



## UNITY, HOPE, RENEWAL



Shanah Tova שנה טובה

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The Jewish Federation  
OF FORT WORTH & TARRANT COUNTY

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**The mission of the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County is to promote vibrant, engaged, and secure Jewish communities locally, in Israel, and around the world.**

The vision of the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County is to inspire, educate, and support our local Jewish community, and our Jewish family in Israel and throughout the world, ensuring the continuity of our people.

## Dear fellow members of our Federation and community,

I am honored to serve as your President once again. Many thanks to Mike Herman and his board for a highly successful term in office.

We live in a time of momentous change and our Federation must continue to change and adapt to the world around us. This year we shall continue to complete our work on the strategic plan started under President Herman. It is essential for our future to continue to serve and improve our ability to provide services to our community.

Under the leadership of our campaign chair, Jeff Rothschild, we will have an exciting innovative approach to our campaign. Look forward to more information coming soon.

The funding of our Federation and Jewish Family Services allows us to provide essential services to our entire community. We cannot do this without you. Whether you are a member of the Federation or not, you still benefit from our programs and the funding provided to most of our community Jewish organizations.

As we approach another High Holy Days' season, a time of renewal, we look to the future. What is our vision? Are we going to be a community and Federation satisfied with the status quo? Are we going to bask in our past accomplishments? I say no! We should and must look to the future. The world, and our community are living in times of momentous change. Our Federation must also assess what changes are affecting us. How shall we deal with them?



Dr. Barry Schneider  
President

I hope you, our community members, will join us in our vision quest to do the right thing. As we are taught, in fact commanded, we must each of us be responsible for each other. We must remember, Am Yisrael Chai. This is why your Federation exists.

Our Board is very dedicated to our continuing success. We will be looking at diverse ways of reaching out and assisting the needs of other Jewish organizations in Tarrant County. We will continue to advise, as necessary, on security issues and the ongoing antisemitic threat facing our country. We will continue the essential support for Israel.

It is certain our country will have a new President next year. We pray for their success, compassion and wisdom as they and their staff tackle the many problems facing our nation and Israel.

The officers, board and professional staff of the Federation and Jewish Family Services wish you and your family a Shana Tova. A happy, healthy, new year filled with happiness and much Naches. May you be sealed in the book of life for many years to come.

Again, from my family to yours, Shana Tova,

Barry Schneider

# Dear Friends,

Soon we will observe our High Holy Days. I wish all of you a meaningful season of reflection and renewal. Through Teshuvah, Tefillah and Tzedakah, I hope all of us will be written in the Book of Life for a life of health and well being in the coming year.

Since our last issue of the Communique last spring, the world has continued to change in challenging ways. Soon we will be observing the passage of a full year since the horrendous attack of Hamas into Israel, the violent taking of over 200 hostages, and the murder of 1200 Israelis. The follow-on war has resulted in more Israelis killed or wounded, several thousand people displaced from their homes in both the north and south of Israel, and now the ever-increasing threat from Hezbollah and Iran. In the south, Hamas should be down for the count, but they do not go away, and the Hamas leadership continues to place the Palestinian population at risk and successfully place all of the blame for the death and destruction on Israel's shoulders. Add to this the number of pro-Palestinian/anti-Israel demonstrations around the globe and especially on our American college campuses. All of us have a role to play in supporting our Israeli family, our families at home and our students attending universities around the country. This past year, as a community, along with friends, you donated \$700,000 to help those displaced, injured and traumatized by the war. We have sent greeting cards and good wishes to members of the IDF, and a few folks have volunteered to help pick crops and keep foods flowing to market in the absence of normal labor sources.

Here at home, we have been working with our other Texas Federations to confront antisemitism, Christian Nationalism and attempts to marginalize Jewish and other minority students through the insertion of course materials based on the Christian Bible. This coming

year we are focusing special programs and training on recognizing antisemitism, hate speech and bias in schools and universities and how to stand up to those activities targeting our youth. We will be working with Hillels and the ADL to make sure our students are equipped to counter the false narratives espoused by those who wish to denigrate our students just because they are Jewish or support Israel.

We will continue our work with the interfaith community to strengthen ties and gain new allies. Certainly, to be discussing these negative challenges in 2024 was not something I envisioned even 10 years ago. Thankfully in Tarrant County and among the mainstream population, our community continues to enjoy good and meaningful relationships with so many and our contributions to the broader community are appreciated.

If there was ever a time to "ramp up," it is now. I encourage you to attend programs offered by the Federation and your congregations that educate us about rising antisemitism. I strongly encourage you to attend offered safety and security training opportunities. Communicate with your congress people about legislation and policies that will support the people of Israel and bring our remaining hostages home. As a community we all must take on the mantle of upstander, calling out those who commit acts of hate, bias and antisemitism. We are a few months away from our next annual campaign, but to do all of the things I have mentioned above, and more, we need everyone to join with us to ensure we have the resources to support each other in this important mission. Today is the day we answer these important questions: If not me, who and If not now, when? Together, we have a job to do!



