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Musings with Mary Lou

Birthdays Should Be Celebrated

By Mary Lou Finesilver

I love birthdays and birthday celebrations. I welcome every new year with open arms. I know some folks who refuse to admit their age, no matter how many years they have been blessed to be on this earth. My mother’s sister, Lily, was one of those who would not tell her age. My mother needed a passport and did not have a proper birth certificate as they were hard to come by in those days, so she took my aunt with her to attest to her age. Well, that was fruitless. I don’t know how she got her passport, because my aunt never told them her age. My husband Al had a wonderful aunt, a sister of his mother’s, Rae Schwellung. I never knew anyone who could skirt around her age so well. She could change the subject without blinking an eye. She lived to be almost 100, but never admitted to her age. As far as I’m concerned, birthdays should have cake (sometimes); ice cream (always); presents, gaily wrapped; and candles.

February starts the beginning of the Finesilver celebrations for birthdays. My daughter Diane’s birthday was Feb. 6, and how we celebrated her birthday seemed to resonate with the rest of the family. A good dinner out, surrounded by family. This excellent dinner was at Chop House. Very good, lovely atmosphere. Her mother, so involved in watching her kids enjoy each other’s company, forgot to take pictures and forgot the candles. A cardinal sin. Unfortunately, one can never make up that sort of omission. Even so, it was a fun night.

The next birthday is my son Marshall’s, in March. He is already under the gun to pick his restaurant. Since he works at Kravitz five days per week, I don’t think his choice will be there for their excellent deli menu. Then a couple weeks down the road is my daughter Beth. She was born on March 17 so most of our celebrations have some kind of green. Green beer, green alligator cake, green and white Bat Mitzvah color theme. You get my drift. Now is her turn to decide dinner in or out. Never an easy decision for all of us.

Next up is yours truly. Five years ago, we celebrated very large and it was beautiful. I was thrilled to have been able to share my joy with so many friends. This year will be just family with a special menu. I won’t bore you with the details. Then we skip to July for the youngest member of the tribe, my granddaughter Katharine Sydney Finesilver. You might have heard of her (see my January 2019 column). We will have to celebrate on the mainland without her this year. She will either be back in Hawaii or finishing her year in Israel. Last, but not least, my daughter-in-law Candy celebrates in November. She will let us know how she wants to celebrate this year.

Why Henry Ford’s Anti-Semitism Still Matters

By Jonathon Stanton

Editor’s note:

The editor of a quarterly journal published by the historical commission of Dearborn, Mich. was let go after he published an article about Henry Ford’s history of anti-Semitism in the publication’s 100th anniversary issue. The article by Bill McGraw, editor of The Dearborn Historian, looked critically at the industrialist’s history of anti-Jewish invective and activism, including how his publication of books like “The International Jew” inspired Nazi leaders. Dearborn Mayor John B. O’Reilly prevented the January issue of the magazine, paid for by the city, from being mailed out. McGraw, who worked on an issue-by-issue contract, will not work on any more of the magazines.

(JTA) - On Jan. 31, we at the Dearborn Historical Commission adopted a resolution objecting to Dearborn Mayor John O’Reilly’s refusal to allow the distribution of the new edition of The Dearborn Historian, which featured an article by Bill McGraw titled “Henry Ford and The International Jew.”

The issue was set to be released upon the 100th anniversary of Henry Ford’s acquisition of The Dearborn Independent, a sad but important milestone in our city’s history. We believe that remembering and discussing the history of our city serves a vital civic purpose, and it is to Dearborn’s credit that we dedicate a few of our tax dollars to having a museum that strives to do that.

Remembering history is not always an easy or enjoyable task, however. History is complex because it’s about people, and people are complex. We often have an urge to impose simplicity, where notable people are either heroes or villains, one thing or the other. But that’s not real life or real people, and it’s not real history.

When we engage history, we must consider the whole story, not just the positive parts. Dearborn is rightly proud of our favorite son, Henry Ford. Ford is a figure of world-historical significance for his role as an industrialist and innovator. He not only put Dearborn on the map, he also put the world on wheels. He left behind Ford Motor Company, a business and a brand that’s beloved around the world. Ford Motor continues to be an industrialist and innovator. He not only put Dearborn on the map, he also put the world on wheels. He left behind Ford Motor Company, a business and a brand that’s beloved around the world.

Henry Ford’s historical association with anti-Semitism does not in any way implicate Ford Motor or the Ford family. In fact, McGraw’s article describes how the Fords have distinguished themselves in the fight against anti-Semitism.

These good stories are all true, but they can’t change the shameful legacy of The Dearborn Independent. The Independent had been a sleepy weekly newspaper until Ford and his lieutenants transformed it into a font of anti-Semitic bigotry. Backed by the vast resources of Henry Ford’s fame and fortune, the newspaper and its content that was republished in “The International Jew” gained a worldwide audience.

The hateful ideas spread by these publications had consequences. And, as The Dearborn Historian’s reporting explained, this isn’t just dusty trivia from 100 years ago that doesn’t matter today. These ideas still benefit from their association with Henry Ford’s name, and these ideas are still hurting people. That’s why it’s so important to remember and to discuss history. History has weight.

If we only talk about the parts of the past that make us feel good or proud, and neglect to talk about the parts that might cause us introspection or humility, then what we are doing is not history - it’s something else. We also know that silence concerning anti-Semitism carries a particular weight. That’s why the Dearborn Historical Commission feels so strongly about the decision to try to kill this article. We believe this decision is profoundly wrong.

In statements to the media, the city’s director of public information, Mary Laundroche, has explained the mayor’s decision as motivated by a desire to protect the city’s reputation for diversity and inclusion.

Our city has indeed made great strides in this regard under Mayor O’Reilly’s leadership, and we don’t doubt that his desire is coming from a place of good faith. However, the mayor’s communications team has gotten the perception question precisely backward. An inclusive and diverse community is honest and proactive in confronting the darker sides of its history. To the extent that we act like we’re afraid to confront our history, that shows that we still have some work to do.

We urge the mayor to reconsider his decision and to allow the magazine staff to distribute The Historian. We urge him to allow the museum the freedom to pursue its duty to historical truth, including the parts that are uncomfortable.

In the meantime, we’d encourage everyone to read “Henry Ford and The International Jew” on DeadlineDetroit.com. Bill McGraw wrote an exceptional article, and we at the Dearborn Historical Commission are proud to stand behind it.
Reminiscences on Her 100th Birthday

By Pauline A. Berkowitz

One hundred years ago this past January, I was born in London, England, to Hilda and Rex Anderson. Raised in London and later in Hove on the south Sussex coast, in my early teens we moved to Belgium where my father was a producer for the English theatre in Brussels.

We returned to England in the mid-1930s and shortly after I met my husband-to-be, Sidney M. Berkowitz, who was completing a Ph.D. at Cambridge University. Married in 1939, we came to America on the last private passenger transatlantic crossing, just before the outbreak of WWII. Sidney’s first pulpit was in Mobile, Ala., a lovey introduction to America, but soon we left for Denver, Colo., prior to his service in the Pacific as a chaplain in the Army Air Corps. During that time, our infant son Roger, and I lived with Sidney’s parents in Terre Haute, Ind., where I worried not only about Sidney’s safety, but also that of my two brothers, Ronald, who was serving in the Royal Air Force flying Spitfires, and Godfrey in the Royal Navy going ashore on Normandy Beach on D-Day, and that of my baby sister, Heather, living among the bombing of London.

Following the end of the war, we came to Youngstown in 1946 to Congregation Rodef Sholom, our home for more than forty years. During those years, I served on many charity boards, participated in the Temple’s Sisterhood, and accompanied Sidney to innumerable civic and social events, while also raising our two sons, Roger and Larry. I must also say that it was heartwarming to have been a part of our congregational family, consisting of such fine and kind people, for so many years. I shall always be grateful for the way I was accepted.

In the early 1960s, I enrolled at Youngstown State University (at that time, Youngstown College) to complete my bachelor’s degree. I then attended Middlebury College in Vermont for a series of summers to earn a master’s degree in French. This was followed by commuting to Cleveland to complete course work for a Ph.D. in French. My early years in Brussels and fluency in French served me well.

My first job was teaching French at an elementary school in Liberty Township. My class was presented simultaneously in a number of classrooms in the district’s system via television and my theme song was “Hi Lili Hi Lo” from the 1953 movie “Lili” with Leslie Caron and Mel Ferrer. It was tremendous fun and the young students learned quickly. I then went on to be the romance language department for the Warren branch of Kent State University. Teaching both French and Spanish, I had many wonderful students and colleagues. Two of the professors and several students remain in touch these many years later.

