens.”

It’s now been closer to 50 years, but Sanders remains a politician who has continued to express both support for Israel and critique of the country’s policies.

In March 2016, Sanders said, “We have also got to be a friend, not only to Israel, but to the Palestinian people... When we talk about Israel and Palestinian areas, it is important to understand that today there is a whole lot of suffering among Palestinians and that cannot be ignored.”

He wants both Israelis and Palestinians to recognize each other’s pain:

“The founding of Israel is understood by another people in the land of Palestine as the cause of their painful displacement. And just as Palestinians should recognize the just claims of Israeli Jews, supporters of Israel must understand why Palestinians view Israel’s creation as they do,” Sanders wrote in his Jewish Currents essay.

Speaking with Al Jazeera in 2017, Sanders said that while there are “many problems” with Israel, and that he would continue to be critical, he believes that Israel is unfairly singled out for criticism, especially in relation to other middle eastern countries.

He has also criticized Palestinian leaders.

“While I am very critical of Netanyahu’s right-wing government, I am not impressed by what I am seeing from Palestinian leadership, as well. It’s corrupt in many cases, and certainly not effective,” Sanders told The New Yorker in April 2019.

**So what does he think about solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?**

In an interview with Council on Foreign Relations, Sanders said, “Ultimately, it’s up to the Palestinians and Israelis themselves to make the choices necessary for a final agreement, but the United States has a major role to play in brokering that agreement. My administration would also be willing to bring real pressure to bear on both sides, including conditioning military aid, to create consequences for moves that undermine the chances for peace.”

**Jewish fun fact**

Bernie went to same high school as Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Chuck Schumer, Judge Judy, and several Nobel Prize winners: James Madison High School in the Sheepshead Bay neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York.
Donald Trump

By JTA Staff

(JTA) — Donald Trump has been one of the most consequential and most polarizing presidents for American Jews in history. He has been willing to take action on issues pertaining to Israel and the broader Jewish community that past presidents had shied away from, creating a fervent right-wing Jewish fan base. At the same time, his brash commentary directed at Jews in various speeches and interviews — stylistically carried over from his days as a real estate mogul and reality TV star — has led some to believe that he traffics in antisemitic tropes.

Trump’s daughter, Ivanka, converted to Judaism before marrying Jared Kushner, himself the scion of a prominent real estate family. Among the small coterie of advisors Trump is said to implicitly trust are two Orthodox Jews with close Israel ties: Jason Greenblatt, who was the chief legal officer of the Trump organization, and David Friedman, his bankruptcy lawyer. He rewarded each with their dream jobs: Greenblatt was until late 2019 Trump’s top Middle East peace envoy, and Friedman is the U.S. ambassador to Jerusalem.

Here’s a breakdown of Trump’s record on Jewish issues.

What has Donald Trump said and done to address antisemitism?

After two years of leaving the position empty, Trump filled the congressionally mandated position of State Department Antisemitism Monitor, naming former prosecutor Elan Carr to the job earlier this year. Carr has been an aggressive presence on the world scene since his appointment and has made it a point to label and attack anti-Israel activity as antisemitism.

Speaking to Jewish groups, Trump has forcefully condemned antisemitism. “My administration is committed to aggressively challenging and confronting antisemitic bigotry in every resource and using every single weapon at our disposal,” he told the Israeli-American Council in December 2019, noting his decision to pull the United States out of the United Nations Human Rights Council, which is known for regularly singling out Israel for criticism. His Justice Department dedicated a day to combatting antisemitism in the summer of 2019.

While his @POTUS account has never tweeted about antisemitism, President Trump has tweeted about antisemitism from his @realDonaldTrump account at least three times — once to condemn the Pittsburgh massacre as “an assault on humanity” and twice in March to call out the Democratic Party for not taking “a stronger stand against antisemitism.”

What about domestic antisemitism?

Some Jewish groups have accused Trump of excusing and even promoting white nationalism, partially through the ideas of his adviser Stephen Miller. Some have accused him of directly stoking domestic antisemitism since his presidential campaign, when he posted a picture of his rival, Hillary Clinton, with a pile of cash and a six-pointed star. An election eve ad that warned of conspiracies to keep Americans down, starring Jewish “villains” exclusively, didn’t help.

