

## Hershel Thomas

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**About Me:** Competitive Rubik's Cube Speed Solver brings an algorithmic, yet colorful, approach to programming and logic solving  
**Objective:** To obtain a degree in Computer Science, with a focus on artificial intelligence

### Education

[Ida Crown Jewish Academy](#) (High School): Graduated June 2022 | GPA – 4.43/4.00; ACT – 34/36 | Skokie, IL, USA

[Torah Tech](#): Gap Year Program, Sep 2023-May 2023 | Tel-Aviv, Israel

### Relevant Coursework

#### Classroom

- Java SE 8 Adult Certification Class
  - Adult class to change career paths, but joined as Sophomore to delve deeper into Java/programming
- AP Computer Science A (Java)
  - scored 5/5 on AP Exam
- Read "Objects First with Java: A Practical Introduction Using BlueJ, 6th edition"
- Calculus I, Calculus II, Linear-Algebra

#### Self-Taught

- Swift Programming (iOS/Apple Development)
  - Programmed and designed a fully functional War Card Game iOS App. Equipped with a User Interface, Classes, Structs, and Functions
- Python
  - Working on a large text-based, open-world, role-playing game
  - Utilizes advanced methods like Classes, Hash Maps, Dictionaries, and multiple files
  - Developed a system for the text-based engine to understand Natural language conversation as if talking to a person

### Tech Skills

- Coding: Java (Medium-level), Python (Medium), HTML/CSS (Beginner)
- Mechanical: Basic servo, motor, gear, and camera programming in C++ for robotics
- Other: GitHub repository building, Datadog, Docker

### Work Experience

**Watchful.ai** | Intern (in conjunction with gap year program at Torah Tech) Tel-Aviv, Israel | October '22 - May '23

- Lead QA (Quality Assurance) Manager
  - Ensured new features were thoroughly tested for potential customer experience flow issues or product defects prior to being pushed to our end-users
  - Provided feedback to Product and Engineering teams to inform new product feature design
  - Developed automated testing processes to reduce testing time and overhead, freeing up my time to learn new skills in Website design (HTML and CSS), Python (Flask)
- Collaborated with Sales & Marketing teams to provide to our clients insights on their competitors' engagement campaigns
  - Received kudos from large tech company (\$25B market cap) for insights I provided them

**Yagilu Wilderness Camp** | Youth Counselor | Pennsylvania | Summer '22

- Served as a counselor to 13 campers during a month-long overnight wilderness camp
- Created and supervised activities, guided overnight hikes, and taught survival skills
- Assisted kids in dealing with social/emotional challenges; directed relationship-building exercises

### High School Accomplishments, Awards, Honors & Activities

- Illinois State Scholar (awarded to top 10% of students in the state)
- National Honor Society
- AP Scholar with Distinction (average at least 3.5 out of 5 on all AP exams)
- Chesed Society Award (students at ICJA with 250+ community service hours)
- Dr. and Mrs. Abe L. Aaronson Science Award (recognizing graduate's accomplishments in the field of science)
- Robotics Team, Captain
  - Responsible for the many steps and processes along the way in creating a fully autonomous robot
  - By leading the planning committee for design and functionality, and teaching other students how to program the robot in C++, I gained experience needed to manage a unique set of individuals to form a team
  - Learned when to step up, and spent many hours with the team and on my own programming a camera in C++ to locate objects in space and trigger the robot to react according to the color and distance of objects
- Math Team, Captain
  - Throughout the year, I would meet with the team to boost morale by using humor to diffuse tension (such as math puns)
  - I learned it was not only important to teach higher-level math to my teammates, but also important to create a team that wants to be there and work towards a common goal
  - By increasing the team's spirit and skills, I led our ICJA Math team to a first-place victory in the team math competition

### Interests

- Table Tennis, Competitive Rubik's Cube, Skiing, Hiking