My world changed dramatically in 1983 when Sidney died at age 72.

Some years later, I decided to move to California to be near my son Larry and his family, and to be spared Ohio’s winters. It was most difficult to make that decision to leave Youngstown, my brother Godfrey and his family, and my close friends in Youngstown and Warren. I am now happily in a continuing care community in Saratoga, Calif., with many friends and many helping hands. I have seen wars, civil strife, a man landing on the moon, marches for women’s rights, and the introduction of personal computers, cell phones and the web. In addition to the invention of television, I also witnessed earlier the introduction of the wireless, as the radio was first called. The change from gas jets to electricity was also a marvel and meant we no longer needed lamplighters to illuminate the streets. I now look forward to seeing driverless cars, the results of artificial intelligence, the benefits of cell therapy, and hopefully a world that will pivot more calmly and peacefully on its axis.

Former Youngstown Resident

March 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the April issue.

Submissions may be edited for length and/or clarity. The JJMM does not assume the responsibility for the Kashruth of any product or service advertised on its pages.
Temple El Emeth Events

Feb. 28 and March 1
Volunteers for the Liberty Food Pantry can sign up by calling the Temple office at 330.759.1429. Set up is from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28 and food distribution will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 1.

March 3
A Morning with RBG - Minyan will begin at 9:45 a.m. after which bagels, Danish and coffee will be served. The documentary RBG, which explores Ruth Bader Ginsberg’s personal journey as she rises to the nation’s highest court, will be shown. Reservations must be made to Temple by Feb. 28.

March 6
Jewish Christian Dialogue - Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the session beginning at 1 p.m. Pastor Juan Rivera, lead pastor of the Victory Christian Center’s Coitsville Campus will be the guest presenter. He will speak on “Common Dynamics of Disbelief among Youth.” All are welcome to attend.

March 12
Sisterhood Meeting and Luncheon - The open board meeting begins at 10:45 a.m. followed by lunch at noon. Marcia Levy will speak about “Famous Jewish Women.”

March 18
Shmoozing with Shmulik at Levy Gardens beginning at 10:30 a.m. Sam Kooperman leads the group with stories, jokes and music in Yiddish. Refreshments will be served. Please note the change of location for this month only.

March 20
Community Wide Purim Celebration at El Emeth. The service and Megillah reading will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include a Parade of Children in their costumes. Following services, festivities and a salad bar extravaganza and hot dog dinner will be held. Reservations can be made by calling any of the Synagogues’ offices or El Emeth at 330.759.1429. See flyer in this issue.

March 23
Birthday Service and Kiddush Luncheon - Services begin at 9:30 a.m. and a Kiddush luncheon will follow. March birthdays will be celebrated.

April 20
The Passover Second Seder begins at 6:15 p.m. An interactive Seder will be led by Rabbi Schonberger with a traditional catered Passover full course dinner following the Seder. Reservation forms have been sent to members’ homes and are in the monthly newsletter. Forms with payment are due by April 12. Reservations cannot be taken over the phone. Services are held daily at 5:45 p.m. including Saturday afternoon. Friday morning Minyans are at 7 a.m. with Shabbat morning services beginning at 9:30 a.m. Rabbi Schonberger holds study sessions following Shabbat morning services on Prayer Book and Synagogue skills and “Psalm Day” on Saturday afternoon following 5:45 p.m. services.

Women’s League National President to Attend Sisterhood Shabbat Service

El Emeth Sisterhood’s annual Sisterhood Shabbat Service will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 18. The special guest will be Margie Miller, national president of Women’s League for Conservative Judaism. Joining her will be the branch president, Fran Hildebrant, and the branch program and education chair, Robin Lash. El Emeth Sisterhood members will conduct the service and a Kiddush luncheon will follow.

A native Long Islander, Miller grew up in Valley Stream, NY. Active in Jewish life since she was a teenager in BBG, she became an adult bat mitzvah in 1997 and retired not long ago from a 16-year career as a Hebrew school teacher at three synagogues. She graduated from Hofstra University in 1971 with a double major in sociology and psychology.

Her husband, Joel Miller, z”l, was killed in the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Although Margie had a real estate broker’s license, she worked full time as a family bereavement specialist for South Nassau Communities Hospital’s WTC Family Center. From 2002 to 2008, she coordinated family outreach and programming for 9/11 bereaved and first responders’ families. Miller also made time to serve in multiple capacities on her Women’s League branch and region boards, and finally, on the international board, where she chaired the training department and eventually the 2014 convention.
Purim and the Endurance of Jewish Values

Rabbi’s Message
Rabbi Dario Hunter
Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah

Purim (March 20–21 this year) is a holiday of much merriment and joy – decidedly so because the triumph of Mordechai and Esther is the triumph of Klal Yisrael against an attempted annihilation. In a larger sense, it represents our enduring resilience as a people.

However, the ending of the Purim story presents an often overlooked and stark moral dilemma. At the end of Megillat Esther (the Book of Esther), the Jews engage in battle against their enemies. 75,000 people are killed in a clear Jewish victory. The context of the killings presents them as a simple case of self-defense, for the sake of the security of a threatened people. However, a more searching examination draws forth cause for halachic questions and commentary.

First of all, 75,000 is a lot of people. Were they all actively involved in the plot to annihilate the Jewish people? How were “enemies” defined in this context? Megillat Esther provides little indication that Haman’s feelings about the Jews were widespread; in fact, his genocidal feelings appear to arise from his personal animosity against Mordechai due to his refusal to bow to him.

Multiple commentators address this issue. In defining the scope of the 75,000, the Vilna Gaon included those who would be gladdened by the Jewish people’s destruction along with the plotters, reasoning that both categories were to blame. The Malbim (Rabbi Meir Leibush), however, included only those who displayed public animosity and threatened the Jewish people with evil.

Yet another rabbinic source, the Esh Kodesh (Rabbi Kalonimus Kalmish Shapiro) is careful to note that the high death toll should be deemed uniquely relevant to the Purim story and not considered a precedent for an appropriate response in other circumstances.

Why do commentators feel the need to draw fine lines around this oft-ignored moral dilemma in the Purim story? The commentaries that address the issue of the bloody ending of the Purim story show a remarkable sensitivity for the lives even of those perceived to be threats to the Jewish people. In their wisdom, sage rabbis were aware of the potentially destructive precedent that might be perceived by this ending. And so they did what rabbis do – they carved fine contours for what seemed like a morally rough-hewn Scriptural example.

It should be noted that G-d’s name is not mentioned in Megillat Esther – a point that distinguishes this circumstance from well-known forms of divine destruction (such as in Sodom).

The search for greater meaning in this Scriptural fine point is the search for greater moral fortitude in the face of every age’s perceived Amalek – or perceived threat to the Jewish people’s survival. Rabbis looked for a way not just to preserve a people through cautious remembrance of historical threats but to also preserve the dignity of a people by being very careful about how we define as enemies. The challenge of the Purim story as it meets our modern conception of what it is to be Jewish and face a larger conflict-fraught world, presents yet another thing for which we can be joyous – our tradition of cautious moral ambivalence over the mistreatment of others even when we feel threatened. After all, what would truly be left of the Jewish people if it ‘survived’ as a people devoid of Jewish values?

This Purim, I hope you join me in celebrating not only the enduring survival of the Jewish people, but the inherent value placed on human life and human dignity that echoes throughout our tradition.
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Liptalk: Jewish Family Services Offers Much-Needed Services

A Message from Andy Lipkin
Federation Executive Vice-President

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is the umbrella organization for several agencies. They all provide a variety of much-needed services for the Jewish and general communities. But some are more visible than others. Jewish Family Services, with a small staff tucked into a corner of Heritage Manor, isn’t so visible. But what it offers is invaluable.

One of my favorite JFS programs is Our Gang. This group of developmentally challenged adults, led by Linda Kessler, has been going strong for 40 years. Once a month, they get together to participate in a social activity. They go to the zoo, Scrappers’ baseball games, movies, restaurants, Jewish holiday events at the Jewish Community Center, and more. In fact, twice a year, for Passover and Hanukkah, I attend the Our Gang program with my wife Hilarie, who plays guitar and sings for the group. The members all love the music, and I see firsthand the participants. It is a wonderful experience and I would invite anyone to come and attend one of the programs throughout the year as a volunteer. Transportation is provided for those who need it. Many of them don’t have the option to do these types of activities on their own. And they’ve become a really close group of friends.