Barry Abels  
Executive Director



SEPTEMBER THROUGH AUGUST 2023/24

## Budgeted Allocations

Annual Campaign Dollars Support these Programs and Organizations

### Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Teacher Training .....	\$1,500
Chevra Kadisha Dinner .....	\$1,000
Jewish Play Readings .....	\$1,250

### Beth-El Congregation

Adult Hebrew .....	\$2,000
Teacher Training .....	\$1,250
Chanukah in Hawaii .....	\$1,500

### Congregation Beth Israel:

Movie Screening & Speaker -focus on immigration.....	\$500
Dani Menkin Film "Colleyville" .....	\$1,250
Community Engagement-Hannukah.....	\$750
Teacher Training .....	\$750
Growing Peace Together.....	\$500
Lunch & Learn .....	\$250

### Congregation Beth Shalom:

Sisterhood Luncheon/Selichot Wknd.....	\$400
Sisterhood Event & Chanukah Prog.....	\$350
Brotherhood Films & speaker event .....	\$1,600

### Chabad of Fort Worth:

Jewish Learning Institute .....	\$2,000
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### Chabad of Southlake:

Jewish Learning Institute .....	\$2,000
The Gan Southlake .....	\$1,000

### Congregation Makom Shelanu

Movies with Makom Shelanu .....	\$500
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### UNT Jewish & Israel

Studies Program .....	\$2,750
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### Gates of Chai Lectureship

(Brite Divinity/TCU) .....	\$1,000
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### Dallas Holocaust Museum

Upstander Partnership.....	\$2,500
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### Jewish Education Agency

Camp Shalom .....	\$3,000
Lil Goldman Pre-School Financial Aid .....	\$19,000

### Israel & World Jewry

Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) (JFNA, JAFI, JDC, P2G, ENP, & IAN) .....	\$161,750
Birthright Israel .....	\$6,000

### Senior Adult Programming

Beth-El (Sylvia Wolens PrimeTimers).....	\$3,500
Beth Shalom (Syvia Gray Chaverim Program) .....	\$1,500

### Camps & Campus

Camp Impact .....	\$9,500
Camp Scholarships Matching Funds.....	\$13,250
(CAS: \$1,500, BEC: \$4,500, CBI: \$4,250, Chabad FW: \$1,000, Chabad SL: \$2,000)	
Chabad of Southlake Camp Gan Israel ....	\$2,750
North Texas Hillel Sukkot on Campus .....	\$3,250
UT-Austin Hillel Leadership Dev. ....	\$3,250
TX A&M Increasing Rabbi Engagement ...	\$2,250

### Community Relations

Anti-Defamation League (ADL).....	\$1,500
JCPA (Jewish Council for Public Affairs) ...	\$1,000
Multicultural Alliance (MCA) (Formerly NCCJ) .....	\$2,500

### Health & Human Services

Financial Assistance (Administered by JFS) .....	\$18,000
Jewish Children's Regional Service.....	\$3,000
Tarrant County Hebrew Free Loan .....	\$1,000

# A FORT WORTH LEGACY AND JEWEL OF THE METROPLEX

☆ THE STORY OF THE TEXAS JEWISH POST ☆ ORIGINAL ARTICLE WRITTEN BY DEB SILVERTHORN  
EDITED DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS.

As the storytellers of the community, the late Rene and Jimmy Wisch, Texas Jewish Post co-founders, and their progeny were honored by the Dallas Jewish Historical Society on Thursday, Sept. 12 at Venue Forty|50. “Wisches Do Come True” was the theme of the event honoring the TJP and the family behind it.

“For nearly 78 years the Texas Jewish Post has told the stories of our lives, and we are all connected through its pages,” said Beri Schwitzer, DJHS’ executive director. “At the Dallas Jewish Historical Society, we are the keepers of those connections, preserving our history, and so this celebration is a perfect match.”

Longtime family friends Neil Beckerman, Heidi Beckerman Kirby and Becca Bodzy were the evening’s co-chairs.

“When our family moved to Fort Worth, I was in high school, and I remember the Wisch family taking us under their wing,” said Beckerman. “We spent holidays at their home and introductions were made for us by these giants of the community who became our dear friends.

“Jimmy and Rene reported the news that became our history, and it makes perfect sense to recognize the people behind it,” added Beckerman. “What they have all done, in creating and continuing the TJP, which is legendary, absolutely deserves our honor.”