Critics also slammed Trump for not renouncing the support of the prominent antisemite and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke quickly enough during the 2016 campaign.

In August 2017, Trump equivocated instead of initially condemning the deadly neo-Nazi violence at a rally in Charlottesville. A year or so later, he peddled a baseless theory that George Soros, the liberal Jewish billionaire philanthropist, was behind what Trump termed a migrant “invasion.” Then a gunman massacred 11 Jewish worshippers in Pittsburgh, citing the same theory.

While Trump condemned the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting, he also shrunk Department of Homeland Security programs that track white supremacists. In September 2019, the DHS said it would restore some of the programs.

Then there’s the language he has aimed at American Jews, especially ones who vote for Democrats, that has made many of his detractors squirm. He has called all Democrats disloyal to Jewish people. At the recent Israeli-American Council’s conference, he called Jews in the audience “brutal killers” in the real estate business.

“So many of you voted for the people in the last administration. Some day you will have to explain that to me because I don’t think they like Israel too much,” the president said at the conference.

What does he say about the movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel — commonly referred to as BDS?

How much does Trump hate BDS? Even more than Israel’s government does, apparently.

In the summer of 2019, Israel was set to override its own laws banning entry to the country to BDS backers by letting in two U.S. congresswomen who back the movement, Reps. Ilhan Omar and Rashida Tlaib. Trump intervened, and Israel ended up banning the visit, garnering harsh criticism from other American lawmakers in the process.

Okay, now let’s get in-depth about his thoughts on Israel and its policies.

If there was one phrase to summarize what Trump’s actions on Israel imply, it might be nonstop love.

Here’s a list of his most momentous moves in relation to the Jewish state:

• Recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital
• Moved the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
• Recognized Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights
• Sent a fierce Israel defender, Nikki Haley, to the United Nations, where she used her office to bash the institution for anti-Israel bias
• Slashed U.S. funding for the Palestinians
• Pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal

Jewish fun fact

In July of 1988, Trump loaned his plane to an Orthodox Jewish family whose ailing child, Andrew Ten, needed emergency care. "Commercial airlines refused to fly the child because he could not travel without an elaborate life-support system, which includes a portable oxygen tank, a suction machine, a breathing bag, and an adrenaline syringe," JTA reported then of the Los Angeles to New York flight. “Mr. Trump did not hesitate when we called him up. He said ‘yes, I’ll send my plane out,’” 29-year-old Harold Ten said then.
Elizabeth Warren

By JTA Staff

Let's dive into her positions on all things Jewish.

First up: What has Warren said and done to address antisemitism?

“Let’s be clear; antisemitism has no place in democracy,” Warren said in a June 2019 address to the American Jewish Committee Global Forum. She called antisemitic graffiti in her home state “cowardly acts of hate” and condemned the defacement of Jewish gravestones in Fall River, Mass. as a “hateful act.”

After the antisemitic Pittsburgh synagogue shooting in October 2018, Warren attended Shabbat services at Temple Emanuel in Newton as a part of the #ShowUpForShabbat campaign organized by the American Jewish Committee. At Temple Emanuel, she led the congregation in reciting a prayer for the welfare of the United States.

Her official campaign Twitter account tweeted twice in the wake of Pittsburgh, once after the Chabad of Poway shooting, once after the Halle shooting in Germany, once on Yom HaShoah (Israel’s Holocaust Remembrance Day) and on U.S. Holocaust Memorial Day.

Afer Rep. Ilhan Omar was criticized for making what some saw as antisemitic remarks about Jewish wealth and influence in February, the House voted on a resolution to condemn antisemitism. It was largely seen as a rebuke of Omar’s comments.

Warren slammed the resolution, which she said was an attempt to silence debate, arguing that “branding criticism of Israel as automatically antisemitic has a chilling effect on our public discourse and makes it harder to achieve a peaceful solution between Israelis and Palestinians.”

What does Warren say about the movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel — commonly referred to as BDS?

“I don’t support the boycott, I think the boycott is wrong, but I think outlawing protected free speech activity violates our basic constitution,” she said in response to the controversial Israel Anti-Boycott Act, which she voted against in February 2019.

Her director for progressive partnerships, Max Berger, helped found the anti-occupation group IfNotNow and tweeted in 2017 that he “agree[s] with BDS.