JFS often fills gaps in people’s lives. Meals on Wheels provides meals for people over the age of 60 who aren’t able to prepare a dinner on their own. Between 500 and 1,000 meals are prepared at Heritage Manor every month. JFS delivers the frozen meals two days a week, providing enough dinners for a week or two to the recipients. In a nice partnership, Trumbull Board of Developmental Disabilities helps with the packing, sorting and delivering of the meals.

Similarly, Shai Erez, our outreach coordinator, works with individuals who are isolated for various reasons. She delivers holiday baskets, and helps them find options if they’re in need of something. She also lets them know about the wide variety of services available through Federation and its agencies. She’s connecting them to the community, and that’s so worthwhile.

The JFS staff goes out of their way to help people. The guardianship program is a perfect example. Jane Trambley, guardianship manager, logs many hours providing transportation to medical appointments, managing checking accounts, and much more for the individuals in the program. Recently, Jane received a weekend call about a ward who was taken to the hospital.

Though it was her birthday, Jane immediately went to spend time with the ward, and alerted the family. She spent many hours that weekend with the ward and his family. Someone is available to the nearly 30 clients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This program is a lot of work, but worth it.

JFS provides counseling for a wide variety of mental health needs, including depression, anxiety, family issues, financial issues, and divorce. A social worker can even go to the home of those people 60 and over who qualify for Medicaid through the Area Agency on Aging. Many of them don’t have transportation or can’t leave their home for other reasons. And JFS is unique in that it offers a sliding scale fee for people who need services. JFS will find a way to meet their needs.

Another small but critical part of JFS is our group home, located on Granada, adjacent to Levy Gardens. This program, which is a partnership between ISLE, Purple Cat, and JFS, provides a home for four individuals who don’t quite qualify for developmental disability or mental health services, but need a place to live that offers a little help. Staff is on site part time to help with food prep, provide activities, and make sure the house is kept up.

JFS also works with Akiva Academy to provide sex education to students in fifth through eighth grades. JFS counselors are well-versed in the information and able to answer the children’s questions. They do a great job of communicating with the students.

While many outside agencies concentrate on a specific population, JFS serves the needs of a large, diverse population, including the elderly and individuals with mental health issues or developmental disabilities. The staff is compassionate and caring, and makes sure clients get the services they need.

If you or someone you know is in need of services from JFS, please don’t hesitate to call Ken Bielecki, director.

Reception Held for Youngstown Residents Living in Arizona

Marsha Burdman hosted a reception in her Arizona home for Youngstown residents who winter or now live there.

“You may look at Youngstown and see a community smaller than what it was when you were my age,” Long told them. “But know that to those of us that follow.”

“Whether it is access to camp, education, Jewish free loan, centers for the needy and disabled, Federation and its partners help to prop up deserving Jewish people and organizations and, depending on the circumstance, gives them the tools and opportunities to be supported, to become self-sufficient and to become better to pay it forward to those that follow.”

Lisa Long, Federation financial resource development director, spoke to a group of Youngstown residents living in Arizona.
The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is seeking nominations for the Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Award.

Esther Marks was a prodigious volunteer within the Federation and its agencies, at her synagogue, and in the general community. The Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Award is meant to encourage volunteerism at all levels and to honor her memory.

Nominations must be submitted in writing, and be one page and double-spaced. The nomination should detail why the nominee is deserving of the award.

Individuals may be nominated by any individual or organization of the Jewish community. Nominees should be involved in Federation and/or any of its agencies or affiliated organizations and in the general Jewish community including involvement in Jewish organizations or synagogues. Nominees should also be involved in organizations in the general community. Nominees need not be a volunteer in a purely leadership role. Rather this award will give priority to those who volunteer for direct services to people or agencies. Consideration will be given to, but not limited to, direct volunteer activities, membership on boards or committees, leadership positions, length of time of service, and quality of volunteerism.

Nominations are due by March 31. The award will be presented at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation annual meeting.

Send nominations to Lisa Long, financial resource development director, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio, 44504.

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Israeli Journalist Eldad Beck shared his thoughts on the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe at an event in January at the Jewish Community Center.

Since 2002, Beck has served as the Berlin-based correspondent of the Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth, covering Germany, Central Europe, and the EU. Prior to moving to Europe, Beck said he really didn't know what anti-Semitism was. It was taught in school, he noted, so he had a basic understanding of it.

"But since we have never experienced anti-Semitism we didn't really know what anti-Semitism is," he said. "Living in a Jewish country where Jews are a majority, we do not know anti-Semitism because we've never experienced that."

He added, "that changed drastically the moment I moved to Europe and started experiencing certain things."

The worst anti-Semitic experiences he had were in Austria and Germany, coming from people who didn't realize themselves that they were anti-Semitic, he said.

"For them, and for many others," he said, "anti-Semitism is Auschwitz; anti-Semitism is six million Jews dead, murdered. But the whole process that led to Auschwitz and to the Holocaust is not something that they know about."

Which means, he added, that they do not understand the effect of thinking like their forefathers about the Jewish presence in their country.

"This is the situation of many people around Europe," he said. "They talk about anti-Semitism eventually, but they're unaware of what anti-Semitism is."

Born in Haifa in 1965, Beck studied Arabic and Islam at the Sorbonne University in Paris. He was the Middle East affairs correspondent of IDF Radio and the newspaper Hadashot, as well as the Paris-based correspondent of IDF Radio, the Jerusalem Report, the Jerusalem Post, and Israel's Channel 2. Between 1997 and 2000, Eldad was a project coordinator in East Africa and the PA territories for an Austrian governmental organization and between 2000 and 2002 he was the Vienna-based correspondent of the Israeli daily Maariv.

The event was sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the Consulate General of Israel in New York.
By Nancy Burnett
Partnership2Gether chair, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Partnership2Gether Community Engagement co-chair, U.S.

With temperatures descending to -20 degrees Fahrenheit, the Polar Vortex wreaked havoc on much of the country, but the frigid conditions did not prevent the Partnership2Gether Council of Communities from gathering in Chicago. The Council of Communities is an annual gathering of representatives from the 14 U.S. communities, Budapest, Hungary, and the Western Galilee, Israel that make up the Partnership2Gether Western Galilee region. Plans for the upcoming year were presented by committee chairs and annual budgets were approved. Youngstown was represented by Andy Lipkin, Youngstown Area Jewish Federation executive vice-president; Sarah Wilschek, Jewish Community Center community development manager; and myself.

The six Partnership committees presented an ambitious variety of programs with common goals of familiarizing diverse communities with one another and deepening knowledge of culture and society.

Community engagement will continue through global adult learning events, an arts seminar in Budapest joining artists from all communities in joint projects, and a multicultural music program in collaboration with the Akko Conservatory, which will result in a string quintet of musicians recruited from the communities. The Women Leading a Dialogue program, which visited Youngstown in 2018, will continue its mission of shared ideologies among the Western Galilee Arab, Jewish, Christian, and Druze communities by focusing on social issues common to each.

The Sing2Gether program will continue connecting elementary school choirs virtually with U.S., Israeli, and Hungarian youth. A school twinning program will provide joint teacher training to develop a sense of joint identity. Month-long residency programs are available to members of the medical profession and social workers. A special program has been developed for adult learning experiences abroad. This Discovery program begins October 27, providing an opportunity for participants to attend lectures and field trips in both Israel and Hungary.

Suzi Kooperman Youth Leadership Award Nominations Due March 31

Nominations for the Suzi Kooperman Youth Leadership Award are being accepted. The Suzi Kooperman award is given annually to a high school senior who exhibits an interest in service to the Jewish community, whose actions motivate other youth, and who has displayed continuity in service to the community. Along with the award, the recipient will receive a savings bond. Nominations are due by March 31. The award will be presented at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation’s annual meeting May 30.

For more information, or for an application, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.
Mini Ballet (Ages 6-7)
This class expands upon ballet skills learned in the Creative Movement Program.
Spring Session: January 23 - April 10 | Wednesdays, 7:00-7:45 p.m.

DC II: Tap (Ages 7-10)
Students learn the percussive dance style known as tap.
Spring Session: January 17 - April 4 | Thursdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m.

DC I: Ballet (Ages 7-10)
A class that teaches the beginning principles of ballet and challenges students to remember patterns and choreography.
Spring Session: January 17 - April 4 | Thursdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

DC I: Tap (Ages 7-10)
This class teaches the art of classic jazz dancing.
Spring Session: January 17 - April 4 | Thursdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m.

DC I: Jazz (Ages 7-10)
A class that emphasizes the basic principles of ballet while learning how to create rhythms with their feet.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 5:00-5:30 p.m.