“It’s always been a big deal to be ‘in’ the TJP. I remember seeing our wedding engagement announcement. It was a thrill,” said Jeanette Pincus, DJHS board president. “From the days when the paper began in their apartment, through five generations of family dedication, the Wisches have made their paper everyone’s paper, reporting from every corner of our community.”

Their upbringings helped shape the visionaries and community leaders they became. They were first-generation Americans, Rene from Boston and Jimmy from Brooklyn, New York. Both of their fathers passed away when they were young, and they were raised by single mothers.

Four generations of Wisch family members gathered to celebrate Steve Wisch’s marriage to Fern Bryan Nov. 20, 2005, in Houston.



They met while Jimmy was serving in the Army at a Jewish Welfare Board party. They married in March 1946 and returned to Fort Worth, where Jimmy, his brother and mother moved in the 1930s.

Coming from small families, the Wisches wanted a large family, one that spanned almost 18 years between their oldest and youngest child: Linda, Steve, Judy, Susan and Sharon. The family has grown to include Linda’s children Amy Doty, Reuben (Suzy) Davidsohn, Jordana (Josh) Bernstein and Ethan (Liz) Davidsohn and Linda’s grandchildren Shea and Jessie Doty, Tessa, Josephine and Isabella Davidsohn, Rosie (Avi) Greenbaum, Zach, Micah and Shaya Bernstein and Fiona and Delilah Davidsohn; Steve Wisch (Fern Bryan) and his son Ari; Judy Wisch and her son Jacob; Susan Wisch; and Sharon Wisch-Ray (Alex) and their children Benjamin (Ashley), Sam and Jimmy.

The TJP was born of its founders’ respect for the plight that was the Holocaust and understanding that the Jewish community should support and care for one another. Jewish culture and life rich at home and their dedication as devout Zionists brought the vision that Rene and Jimmy Wisch believed the world needed.

The main office was in Fort Worth from 1947 through 2004 when overall operations were moved to Dallas.

Through wartime, trips covering Jews around the world, the pandemic, lifecycle events and medical crises, the TJP has never missed its deadline.

When Jimmy passed away unexpectedly Jan. 26, 2002, and then Rene on Nov. 1, 2010, the paper’s deadline was made. There is no stopping the news.

“My parents started the paper as one of three businesses they were working on, but they believed that the TJP was the most important one. Through the years, we all worked at the paper from the time we were young; it wasn’t an option,” said Sharon, who has carried on the paper as its publisher and editor since her mother passed away.



Rene and Jimmy Wisch hold the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Texas Jewish Post in December 1947.

“We all did a little bit of everything and, as different needs arose, they would be filled,” said Sharon, who had a career as a clinical social worker and adjunct professor at The UT Arlington. She pivoted to the paper full-time the week her father passed away.

Jimmy’s “Jess Jawin” and Rene’s “Around the Town with Rene” were among their many handprints on tens of thousands of pages printed through the years.

“The job was always to get the next issue out,” Sharon said, “and since Oct. 7 that also means our daily email ‘Israel at War’ and other updates. Our print product is local-focused. The daily email allows us to bring timely news of Israel and our Jewish world. For people who prefer to read the TJP on their device, they can receive the digital edition to their email every Thursday.

Every subscriber matters and we hope that our readers will order the paper for their family members. It’s a nice way for something Jewish to arrive in the home each week that continues Mom and Dad’s legacy.

“It is an honor to be recognized by the Dallas Jewish Historical Society, with whom our mission is so aligned,” said Sharon. “The DJHS also houses a complete collection of the TJP from 1947 on in their vault.”

On April 6, 2024, at The Westin Downtown Dallas, the extended Wisch family celebrated the wedding of Benjamin Ray and Ashley Hughes, the latest family member to join the Texas Jewish Post team.



“The TJP was my parents’ firstborn and my bedtime ‘lullabies’ were of Mom’s fingers flying across the typewriter or the addressograph,” said Linda Wisch Davidsohn, who was the pen behind “Dallas Doings” for decades. While in junior high, she was the “Lin” half of “Around the Town by linric,” written with the late Richard Slatkin.

Jimmy’s brother Chester was better known as “Uncle Chet”. He and Jimmy’s mother Betty, are remembered as pinnacles of the TJP’s inner workings. They moved to Dallas and opened the TJP office there. Meals with Chet, Betty, Rene and Jimmy meant Yiddish filled the kitchen table when they talked business.

“This is Betty from the Texas Jewish Post. Top of the morning to you. How would it be if we ran the same as you did last time?” we’d hear her saying, over and over again on the phone,” Linda recalls. “She and my uncle were such a significant part of the paper’s foundation. We couldn’t have done it without them.”

Hard work, a theme that runs through the family’s memories, is something that started at the top.