What American Jewish groups does Warren work with?

As a senator, Warren accepted the endorsement of J Street, the liberal pro-Israel lobbying group.

During the government shutdown in late 2018 and early 2019, Warren pledged her salary to HIAS — formerly known as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society — a Jewish non-profit that supports refugees. (Salaries of Congress members were not frozen during the shutdown.)

What is Warren’s general position on Israel?

She’s supportive, yet critical of some of its policies.

“Israel lives in a dangerous part of the world where there are not a lot of liberal democracies,” Warren said shortly after declaring her presidential bid. “We need a strong Israel there.”

“America has a very special relationship with Israel,” Warren said in an August 2014 town hall. “Israel lives in a very dangerous part of the world... And we very much need an ally in that part of the world.”

However, in a video Q&A with The New York Times in June 2019, Warren said “the current situation” in Israel-Palestine is “not tenable.” When an IfNotNow member asked her if she would “push the Israeli government to end the occupation” in July, she said yes.

Where does Warren generally stand on solving the Israelis-Palestinians conflict?

In 2014, she voted in favor of $225 million in funding for Iron Dome, Israel’s missile-interception system. She also defended Israel’s actions during the 2014 Gaza War, explaining, “When Hamas puts its rocket launchers next to hospitals, next to schools, they’re using their civilian population to protect their military assets. And I believe Israel has a right, at that point, to defend itself.”

In 2015, she voted for the Iran nuclear deal that Netanyahu opposed.

In April 2018, during the protests of Israeli occupation at the Gaza border, Warren urged Israeli restraint.

“I am deeply concerned about the deaths and injuries in Gaza,” Warren said. “As additional protests are planned for the coming days, the Israel Defense Forces should exercise restraint and respect the rights of Palestinians to peacefully protest.”

Warren also supports a two-state solution: A spokesperson for the campaign, Alexis Krieg, told JTA that “Senator Warren believes a two-state solution is the outcome that is best for U.S. interests, for Israel’s security and its future, and for ensuring Palestinian rights, freedom and self-determination.

As president, she will seek ways to preserve the viability of the two-state solution on the ground.”

In October 2019, Warren said in a speech that “it is the official policy of the United States of America to support a two-state solution, and if Israel is moving in the opposite direction, then everything is on the table.”

Jewish fun fact

Warren has been endorsed by Jewish celebrities such as Amy Schumer, Barbra Streisand, Bette Midler, Gloria Steinem, and Scarlett Johansson.

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Talmud from page 2

depending on who they are and how they think.

The rabbis in the Gemara challenged every imaginable idea, but always with the understanding of the importance of Torah and belief in God. Respect was always maintained for the generations that came before, even as halacha (Jewish law) was applied to new situations that arose.

I learned how to follow complicated discussions and seek deeper meaning in topics I would otherwise never have thought relevant to my daily life. I learned that it’s okay to be wrong or to admit what you do not know. I learned that one should stand up for their opinion, but that the real challenge is to truly listen and learn from what others have to say.

One of the truly remarkable things about the great rabbis in the Gemara is that most of them had other jobs. Learning Torah was of central importance, but they understood how Torah was to be integrated into people’s lives. My goal in studying the Daf was never to decide on intricacies of Jewish law, but to similarly integrate Torah into my daily life as a Jewish woman.

This Siyum HaShas — or celebration of the completion of the seven-and-a-half-year reading of the Talmud a page per day — was a very proud moment, as three generations of our family finished the Talmud Bavli together in our home in Israel. I could not imagine a more special family experience.

This chapter of learning, at times leaning on my father’s shoulder with my brother on his other side, later to be joined by my younger sister and my Zaidy, has now ended. As I prepare to finish high school and move on to the next chapter of my life, I can’t imagine a better experience to have bonded me to my family and to prepare me for a life of continued learning and new experiences.
ISRAEL IN THE NEWS

In this four session course, Matan Norani will lead you in taking a close look at Israel’s current events. He will cover political, social, and economical issues in Israel, and Israel’s contribution to the world in the medical, technological, and agricultural fields. A light dinner will be served.

Date: Thursdays, February 6, March 5, 12, & 19
Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Location: Adult Lounge
Cost: $25/JCC and Temple Members
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