Dance Curriculum Program
AGES 7-18
DC I: Tap (Ages 7-10)
This class expands upon basic baton skills. Students learn the percussive dance style known as tap.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

DC I: Jazz (Ages 7-10)
A class that builds upon principles of ballet movements and body positions.
Spring Session: January 18 - April 5 | Fridays, 4:45-5:30 p.m.

DC II: Tap (Ages 10-13)
A class for the experienced dance student to build upon basic principles and steps.
Spring Session: January 18 - April 5 | Fridays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

DC II: Jazz (Ages 10-13)
A class for a dance student to continue learning the principles of classic jazz dancing.
Spring Session: January 18 - April 5 | Fridays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

DC III: Baton (Ages 13-18)
A class designed for high school students with little baton knowledge looking to expand their skills for majorette teams or tryouts.
Session II: March 6 - April 3 | Wednesdays, 7:45-8:30 p.m.

DC III: Musical Theater Jazz (Ages 13-18)
A class created for high school students looking to gain an edge at theater auditions by improving their overall dance technique.
Session II: March 7 - April 4 | Thursdays, 7:00-7:45 p.m.

Adult Dance Programs
Ages 16+

Adult Ballet I
A beginner class designed for adults to improve strength, posture, and balance.
Spring Session: January 23 - April 10 | Wednesday, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Adult Tap I
A beginner to intermediate class for adults to stay fit while learning how to create rhythms with their feet.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 7:15-8:00 p.m.

Adult Ballet II
An advanced beginner to intermediate level class introducing the basic principles of ballet.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Adult Tap II
An intermediate class for adults to explore the percussive dance style known as tap.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Class
Guest teachers lead a 90 minute advanced level class held twice a month with each class focusing on a different genre of dance.
Spring Session: January 26 - March 23 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month 3:00-4:30 p.m.
Cost: $15/class

Spring Showcase
Our dance students showcase their talents in this end of session performance.
Date: Saturday, April 13
Time: 3:30 p.m.
For more information and pricing visit jccyoungstown.org

JCC School of Dance
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Liz Rubino at 330.509.0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com.

Liz Rubino Studios
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Liz Rubino at 330.509.0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com.

Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. Voice lessons are conducted primarily online.

Voice Lessons:
Regular Lessons | 55 mins
Cost: $49/Member | $65/Non Member
Junior Lessons | 30 mins
Cost: $30/Member | $45/Non Member

To register call the Bursar’s office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

JCC School of Dance
For more information on the studio offerings, contact Eri Raib-Ptichkin at 330.333.2219 or jccschoolofdance@jewishyoungstown.org.

Parent & Me Program
Ages 4 Months - 4 Years

Bitty Babies (4 months to pre-walking)
This class introduces gross motor skills to babies with the interaction of a caregiver.
Session II: March 2 - March 30 | Saturdays, 10:30-11:00 a.m.

Music & Movement (18-36 months)
A class that focuses on parent-led activities that build coordination, listening skills, and social awareness.
Session II: March 2 - March 30 | Saturdays, 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Dance Discovery (Ages 3-4)
Parents participate while children use their minds and bodies to move to a variety of song styles.
Session II: March 2 - March 30 | Saturdays, 12:15-1:00 p.m.

Creative Movement Program
AGES 4-6

Creative Movement I (Ages 4-5)
This class explores beginning ballet and tap dance principles.
Spring Session: January 17 - April 4 | Thursdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Creative Movement II (Ages 5-6)
This class continues to explore beginning ballet and tap principles to build balance, coordination, and confidence.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Mini Program
AGES 6-7
Mini Tap (Ages 6-7)
This class expands upon tap skills learned in the Creative Movement Program.
Spring Session: January 22 - April 9 | Tuesdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.
For more information on the Early Learning Center, contact Ben Katz, Director of Early Learning at 330.746.3250 ext. 119 or bkatz@jewishyoungstown.org.

Ages 6 weeks - Pre-Kindergarten
New Infant & Toddler Private Swim Lessons
Free one-on-one swim lessons with children six months to three years to encourage children to become comfortable in the water from a young age.

New 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.

For more information on fitness programs, contact Shelia Cornell at 330.746.3250 ext. 182 or scornell@jewishyoungstown.org.

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!

Personal Training Benefits:
• personalized safe and effective fitness programs
• achievement of goals in a short time period
• improved muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility

To register call: 330.746.3250 ext. 182

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Gentle Chair Yoga
A gentle approach to yoga for those who can’t work on the floor. Learn the basic principles of proper alignment using classical poses to lengthen and strengthen the body.

Date: Tuesday/Thursday
Time: 9:00 - 9:55 a.m.

Open Gym Youth Basketball
Children ages five and up can join us for kid-friendly basketball time in our gym. Bring your own ball, or borrow one of ours.

Date: Fridays
Time: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Open Play Basketball
This time is reserved for basketball only. Shoot hoops with friends or join a pick-up game in our gym.

Date: Tuesdays & Thursdays
Time: 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Date: Fridays
Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Wallyball
A fantastic way to get in shape and have fun! Play in our racquetball court. Equipment is provided.

Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Fridays: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Racquetball
A great way to make friends and stay in shape. Call or visit the JCC Welcome Desk to reserve your court. Equipment not provided.

Ping-Pong
Want to play ping-pong with your friends? The JCC ping-pong table is now in the lower level Multi-Purpose Room. Paddles and balls are provided.

Open Gym: Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Location: Liberty Youth Recreation Center
(The Old Liberty High School Gymnasium)
317 Churchill Hubbard Road
Youngstown, OH 44505

New Pricing on Health Club Service!
Take advantage of our new lower priced locker and towel rentals plus new massage offer!

Long Locker: $10/month | Towel Service: $10/month
Lockers & Towel Service: $15/month
1 - 30 Minute Massage: $15/month
To add on any monthly service contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Reach Your Goals With InBody
Are you at a standstill with your workouts, or looking for some help creating a fitness plan that achieves your personal goals? Then a personal trainer is right for you! No matter where you are in your fitness journey, our certified trainers will work with you one-on-one to build a program designed just for you! Each program uses our new InBody S70, a full body composition analysis to breakdown your body’s fat & lean mass composition, water retention, & more!

First scan is FREE to all members!
Monthly Unlimited Scans: $15/mo (Also includes 15 minutes with Personal Trainer $1x/mo)
Member: $25/test | Non Member: $35/test

Wellness Lunch & Learn: Vision Screening
Wellness Specialist and certified Dementia Practitioner and Gerontologist Amy Plant will join us for a free adult vision screening provided by the Area Agency on Aging.

Date: Friday, March 8
Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
RSVP by Wednesday, March 6 at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195
AQUATICS

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrystal at 330.746.3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org

To enroll in any of our group or private swim lessons call 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Group Lessons

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. Recommended ages: 6-36 months. Swim pants or swim diapers are required.

Date: Saturdays
Time: 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Cost: $30/Member | $40/Non Member

Learn-To Swim: Ages 3+
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors
Level 1: Basic swimming skills will be taught such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.
Level 2: Children will learn arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.
Level 3: Children will focus on breaststroke, butterfly, and diving while refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.
Level 4: Children will continue to refine the four swim strokes and diving.

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 4:30-5:00 p.m.
Date: Saturdays
Time: 8:55-9:25 a.m., 10:05-10:35 a.m
Cost: $30/Member | $40/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 certified swim instructors. Private lessons are also great for triathletes.

Four 30-minute lessons
Cost: $82/Member | $110/Non Member

Winter Swim Team
We are part of the Splash Swim League.
Practice
Monday - Thursday
Time: 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
$75/Member | $150/Non Member
Session 2: February 18 - March 21
Session 3: March 25 - April 4
Akiva and ELC pick-up is available.

Water Women
This free class is designed for women with little or no swimming ability. Participants will learn the skills needed to feel safe in the water. This program is funded by Chemical Bank. Lessons will be limited to 12 women per session.

Date: Saturdays
Time: 10:45-11:45 a.m.
Session 3: April 6 - May 11
Register online at jccyoungstown.org

P.A.L.S.+ Private Swimming Lessons
The 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 Autism Speaks and the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. To apply visit jccyoungstown.org/pals.

SwimSafe 500
This program provides free swim safety lessons for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade. Scholarships are provided by The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, The Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and The Redwoods Group. To apply visit jccyoungstown.org/swimsafe500.

YOUTH & FAMILY

For more information on Youth & Family Programs, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org

Build and Play LEGO® Program
Join us as we have fun building LEGO® sets together in small groups! For children ages 6+.