“Mom would be up front where there was air-conditioning but my dad would be in the back where it was like 600 degrees. There was no ‘later’; it’s a business of deadlines,” said Linda. “He believed in second chances and among his employees were former felons. I don’t remember Dad ever firing anyone. A number of employees stayed on 20 and 30 years.”

The late Eli Davidsohn, Linda’s former husband, who worked in the layout and production of the paper and sold advertising, worked at the TJP for many years. Ashley, Sharon’s daughter-in-law, is assistant vice-president of business development and marketing.

Founded four years before he was born, the TJP has been around for all of Steve Wisch’s life.

“I was licking stamps as a little one and sold subscriptions and ads, like we all did from a very young age,” said Steve. “I had my first tax return at 5 and the money went into a bank account.

Steve, who later wrote for the Associated Press, the Austin American-Statesman, the Fort Worth Press, the Houston Chronicle and the Texas Observer before becoming an

## THE STORY OF THE TEXAS JEWISH POST (CONTINUED)

attorney, indeed had a byline for the Texas Jewish Post. He chronicled a 16-day trip to Israel in 1974, during which he secured an interview with the late Menachem Begin, three years before he was prime minister.

Jimmy Wisch had reason and purpose behind everything he did, explained his son.

They had a method, and it worked," said Steve. "Now, my baby sister is running things while being a mother, a wife — all of it — and she's doing a great job."



Amy Davidsohn Doty and Susan Wisch promote the TJP at the November 2016 Senior Expo at the Aaron Family JCC. Both have been dedicated to their family's legacy, the Texas Jewish Post, for decades.

Judy Wisch remembers her father handing her and her siblings the lists of contacts to make annual New Year's greeting calls when the paper was still put together with a linotype machine, printing press and folding machine. The paper was mailed on Thursday, and it would begin again each Monday.

If a "picture is worth a thousand words," then Judy Wisch is responsible for so many through the years. The TJP published her photos of many including Golda Meir, Shimon Perez, Yitzhak Rabin, Dolph Briscoe and Ann Richards as well as former President Jimmy Carter.

Susan remembers putting billing statements together as a wee one. Moving from a career in retail and representing designer shoe lines, she has been on board selling advertising and supporting the circulation department since 2012.

"My parents had dreams of affecting others, and the paper is an example of that," she added.

While all hands and all generations seemed to be on deck from the time each were nearly toddlers, the paper became three generations strong. After Jimmy passed away, grandchildren Reuben Davidsohn and Amy Davidsohn Doty joined Sharon full-time.

Amy has been "on the job" at the paper since birth, because her mother Linda was writing on deadline when she went



Jimmy Wisch, Texas Jewish Post publisher and editor, died on Jan. 26, 2002.

into labor. "By the time I was 7, I had my list, and I earned \$1 for each New Year's greeting I brought in," she said.

Saying that working with her grandmother was "like nothing else ever," Doty spent the next 22 years as dedicated and devoted as her mentors and, like Jimmy, served on the executive board — including as president — of the American Jewish Press Association.

Reuben Davidsohn remembers helping his grandfather each week during the summers to get the newspaper



Sharon Wisch-Ray, shown in September 2002 with her mother Rene Wisch.

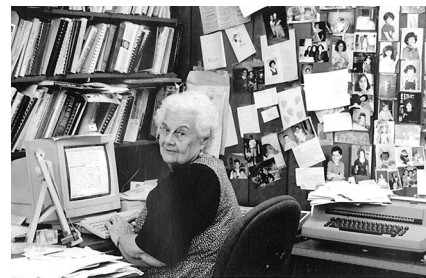
delivered to the post office. He'd also deliver the newspaper to newsstands at delicatessens, stores and synagogues when it could be found around town and, like the others, sold New Year greetings and pitched in wherever he could.

Within a week of Jimmy's passing, Reuben quit his job and for the next five years worked alongside Rene, Sharon and Amy.

"The TJP is the heartbeat of our family and it's never skipped a beat," said Reuben, now chief operating officer for Irongate Group. "But my grandparents always had time for family, for holidays, for the important moments. Making time for those priorities is absolutely what drives me still, every day."

Jordana Davidsohn Bernstein, who also has childhood memories of being at the office, later found herself a regular columnist as early childhood director at Akiba Yavneh Academy.

"Visiting Bubbe and Poppy was always fun, but the activities didn't really begin until we had done our work for the paper. I've always felt proud to say that my grandparents started the Texas Jewish Post," said Bernstein, who made aliyah with her family in 2023 and has continued to contribute to the paper. "They were always very proud Zionists.



Rene Wisch, Texas Jewish Post publisher and editor, passed away on Nov. 1, 2010.