Date: March 4, 5 & 6
Time: 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
$19/Member $25/Non Member
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office : 330.746.3250 ext. 195

Purim Carnival at the JCC
Join us for this fun family event! We will have carnival food, games, prizes, a bounce house, a costume contest, and more! Tickets for games and food will be available for purchase. All families are welcome!

Date: Sunday, March 10
Time: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room & Gymnasium

PJ Library: Purim Fun with PJ Library
Date: Wednesday, March 6
Time: 6:00 –7:30 p.m.
Location: Ohev Tzedek
3970 Logan Way,
Youngstown, OH 44505

Aqua Cardio Blast
This cardio class will get your heart pumping and strengthen all of your major muscles. Come workout in an inspiring, motivating group environment with fantastic music. This fun-filled class will make you forget you are exercising!

Date:Monday - Thursday
Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
JCC Israeli Scholar Series
Israeli scholars living in the U.S will speak about their fields of study. These programs are free and open to the public, a light lunch will be provided at each program. Register online at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

Fashioning American Citizens: Jewish Immigrants in the Land of Dollars Dr. Einav Rabinovitch-Fox of Case Western University will discuss the ways the fashion and textile industry played an important role in Jewish immigrants’ assimilation during the late 19th and early 20th century. She will show how the garment industry became an important avenue for Jews to enter the middle-class, gain political influence, and create a community in the new country.
About the Speaker:
Einav Rabinovitch-Fox is a visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Case Western Reserve University. Einav holds a PhD in History from New York University in 20th Century U.S. history with a particular focus on Women’s and Gender History.
Date: Friday, March 22
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register by Monday, March 18 at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.

Registration Now Open!
Camp JCC provides a safe, fun environment for campers to build lifelong friendships through unforgettable adventures and quality care. Our traditional day camp is full of fun activities including arts and crafts, baking, kickball, dance, music, soccer, free swim, certified swim lessons, and so much more! Specialty camps are either one or two weeks, and provide campers with experiences focused on specific areas of interest. These camps include: Horseback riding, 3D Printing, YSU Playmakers, Mad Science, and new Snapology Lego camp and Crayola Imagine Arts Academy World of Design.
Our Advanced Specialty Camps are also either one or two weeks, and are specifically designed to inspire our middle school age campers with more diverse and challenging experiences. These camps include: Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino and Backpacking Wilderness Camp.
Our Camp JCC team is committed to giving your child an unforgettable summer and we look forward to making your family part of the Camp JCC Family!
Register online at jccyoungstown.org before March 31st and receive an Early Bird Discount of $50 off your camp fees! *Not applicable for single week sessions
An initial deposit of $75 is required at registration and will go towards the cost of your camp fees.

For more information on Camp, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@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. Since first starting in 2016, the pantry now feeds over 70+ families. Volunteers will help distribute food and make guests feel welcome during their visit.
Dates: March 1, April 5, May 3
Time: 9:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 189 Churchill Rd, Youngstown, OH 44505

Diaper Packing with Making Kids Count
The Making Kids Count Diaper Bank Volunteers repack diapers in quantities of 25 diapers per size with saran wrap and labels. This ensures that more people are able to receive a pack of diapers and that the diapers are being distributed as more of an “emergency” supply. Volunteers wrap 10,000 diapers into 400 packs a month!
Date: March 8, April 12, May 10
Times: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Location: 7178 West Blvd, Ste E Youngstown, Ohio 44512
RENTALS

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

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.

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

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.

Cost: $50/hr

Pool Party
Enjoy time in our full size indoor heated pool and one hour in the party room.

Cost: $165/Members | $220/Non Member
$50/hr. for additional time
15 people per lifeguard and $25/ additional lifeguard

Under the Sea Splish Splash Mermaid Bash
Experience swimming and storytelling with the JCC Mermaid in our pool and enjoy time in our party room.

Cost: $225/Members | $281/Non Member
Pricing includes: One hour in the pool and one hour in the party room

Game Time-Birthday Bash
Play basketball, volleyball, kickball, soccer, or wiffleball in our gymnasium then enjoy time in our party room.

Cost: $150/Member | $188/Non Member
Pricing includes: One hour in our gymnasium and one hour in our private party room.

$50/hr for additional time in the gymnasium

Lower Level Multi-Purpose Room
Create new memories and easily entertain your guests when you host your next birthday party, meeting, retreat, or educational seminar. This multi-purpose room is located on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 36 people. The open room feel offers multiple room configurations. In-house catering is available.

Cost: $50/hour Member | $63/hour Non Member

SENIOR OUTREACH

If you or someone you know is over 60 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact Senior Outreach Coordinator Shai Erez at 330.550.5995 or serrez@jewishyoungstown.org.

Sam Kooperman Endowment
Applications for scholarships for study in Israel are being accepted.

The deadline to apply is June 30 and Dec. 31.

For more information, contact Lisa Long at 330.746.3250 ext. 175 or llong@jewishyoungstown.org

Current Exhibit:
Watercolor Showcase by the Mahoning Valley Watercolor Society
February 28 - April 4
This group of exhibition is comprised of watercolor painting by members of the Mahoning Valley Watercolor Society depicting a wide range of subjects.
Opening Reception: Thursday, February 28
Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Changes to JCC Fitness Area Provide Value for Members

At the Jewish Community Center, walls are coming down, equipment is being added, and new opportunities are available. It’s all part of the health and wellness revitalization.

“We’re really adding some cool things to get people engaged and enjoying their membership,” said Laura Weymer, health and wellness director.

Structural changes were made in the fitness area to provide a more open concept for members. “This allows members to have more room to complete workouts and still have a sense of community with their peers,” Weymer said.

Also added to the fitness area is a lounge outside the group exercise room. There are benches and televisions that scroll JCC offerings.

“This is a nice space for people just to relax and wait for their class or if they’re taking a break during their workout,” Weymer said.

Beyond the lounge is a brand new functional fitness space. It’s filled with new TRX equipment as well as kettlebells, a battle rope and heavy boxing bag. TRX training uses body weight exercises to develop strength, balance, flexibility and core stability simultaneously.

All of the cardio equipment was recently replaced with state-of-the-art technology. The treadmills and upright bikes have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities including the ability to watch Netflix and Hulu. Rowing machines were added.

Also new is the InBody 570 Full Body Composition Scanner. This state-of-the-art body composition analysis machine calculates fat mass, lean mass, and water composition. The first scan is free for members. After that, members may pay per test or sign up for an unlimited package.

Included with the free scan is a 15-minute session with a personal trainer. “They kind of help you get started in a way that’s focused, that’s intentional,” Weymer said. The unlimited package includes one 15-minute session with a personal trainer each month.

Additional options can now be added to a basic membership rate. Towel service or towel and locker service can be added. Also available is a massage add-on; for $15 a month members receive a 30-minute massage each month, a 50 percent savings. A massage room for men has been added adjacent to the men’s health club, and the women’s massage room is being renovated.

Volunteers Needed for Purim Carnival

Volunteers are needed for the Jewish Community Center’s annual Purim Carnival. The event will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 10. The event includes games, bounce houses, prizes, carnival food, a costume contest for kids, and more. Volunteers help with running games, cooking and selling food, collecting tickets for prizes, selling tickets and more.

Volunteers may choose from two shifts: 9:30 a.m. to noon or noon to 2 p.m. Volunteers will receive a free lunch. To volunteer, contact Emily Blau at 330.746.3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.

Adult Classes Community Survey

The Commission for Jewish Education is planning a series of classes and enrichment opportunities for adults. A survey is being offered to learn areas of interest and preferred times.

The survey will take less than five minutes to complete. Survey participants will be entered in a raffle to win a 30-minute massage at the JCC’s newly-renovated facility. Visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMS3B37 by March 8 to complete the survey.

A new functional fitness space at the JCC includes TRX equipment as well as kettlebells, battle ropes, and more. Pam Stoklosa recently tried out the new equipment.

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JCC ISRAELI SCHOLAR SERIES

Fashioning American Citizens: Jewish Immigrants in the Land of Dollars

Date: Friday, March 22
Time: 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Register at jccyoungstown.org or contact the Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195 by Monday, March 18

This program is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be served.

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Heritage Manor Celebrates Birthdays

Every month, resident birthdays are celebrated with a party at Heritage Manor Rehabilitation and Retirement Community. Included are music, cake and ice cream. In February, Bobbie Berkowitz, activities director, shared that James Dean also had a February birthday and told a couple of jokes.

Jewish Family Services Social Workers Support Clients

March is National Professional Social Worker Month

By Ken Bielecki
Jewish Family Services Director

Jewish Family Services is proud to have several dynamic licensed social workers who assist individuals and families from all walks of life through their professional calling. This month, National Professional Social Worker Month, I’d like to acknowledge them for the work they do.

They each serve many roles at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation agencies, and also in the greater community in the Mahoning Valley. Our social workers have unique backgrounds, various education levels, and a wealth of professional social work experience. Our current JFS staff of licensed social workers and licensed independent social workers has over 153 years collectively of professional social work experience. Our social workers at JFS serve many roles such as guardians, coordinator of services for residents in Heritage Manor; clinicians, group facilitators, “Our Gang” facilitator; educators, case managers, and advocates, to name few. In each of our social work roles we are able to supply the needed support to our clients, who come from all walks of life, to assist and empower them on their journey. The social workers at JFS are compassionate and dedicated to helping all individuals and families who come to us in need through our available resources, education, and professional work experiences.

Rarely is there a dull moment as a social worker through JFS. There are many full schedule days that include counseling sessions, meetings, doctor appointments for our wards, assisting tenants at Heritage Apartments, and coordinating discharge services for patients at Heritage Manor. There are also many days where an unplanned event occurs, such as a crisis with a client or family, and our scheduled day quickly changes. Regardless, our social workers at JFS work tirelessly throughout each day to meet the needs of those we serve.

National Social Work Month was first organized in March of 1963 by National Association of Social Workers as a way to encourage public support for the profession. Then, in 1984, a joint resolution of Congress was passed and was proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan under Proclamation 5167 on March 22 as National Professional Social Work Month.

Churchill Commons

Make every day taste better

Great Food
- Fruit Trays
- Rolls, Cakes & Pastries
- Meat, Vegetable & Relish Trays
- Wing-Dings
- Fried Chicken
- Beverages
- Tableware
- Cards
- Decorations
- Thank Yous
- Manischewitz & Mogen David
- Kosher Wines

Manischewitz, Mother’s, Streitz, Rokeach, Joyva Kosher Products

See our expanded Kosher section

4700 BELMONT AVENUE
(330) 759-9502
Human Services

Go Red for Women

Tenants and staff of Levy Gardens Assisted Living Facility wore a variety of red clothing on American Heart Association’s National Wear Red Day. On the first Friday of every February, which is designated as American Heart Month, millions of people wear red to help raise awareness that heart disease is the number one killer of women.

Workshop Focuses on Fall Prevention

Tenants of Levy Gardens Assisted Living Facility are participating in A Matter of Balance, a fall prevention program. The eight-week workshop teaches realistic goal setting, how to reduce risk factors for falling, and exercises to increase strength and balance. The program emphasizes practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. Sessions are one day a week for two hours.

“Our tenants have been very receptive to the classes,” said Sara Miller, Levy Gardens director. “And the instructor presents the material in a way that is fun and interactive and keeps them engaged.”

Amy Plant, certified dementia practitioner and gerontologist, is the instructor. The Area Agency on Aging-11 offers free, evidence-based health education for Ashtabula, Mahoning, Columbiana, and Trumbull Counties.

Classical Bakery

Levy Garden tenants are learning exercises to increase strength and balance to help prevent falls.

Students Invited to Enter Annual Student Holocaust Writing, Art, and Multimedia Contest

For First Time, Winners to Receive Monetary Prizes

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is inviting students in grades 7 to 12 in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys to enter its annual Holocaust writing, art, and multi-media contest, a project held in conjunction with Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. To be commemorated on Thursday, May 2, Yom Hashoah is an internationally recognized day set aside for remembering all victims of the Holocaust and for reminding society of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference reign.

The theme for this year’s contest, which for the first time will include financial prizes for the winners, is “Do Not Stand Silent: Remembering Kristallnacht,” in honor of the 80th anniversary of the events, and as a reminder of the moral imperative to always speak out and take action against injustice and atrocities.

Kristallnacht was a turning point in history. The pogroms marked a shift from anti-Semitic rhetoric to violent, aggressive anti-Jewish measures that would culminate in the Holocaust - the systematic, state sponsored murder of Jews. The violence shocked the world that had been hopeful for peace in the aftermath of the Munich agreement less than six weeks before.

As President Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States commented in a press conference on November 15, 1938, “I myself could scarcely believe that such things could occur in a twentieth century civilization.”

This year’s contest has three components: writing, art and film. The writing component can be a narrative composition and/or poetry, and should be no more than 1,500 words, submitted as a Microsoft Word document, double-spaced. The art component should demonstrate originality and a creative representation of the theme, using paint, crayon, pencil, or other similar medium on 8.5 x 11 white paper. Films should be no more than five minutes, demonstrate originality and a creative representation of theme, and should be submitted on a flash drive, CD, or electronically. All entries, whether writing, art or film, must include a title page or label containing the following information: student’s name, grade, home address, and telephone number; school name, address, and telephone number; and teacher’s name.

The deadline to enter is Friday, April 1. Although submissions may be mailed, students are strongly encouraged to submit entries electronically. Writing, art, and film entries may be sent to the Jewish Community Relations Council, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio, 44504, or e-mailed to JCRC@jewishyoungstown.org.

Gift card awards will be presented to first ($75), second ($50), and third ($25) place winners in various age categories of the three contest components at the annual Community Yom Hashoah Commemoration Ceremony at noon on Thursday, May 2, at the Mahoning County Courthouse in Youngstown. All winners plus additional honorable mention recipients will receive Holocaust-themed books.
Remote Study and Online Reading Program Now Part of MSJS

The Commission for Jewish Education’s Maimonides School of Jewish Studies made some changes to the program this year. Students in grades kindergarten through tenth attend MSJS to learn about Jewish values, holidays, and history; contemporary issues in Israel; Jewish life around the world; and more.

Students in grades three and four are using a new Hebrew reading program that includes an online learning component. The curriculum includes a textbook to be used in class with the teacher and an online learning center to practice the lessons.

“They can work at their own pace,” said Tirtza Kohan, Hebrew & Judaic coordinator.

The online program, “Shalom Hebrew,” from Behrman House, reinforces what students learn in the classroom, she added.

It is interactive and includes reading drills, exercises, and games that support the textbook lessons. Students who need extra practice can repeat any reading exercise. Drills and games that students complete are saved for self-assessment and assessment by the teacher.

“It’s working well,” Kohan said.

Also new this year is remote study. Students in grades three through seven meet on Tuesdays. Many of the students drive a long distance to attend, however, and weather can be bad in the winter, so the decision was made to try remote study for some Tuesday sessions, but not all.

“Because we want to see them, we want to get to know them,” Kohan said.

“I want them to be friends and to get to know each other.”

Now, students communicate by Skype every other Tuesday and meet in person on the other days.

Students were provided with headphones and a microphone to help with better communication and to eliminate surrounding noise. Some technical problems have occurred, such as a student losing the connection, but overall the process has worked well, Kohan said. It has also eliminated canceling sessions due to inclement weather.

This year, 23 students are enrolled in MSJS.

YSU’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies to Present Jewish-Muslim Forum

Youngstown State University’s Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies will present “Women and Community Leadership and Transformation among Jews and Muslims in America” from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 25, in YSU’s DeBartolo Hall, Room 132.

Featured will be Maharat Rori Picler Neiss, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Committee of St. Louis, and Dr. Umayye Isra Yazicioglu of St. Joseph’s University.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For parking information, contact Dr. Jacob Ari Labendz at 330.941.1603 or jlabendz@ysu.edu.

Akiva Students Sing with Peers Around the World

Akiva Academy students had a chance to sing with their peers in Omaha, Budapest and Israel in February. The students communicated via the internet, singing songs that fit within the theme “Keeping the Unity.”

“It’s a fun way to connect Israel with communities outside of Israel.”

The Sing Together program was coordinated by Partnership2Gether Western Galilee, which aims to strengthen and deepen the relationship between Jews in Israel and outside of Israel. This is the third year for the Sing Together program.

“Stronger Together” as part of a program coordinated by Partnership2Gether Western Galilee.

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Akiva students sing "Stronger Together" as part of a program coordinated by Partnership2Gether Western Galilee.
Obituaries

Pearl Segall

Pearl Bloch Segall, 79, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 30, at her home, in Fountain Hills, Ariz. Pearl touched countless lives through her love, strength, resilience, creativity and generosity.

Born in Chicago on Sept. 23, 1939, a daughter of Bernie and Belle Bloch, she moved to northeast Ohio as a child and was deeply involved in the Warren and Youngstown communities where she raised her family.