## A VOLUNTEER VISIT TO ISRAEL

DAVID NARRETT

All the young people are singing and dancing, hands held to the sky as they sway to the music. This is the scene at an IDF training center one lovely evening this past May. The singing is in Hebrew, led by a foursome of autistic soldiers who have the wholehearted support of their peers, gals and young men. So, what I am doing at this scene? I am with a group of fortunate visitors, a bus-full of American Jews taking part in a four-day JNF volunteer mission in Israel. Our visit to the training base comes toward the close of our four days.

The young soldiers were glad to see us. We brought hamburgers and fries to grill for a real American treat! (Hold the cheese.) We share in the good fare and some of us, including myself, join the dancing. We hold hands, swiftly circling in dance, an Israeli hora. This is fun. But this is no ordinary time. The joyful Israeli youth are in uniform. The soldiers are letting off steam amid a terrible war that has touched nearly all in searing ways. These young soldiers carry an enormous burden, but they also know how to live.

Before visiting the training base, our group had eventful days while we stayed at Sde Boker in the Negev. Our choice to volunteer landed us in a lovely hotel with delectable Israel breakfasts and plenty of wonderful food at night. Our days are full. We hop on the bus early each morning to assist in tasks in Israeli border communities right by Gaza. We pack several hundred goodie packages for soldiers, and then we're on the bus for a brief stop at a front-line base. I embrace one smiling and strongly built soldier with a reddish beard. He has recently made aliyah from North Carolina. How is that young man doing now? One cannot help but wonder with concern.

Our group picks lemons in an orchard one very warm morning. We don our hats, dab sunscreen all about, and are ready to go. We fill our knapsacks, unload at

the dock, and refill again. I become an energetic picker, scrounging under the thickets to pluck upward with my hands. Good fruit should not go to waste. The next morning, we put up a trellised fence in a small town. Teamwork brings our group together whether we are on the job or relaxing together during a break. There is a quiet satisfaction in helping Israelis in a time of need. In truth, we receive far more than what we give.

There are inspiring moments. We meet and hear from heroes of October seventh. These are reservists, experienced men who grabbed little but an assault rifle and drove to the border that horrifying morning to save lives at their own peril. And we meet a brave woman, nearing grandmother's age, who somehow evaded terrorists while she scurried on foot and saved her wounded son by shepherding him into an attic. She spoke to us in Hebrew. Our Israeli guide, himself a veteran, translated.

Then, we are at the field of Re'im—the site of the Nova festival where so many celebrated the night of October sixth only to be cut down the next morning. We see the photos of the slain, images of their once vibrant faces, each individual photo on its own small poster fixed to a post. This is remembrance. The heart speaks: Do not forget. Never again.

I walk to part of the large field, and I come upon a group of American Jews. A family has gathered to dedicate a Torah to the family patriarch, standing right there with his son and grandchildren. The Torah scribe is finishing his work. He shows us a courtesy. Those in the area who wish to complete the very last letter in the scroll can do so as the scribe gently guides the participant's hand. I wait my turn and have that opportunity—a gift.

Am Yisrael Chai.



# JEWISH FEDERATION BOARD MEMBER PROFILES



## NICOLE FELBERBAUM

*Where did you grow up and how long have you lived in this area?*

I was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I met my husband, Sam, when we were in college at Purdue together. In 2000, we took a job transfer from New Jersey to Texas. Our children were born here, and we had a brief two year stop in Indiana before we moved

back to Texas in 2008. Northeast Tarrant County has been our home for 22 of the past 24 years and we have been members of Congregation Beth Israel for fourteen years. We love living in Texas and have found a great Jewish and neighborhood community in which we participate.

*What did or do you do professionally?*

Prior to staying at home to raise our children, I have worked in mortgage and banking, but my favorite career was being a project manager for a website bill payment company at the forefront of the internet age. I love being creative and using my organizational skills which were helpful in transitioning to being a volunteer for the various school and sports activities our kids participated in as well as serving on committees at Congregation Beth Israel.

*When did you make your first gift to the Federation? What do you remember about it?*

We started making donations to the Federation about twelve years ago after receiving an annual telethon call from one of our friends at CBI encouraging us to support the Federation. We liked the fact that the Federation provided resources for all of the community as well as Israel. There are so many ways the Federation supports our local synagogues and community, and these donations are so important to helping keep people engaged in the different programming that is offered. Our children have also benefited from community wide programs such as the PJ Library, and SKIP program (Send Kids to Israel), and other programs we have taken part in throughout our years at CBI.

*What do you want people to know about the work Federation does? What matters most to you about our impact?*

With so much going on in the world today, it is important to know that our Federation's resources reach Jewish individuals within our community as well as around the world. What is most important to me is that the Federation helps people in our own community who are underserved. I see the direct impact it makes as I am involved with Jewish Family Services. Whether it is through the resources they provide, or different programs people can participate in, there is always some way that the Federation is making an impact.

*Why are you on the Board?*

I joined the Jewish Family Services committee two years ago because I was looking for another volunteer opportunity. This year I transitioned to the committee chair position. I love the fact that JFS has an immediate impact on people's lives whether it is through case management, the daily senior program, counseling, or providing flowers for our homebound residents during the holidays. On occasion, I will help at the senior program where I can sit and visit with the seniors and partake in their daily activities. For me, this is the best part of what I do!



## RABBI CANTOR JUDY GREENFELD

*Where did you grow up and how long have you lived in this area?*

I grew up in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. There is a strong Jewish community in Cleveland. My parents were Conservative Jews, and my Jewish upbringing centered around learning

to read Hebrew (four days a week at the Cleveland Hebrew Schools), celebrating all the Jewish Holidays, weekly Shabbat dinners, and love for Israel. Due to a personal family tragedy, where my father was murdered, my journey became different than my peers. Part of my healing process drove me to ask bigger questions. For example, why bad things happen to good people. I learned that being a "good Jew" is not an insurance policy, or talisman preventing bad things. After many years of healing in various ways,

# Thank you to our leaders for their time, passion, and dedication to our mission.

I moved to Arizona where I met my ex-husband, and we raised our two beautiful children, Samantha and David in Los Angeles. There I built a multifaceted career where my credentials in dance, bodywork and meditation helped me build a business that included teaching a holistic connection between Body, Mind and Soul. Continuing on that journey my deep spiritual insight and quest led me back to my Jewish roots where I discovered spiritual teachings in Judaism. Twenty-seven years ago, this path led me to spend a decade co-writing books to bridge the gap between spirituality and Judaism for modern Jews. I co-authored two books on this subject, *Minding the Temple of the Soul*, and *Entering the Temple of Dreams*. I am also an ordained Chazzan and recorded some original and some traditional music accompanying the books. The meditations and music of the Birchot Hashachar and Bedtime Sh'ma Prayers help bookend the day with Jewish spirituality. The album is called *When You Lie down and When You Rise Up*.

I developed the ability to trust "divine nudges," and after spending the last 18 years founding and developing a wonderful Synagogue Community called the *Nachshon Minyan*, I realized my time with that community was complete. I trusted the "nudge" that brought me to Fort Worth, named Cantor Paul Dorman, coupled with "nudge" from Howard Rosenthal to become the Rabbi/Cantor at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville. So...Here I am

*What did or do you do professionally?*

As a Rabbi/Cantor, entrepreneur, musician, and published author, I am dedicated to building inclusive Jewish communities that update and integrate these ancient teachings into our everyday lives. Before starting my current role at Congregation Beth Israel, I served for 18 years as Rabbi/Cantor of *Nachshon Minyan*—a welcoming community in Los Angeles for unaffiliated and "unfulfill"iated Jews seeking to heal their negative stories about religion. Prior to founding my own synagogue, I held Cantorial roles at Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills and Temple Israel of Hollywood. With a deep understanding of diverse spiritual needs, I combine traditional Jewish teachings with innovative practices like meditation, somatic dance movement, sound bowls, and traditional

and contemporary music. This kinesthetic approach to prayer, and holidays, and learning, creates a tangible, meaningful Jewish experience for each person. I believe in giving individuals the dignity of discovering who they are as a Jew in America today. My work is rooted in the belief that Judaism can be a vibrant, creative, and empowering force for everyone to access in today's world.

*When did you make your first gift to the Federation? What do you remember about it?*

My first gift to the Federation was when I was a young mother in Los Angeles. I was a Pomegranate. After going to Israel with my mother with the Federation, and when my ex-husband and I were economically ready, I became a Lion of Judah.

*What do you want people to know about the work Federation does? What matters most to you about our impact?*

I want people to understand that the Federation's commitment to fostering help to those in need, and to Israel is a gift to the Jewish people. Great programs need innovators, and movers and shakers. The Federation seeks to ignite and empower young people as well as old. It teaches philanthropy which I fear has become a luxury of the past. It is a place where people come together, and strive to make the Jewish world a better place. What matters most to me in the Federation's work is that the "little guy or gal is heard, and not underestimated or ignored." I remember as a small independent community how difficult it was to make ends meet during Covid, and the Federation bent its rules and financially helped fund all the congregations in need. It saved my community.

*Why are you on the Board?*

I am a firm believer in giving back. I hope to model how female Rabbi's and Cantor's have a unique perspective and voice about what is needed to strengthen and build our Jewish communities. I am on the Board to meet and be a part of the Jewish Community in Tarrant County. I plan to help create bridges and share ideas about how to help stop division. I plan to share creative ideas, resources, and the best of what I have learned from my many experiences on Boards of Jewish schools, and other Jewish institutions in Los Angeles.