For two decades, Pearl was “team mom” to hundreds of boys who played on Howland Athletic Club baseball teams coached by her husband. She served as president of the Beth Israel Temple Sisterhood and volunteered her time and talents to help local educational, artistic and cultural causes - especially those that impacted children.

Pearl was a prolific poet who used her wit, her magical command of language and her electric typewriter to capture the beauty, complexity and wonders of life. Her prize-winning poems were published in two anthologies, as well as in literary magazines, textbooks and journals. She mentored other poets, served as editor of the Kent State University Trumbull Campus ICON literary magazine, and established a Great Books reading program at Howland Community Schools to share her love of literature with children.

Pearl was an incredible cook who also loved gardening, traveling and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Allan, to whom she was married for 51 years; and her dear brother, Ronnie.

She is survived by her adoring children, Nate (Rina), Terri Lipsitz (Michael), Bob (Sara) and Rick (Carolyn); and by nine grandchildren, who were the joy of her life, Jeremy, Gabrielle, Ian, Morgan, Eli, Ryan, Gillian, Lily and Ethan. Pearl was also a devoted daughter, sister-in-law, niece and aunt.

Donations in Pearl’s memory can be made to the Children’s Rehabilitation Center, 885 Howland-Wilson Road, Warren, Ohio 44484; to the Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, 340 S. Lemon Ave. #3620, Walnut, Calif. 91789; or to the charity of your choice.

Donald Nichol

Services were Feb. 25, at the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home for Donald Nichol, 85, who passed away Thursday morning, Feb. 21, 2019.

Don was born on June 5, 1933, in Youngstown a son of Harry and Anna Nichol.

He attended Youngstown schools, graduating from South High School in 1950. After serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, he completed his education at Youngstown College and graduated from Ohio State University.

Don worked in sales management for many years and retired as a financial consultant in 2003. He was a member of Rodef Sholom and active at the JCC.

A devoted fan of the Cleveland Indians and Browns, and Ohio State Buckeyes, he was also passionate about playing golf. He scored a hole-in-one on the 17th hole at Reserve Run.

Don will be forever missed and remembered by his family, his wife, Glenda Scott, whom he married Sept. 24, 1976; his sons, Marc and Kyle (Lori Litvin); grandchildren Spencer and Emily Nichol; brother Leonard (Barbara); sister-in-law Shirley Nichol; and several nieces and nephews.

Besides his parents, Don was preceded in death by his brother, Jack Nichol.

The family would like to give a special thank you to the staff at Select Specialty Hospital in Youngstown, and Briarfield Skilled Nursing for the special care given to Don.

Memorial contributions can be sent to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Arrangements were handled by the Shriver Allison Courtley Weller King Funeral Home.

Gali Erez

Proud parents Gon and Shay Erez welcomed Gali Erez at 12:30 a.m. Feb. 5 at Mercy Health - St. Elizabeth Boardman Hospital. She weighed 7.8 pounds. Two-year-old Nuria is excited and happy to take on the role of big sister.
News You Can Use

Trump Picks an Anti-Semitism Envoy After 2 Years of Leaving the Post Empty

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Donald Trump named a Los Angeles prosecutor to be the State Department’s envoy for anti-Semitism, filling a post that sat empty for two years despite protests from lawmakers and Jewish groups.

Elan Carr, 50, is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq and was national president of the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi.

“We eagerly look forward to working with Carr; as his office combats rising anti-Semitism, generated from the far right, the far left, and Islamist extremists, and abetted by the ubiquitous nature of social media,” David Harris, the American Jewish Committee CEO, said in a statement.

Carr is immediately plunging into his work, attending a conference on anti-Semitism in Bratislava organized by Slovakia, which currently holds the chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and then a European Union conference on anti-Semitism in Brussels. He has met or planned meetings with predecessors from both Republican and Democratic administrations.

Multiple letters from Jewish groups and a bipartisan array of Congress members had urged Trump to fill the post.

Trump’s failure until now to name an envoy has been exacerbated by concerns in the Jewish community that the president has equivocated in condemning white supremacists who have endorsed and praised him, and has cultivated relationships with authoritarians who have flirted with the far right, particularly in Hungary. The president’s defenders point to his support of Israel and his scrapping of an Iran nuclear deal reviled by Israel and many Jewish leaders.

The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill elevating the position to ambassador level. A 2004 law established the monitor’s post.

Carr was president of the fraternity from 2012 to 2014. He was a member while attending the University of California, Berkeley, and Northwestern.

Torah Study for Christians

Torah Study for Christians, with Rev. George Balasko, will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. March 20 at Villa Maria Education & Spirituality Center in Villa Maria, Pa. The topic of this session will be “Is Jesus the Messiah? Or will Jesus be the Messiah when he returns?” It is co-sponsored by Jewish/Christian Studies and the B’nai B’rith Guardian of the Menorah. A free will offering will be taken. Pre-registration is requested. To register, visit vmesc.org or call 330.964.8886.
Israeli Institute Invests $100 Million in Artificial Intelligence to Solve Real-World Problems

By Larry Luxner

REHOVOT, Israel (JTA) — For years, Israeli scientist Tamar Flash has been fascinated with the octopus, and the unusual way the invertebrate’s eight arms propel it effortlessly through the water.

“The first generation of robots were made of steel,” Flash said. “But if we want robots to help handicapped people, we had better make them from soft materials that can come in contact with humans without injuring them.”

Flash works at the Weizmann Institute’s new Artificial Intelligence Center for Scientific Exploration, a $100 million initiative. Hers is one of several projects at the center that seek to apply AI principles to real-life problems.

One of the world’s foremost multidisciplinary research institutions, Weizmann is investing heavily in the burgeoning field of AI. Its expertise in computer vision, machine learning and robotics — as well as a culture that encourages collaborations across disciplines — makes AI a natural fit.

“Each one of us has a different perspective,” Bagon said of his fellow researchers. “Some are more theoretical in their inclination, others are more practical. We want to see if by establishing this center we can somehow enable collaborations in fundamental research that wouldn’t have happened otherwise.”

While it’s not yet dear where the work will lead, Bagon said, his team’s mission is to conduct basic research on AI and machine learning.

“We need a basic understanding of what it means to have intelligence,” she said. “There’s a lot of hype now about artificial intelligence, but if we want to bring the AI revolution to the real world, we need robotics. When we...

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There are seemingly 10,000 hot takes and think pieces on the matter (we at the Jewish Telegraphic Agency have published our fair share), but let’s break down the “scandal” in simple terms.

What actually happened? Is Omar anti-Semitic? Why does it seem like everyone—from Donald Trump to your grandma—is freaking out over this? Why is Israel involved?

Who is Ilhan Omar?

Omar, a refugee from Somalia, is the newly elected representative for Minnesota’s 5th Congressional District. Her election in November represented a lot of firsts: She was the first Somali-American to Congress, one of the first two Muslim women elected, and the first woman of color to represent Minnesota. She’s part of a wave of progressive women legislators elected in the midterms.

Her views on Israel are relevant to the anti-Semitism debate: Omar, more than most of her other freshman congresswoman peers, has come under scrutiny for her positions on Israel, which include support of the boycott movement, or BDS.

In 2012, she tweeted that Israel had “hypnotized” the world, which many thought bought into age-old anti-Semitic motifs. Omar disavowed the tweet last month, writing on Twitter, “It’s now apparent to me that I spent lots of energy putting my 2012 tweet in context and little energy in disavowing the anti-Semitic trope I unknowingly used, which is unfortunate and offensive.”

It seems like she’s disavowed her anti-Semitic statements. What’s the big deal?

Less than a month after that apology, controversy reignited on Twitter. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., called for “action” against her and her fellow Muslim congresswoman, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich., while being vague on what “action” he wants to take. Omar then retweeted journalist Glenn Greenwald, a frequent critic of Israel who shared an article about McCarthy, adding the comment, “It’s stunning how much time US political leaders spend defending a foreign nation even if it means attacking free speech rights of Americans.”

Omar wrote six words that would ignite debate: “It’s all about the Benjamins baby,” adding a music note emoji to the end of her tweet.

OK, this just couldn’t have been a reference to the Puff Daddy song “It’s All About The Benjamins.” Why is it so problematic?

Well, we are so glad you asked! Because that wasn’t the end of the Twitter drama.