**DORIT MIKULENCAK**

*Where did you grow up and how long have you lived in this area?*

I was born in Israel, in a small town outside of Haifa called Kiryat Ata. In 1981, when I was 9 years old, my family left Israel to come to the United States. We lived a couple of years in New York, then moved to Texas. I have lived in Fort Worth ever since. I met my husband

Stan here and we have raised our two boys, Zachary, and Jonathan.

*What did or do you do professionally?*

I am a multifamily community manager. Currently I manage 2 communities in Fort Worth and Grapevine totaling almost 900 apartment homes. I have worked for my current company for just shy of 25 years.

*When did you make your first gift to the Federation? What do you remember about it?*

Every year I look forward to the annual campaign Sunday phone call. It is my opportunity to make my donation and know my money is going to a worthwhile cause to help my community and beyond.

*What do you want people to know about the work Federation does? What matters most to you about our impact?*

The Jewish Federation helps support Jews, young and old around the world. We bring Jews together from different generations, backgrounds, and levels of religious observance for a common cause. Together we work on Tikkun Olam, tzedakah and Jewish learning.

*Why are you on the Board?*

Our Jewish community in Tarrant County may be small but it is very strong and big at heart. By volunteering on the board, I hope to help our community and its members to continue to grow and do great things within and for our community, country, and Israel.



**SHANE WOODWARD**

*Where did you grow up and how long have you lived in this area?*

I was born in Lubbock, TX but for most of my childhood, I lived in Fort Stockton, TX. After my high school graduation in 1995, I moved to the Dallas-Fort Worth

area to attend college. From my first marriage, I have two amazing daughters who, now in their mid-20s, are settling into adulthood. My current wife and I are about to celebrate our 12<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We have called the north part of Fort Worth our home during this time. What we love most is being “Pops” and “Gigi” to our grandson Asher and spending time with him as often as we can.

*What did or do you do professionally?*

I have been in the Information Technology field for the last 27 years. I began my career writing COBOL code for a military logistics company. From there I transitioned into roles working with Microsoft Servers, Exchange email, virtualization machines, and custom coding in VB and C# for various projects throughout my career. Currently, I serve as a project manager for a Global Fortune 500 company, where I oversee large-scale video conferencing and collaboration space projects.

*When did you make your first gift to the Federation? What do you remember about it?*

I made my first gift to the Federation in May of 2022. I had attended a gala at the Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame where I heard all the wonderful stories and philanthropy that the Federation did to support our Jewish communities and the elderly. I remember how important it was and how it made me feel to be a part of helping contribute to such an amazing organization.

*What do you want people to know about the work Federation does? What matters most to you about our impact?*

The Federation does so many great things from promoting and enriching Jewish values and culture through supporting programs like PJ Library and community relations along with organizations like the Anti-Defamation League (ADL). I have seen first-hand what the Federation does for the community. The Federation, along with my temple, and Jewish Family Services were there to support my family and me after the January 15, 2022, attack at Congregation Beth Israel.

*Why are you on the Board?*

I am on the board to serve as a liaison for Congregation Beth Israel and help spread the message from the Federation to our small community about events and programs put on by the Federation. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve on the board.

**SHEE SHEEM UPDATE**

ELISA & DAVID NUDLEMAN

If you are “60ish,” we hope you have heard of Shee Sheem through the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County.

In case you haven’t, let us tell you a bit about it. Back in January 2024 we began organizing meet ups with our group of Shee Sheemers.

We have been to a variety of restaurants and have had a chance to see old friends and meet new people. It’s always fun to see who will be in town and available. We have enjoyed dinners at Pie Tap Pizza, Teddy Wongs, King Tut, Goat and Vine, Jon’s Grill and Byblos. The conversations are always enjoyable and it’s fun to make connections with those who have gathered.

Next up is a fun dinner during Sukkot in October at the newly remodeled Café Bella. Still hoping to plan a gathering at one of our Fort Worth Museums or take a nice hike one day this fall.

We welcome your ideas and hope you will tell your friends and keep the groovy fun going! Feel free to email Elisa at [cde3family@yahoo.com](mailto:cde3family@yahoo.com).



Shee Sheem Dinner July 2024



Shee Sheem Dinner August 2024

Shee Sheem Dinner June 2024



## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

DR. CAROLE ROGERS, PSY. D., DIRECTOR OF JFS

As we begin the Jewish New Year, I would like to look back at some of the people we said goodbye to. These individuals have been the backbone of our community. They were our mentors, our supporters, our family, and our friends.

Seven of those we lost have had a profound impact on me and the work Jewish Family Services does: Mary Frances Antweil, Avette Covitt, Ruthie Hamill, Stephanie Posner, Debby Rice, Roz Rosenthal, and Sherwin Rubin.

The personalities of these individuals were completely different, as were their roles in our community. However, what they had in common was their pride in being Jewish, their love of their families, and, all in their unique ways, their devotion to our community.