The Forward’s opinion editor, Batya Ungar-Sargon, then quote-tweeted Omar’s “Benjamins” tweet, writing, “Would love to know who @IlhanMN thinks is paying American politicians to be pro-Israel, though I think I can guess. Bad form, Congresswoman. That’s the second anti-Semitic trope you’ve tweeted.”

Omar then quote tweeted Ungar-Sargon’s tweet (you still with us?), simply writing “AIPAC!”

And so the controversy began.

Wait. Why?!

AIPAC is the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the most influential pro-Israel lobbying group.

Many people began to call out Omar for repeating the anti-Semitic trope that Jews influence governments through money.

Dan Shapiro, former U.S. ambassador to Israel, tweeted: “@IlhanMN’s outrageous comments equating politicians’ support for Israel with being bought off by American Jewish money are a vile anti-Semitic trope. They need to be condemned by all in our party.”

Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called on Omar to apologize, as did the whole Democratic caucus. Even Chelsea Clinton chimed in.

However, on the other side of the argument, many started arguing that Omar was just pointing out the influence of lobbyists. It has nothing to do with the Jews! Omar notably retweeted Jewish journalist Ashley Feinberg, who wrote, “accurately describing how the Israel lobby works is not anti-Semitism.”

“I’m confused. Is calling out AIPAC anti-Semitic?”

Not in theory, no. You can criticize AIPAC without being anti-Semitic.

However, when you focus on AIPAC as the example of money in politics, or link Jewish influence to deep pockets, that’s when it becomes a problem. As JTA Editor-in-Chief Andrew Silow-Carroll pointed out, “Invoking ‘AIPAC!’ as a metonym for the influence of money in politics was a minefield, and the idea that she doesn’t know that by now—coming only a week after she apologized for her 7-year-old ‘hypnotized’ tweet—is implausible.”

The tweet was also technically incorrect: AIPAC is not a political action committee and does not endorse or give money directly to politicians or campaigns. It does signal to supporters who might be worthy of a donation, but its self-described role is to “engage lawmakers directly on the merits and substance of policy.”

As Brent Sasley pointed out in The

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Local Lawmakers Response to Ilhan Omar’s Anti-Semitic Remarks

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH said in a statement: The use of anti-Semitic tropes is unacceptable. This type of language is offensive and hurtful, and has absolutely no place in our discourse. Period.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-OH said in a statement: As I have said repeatedly over the years, anti-Semitism, bigotry and hatred have no place in our society. Representative Omar’s use of an anti-Semitic stereotype was deeply offensive. The U.S.-Israel relationship is rooted in our deep bonds of friendship, common values, and shared strategic interests. We can debate the issues without resorting to vile accusations that have caused tremendous pain to the Jewish people for centuries.

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan of Howland, D-13 th tweeted: Anti-Semitism has no place in our society. Diversity is our nation’s greatest strength. As Americans, we must call out hate and bigotry wherever we find it and help educate our friends and neighbors so that we can become a more perfect union.
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Washington Post, “Interest groups have always been an important part of the policymaking process in the United States. It is normal, not nefarious, that interest groups lobby Congress, the executive and the bureaucracy to get their priorities on the agenda. Interest groups play such a role on almost every issue, and many of them are highly effective at shaping agendas and votes.”

So, perhaps it was an issue that Omar singled out AIPAC — and for what it’s worth, she apologized, tweeting, “Anti-Semitism is real and I am grateful for Jewish allies and colleagues who are Educating me on the painful history of anti-Semitic tropes.”

Cool. She apologized. What’s the problem now?

There are many, many issues, but let’s break it down into three main ones:

1. Anti-Semitism only seems to be a problem when the other side does it.
   
   That’s become a frequent complaint about people on both sides of the political divide. The left says the right only cares about anti-Semitism if a liberal or Israel critic is involved. The right says the left loves to beat up on right-wing anti-Semites but ignores the Jew haters in their midst.

   In this case, the left is calling Republicans hypocritical for focusing on Omar. Who is Kevin McCarthy to call out Omar on anti-Semitism, say his critics, when he once accused Jewish billionaires George Soros and Michael Bloomberg of trying to “BUY the midterm elections? And don’t get them started on Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, who got away with racially charged anti-immigrant rhetoric for years.

   As David Schraub wrote in JTA, “Republicans seem similarly inclined to cast stones at liberals while ignoring the literal Nazi apologists in their midst.”

2. The Democrats may, or may not, have an Israel problem.
   
   Many of the #bottakes coming out of this whole thing have focused on the Democratic Party and the 2020 elections.

   As Max Fisher and Amanda Taub wrote in The Interpreter newsletter for The New York Times, “A serious debate over whether the party should recalibrate its position on Israel is all but inevitable. The infighting over Ms. Omar’s tweets, while less about Israel per se than tangential issues of lobbying and anti-Semitism, showed how much anger and distrust this issue can bring out.”

   Polls show that younger Democrats are more likely to be critical of Israel’s current government, and even Zionism in general, than the Democratic establishment. Centrist Democrats insist that the party is still solidly pro-Israel, but both Republicans and Israel’s harshest critics insist that Omar represents the “new normal” for Democratic voters and politicians. Many Democrats assert that you can still be pro-Israel and criticize the Israeli government, but they increasingly feel caught in the middle.

3. What about the American Jewish community?
   
   That’s the eternal question, isn’t it?

   For many American Jews, it feels like you have to choose between what manifestation of anti-Semitism you fear the most. Is it the newly empowered “alt-right,” rising white supremacy and the increasing number of hate crimes? Or do you fear the growing anti-Israel left, which wants to delegitimize the only Jewish state? Partisan politics makes it feel like American Jews have to choose, when in reality, American Jews can — and do — feel impacted by both. We can be heartbroken over Pittsburgh and frustrated by the leadership of the Women’s March.

   And then, there’s the internal politics of being an American Jew, aka the widening split within the liberal American Jewish community regarding Israel, which centers on one question: Is being supportive of Israel still a central tenet of American Jewish identity? Or is being “pro-Israel” — however you choose to define that — becoming a less important part of voting as an American Jew?

   If it’s the former, Omar’s comments are deeply upsetting and reinforce the idea that the Democratic Party’s views on Israel are drifting too far left. If it’s the latter (the “Israel isn’t important to me” camp), then Omar is simply representing the progressive view of the pro-Israel movement and being unfairly criticized for it.

Dr. Kyle Muir Opens Chiropractic Office

Dr. Kyle Muir opened a chiropractic office this month. 330 Chiropractic, located at 1280 Boardman-Canfield Road #1, Boardman, offers chiropractic services for all ages. Muir was born and raised in Mineral Ridge, Ohio. He attended Ursuline High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-medicine at Youngstown State University. He obtained his doctor of chiropractic degree at Sherman College of Chiropractic in South Carolina. Muir is a member of the International Chiropractic Pediatric Association and is certified in the Webster Technique, a very specific analysis and adjusting technique primarily used with pregnant women. For more information, visit 330chiropractic.com.
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move, to us it seems so simple. But it’s not simple at all.”

To help Flash and her colleagues, the center employs powerful Nvidia DGX-1 computers and servers that can crunch numbers in hours rather than weeks or months. However, maintaining and upgrading the equipment is costly, according to Bagon.

The center’s establishment is meant to help Israel become a world leader in underexplored areas of AI. Funding is a challenge, especially given that government agencies and multinationals in the United States, Europe and China invest billions of dollars annually in AI efforts. For this reason, philanthropic support for the center is a major priority for the Weizmann Institute, as well as the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute, which raises funds in the United States for the institute.

“It’s true we can’t compete with China’s budget, or the resources Google has. But we can make some fundamental, deep insight into this subject,” Bagon said. “Whereas companies like Facebook and Google are very much driven by business, we have the luxury of asking questions that other people don’t have the patience or the attention span to ask. We don’t even know these questions yet — let alone the answers to them.”

Prominent mathematician Boaz Nadler is also part of the team at the new AI center. His current research focuses on large data sets and their theoretical and practical applications — specifically how to find outliers and remove “noise” when fusing information from varying sources.

“Crowdsourcing is when you give a series of tasks to many different people and they all give you their answers,” he said. “You don’t know how accurate or inaccurate they are, yet you’d like to combine them and get an answer that’s even more accurate.”

Dramatically increased computing power is driving the AI revolution, much the same way the early 20th century saw a revolution in physics and the 1950s was defined by the computer revolution, Nadler said.

“Israel is known as the ‘Startup Nation,’ and many new startups today are based on machine learning and AI,” Nadler said. “This institute would like to put Weizmann at the forefront of academic research, but it will also help to train people who would then have the skills to go into industry. This is key for the continued success of Israeli companies.”

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