None of these wonderful people forgot where they came from. They always acknowledged their Jewish heritage and reached out in so many different ways to make sure others felt welcome in, and a part of, our community. I have immense gratitude for the privilege of knowing and learning from each of them.

I hope to honor them, as well as all of those whose shoulders I stand on, by making sure Jewish Family Services continues to provide the quality services they would expect from us.

From the staff and committee at Jewish Family Services, we want to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

L'Shana Tova!

Dr. Carole Rogers



Above: Senior Olympics 2024

## JFS SENIOR PROGRAM UPDATE

Thanks to the enthusiasm of the Senior Program staff, the members of the program had a lot of fun during the dog days of summer. For two weeks the program was transformed into Paris, complete with berets to wear, French delicacies to eat and Olympic games to play.

The games officially started with Hedy and Miao Ling running into the room with their version of the Olympic torch. Members competed in many events including the javelin throw, curling and fishing. However, the favorite game and most competitive event was archery.

The celebrations continued after the Olympics with a Pirate Day and a Carnival. On Pirate Day the staff dressed up in costumes, wore blow up parrots on their shoulders and took pictures of the seniors hugging a blow up dinosaur dressed as

a pirate. At the Carnival, seniors played games including skee ball and had snacks such as peanuts and cracker jacks. For those whose sugar level allowed, there was also cotton candy.

The seniors were also grateful to celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday of Claudia Boksiner who has been a long-time member of our community.

Members will celebrate the Jewish New Year and the other Jewish holidays in the fall.

All of these activities for our seniors would not be possible without your support, for which we are extremely grateful.

L'Shana Tova

Hedy



### LYDIA JONES, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES

*Where did you grow up and how long have you lived in this area?*

Galveston, Texas, is my place of birth, but my family hails from Beaumont, Texas. Our move to Fort Worth took place during my father's service at Carswell Air Force base. Once he completed his duty, we settled and made Fort Worth our home.

*What do you do for Jewish Family Services?*

I am the administrative assistant at JFS. My key responsibilities include managing the front desk, managing all phone calls and performing various clerical tasks that ensure the smooth operation of the front office.

*What do you want people to know about the work Jewish Family Services does?*

Well, I would like people to know that JFS is dedicated to empowering all members of the community by providing access to resources and tools that foster personal growth and positive change in time of need.

*Why did you choose to work for Jewish Family Services?*

I chose working for Jewish Family Services because it gives me a chance to positively impact the community, all while broadening my understanding of Jewish culture and heritage, and inspiring personal development.

## TCU MEDICAL SCHOOL JEWISH STUDENT INTEREST GROUP UPDATE



Amanda Block

The Burnett School of Medicine at TCU JSIG has been a place for Jewish medical students to connect with each other and attend community events, such as those run by the Jewish Federation's group, the Tarrant County Twenties! The medical school welcomed the class of 2028 earlier this year in July. A Shabbat dinner is in the works for this fall! If you'd like to get involved please email Amanda Block at [Amanda.block@tcu.edu](mailto:Amanda.block@tcu.edu)

## UT ARLINGTON JEWISH STUDENTS GROUP BEING FORMED

The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County is excited to announce that there is a group of students who are working on the creation of a Jewish student group on campus! This will be a group for undergraduate and graduate students. There has been a GroupMe started. Dr. Hila Fogel-Yaari will be the group's faculty advisor! Thank you, Professor Fogel-Yaari! Do you know a Jewish student on campus? Please email, Professor Fogel-Yaari at [hila.fogelyaari@uta.edu](mailto:hila.fogelyaari@uta.edu).

## JEWISH GRADUATE STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

Jewish students at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC) are in the process of starting a student organization to create community on campus as well as promote involvement in the wider Jewish community. This effort is headed by P. J. Hamilton and Samantha Simon. A few more students are needed to formally begin the process of creating a campus organization. The medical school, public health and biomedical sciences are graduate schools that are currently represented in this newly formed group. If you know any Jewish students at UNTHSC who are interested, please contact Samantha Simon at [samantharosesimon@gmail.com](mailto:samantharosesimon@gmail.com). Thank you!



P.J. Hamilton



Samantha Simon

## UPDATE FOR THE TEXAS A&M JEWISH LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION



Claire Stagner

The Jewish Law Students Association will be an officially recognized organization with Texas A&M School of Law in just a few weeks! We have had several first-year law students join the group and are excited to grow! Last month, JLSA hosted our first event—a Shabbat welcome to all! We had a great turnout and enjoyed a delicious Shabbat dinner with Jewish faculty and students, as well as supportive non-Jewish students. We are looking forward to a great school year! If you know of a Jewish law student at Texas A&M email Claire at [claire.stagner@gmail.com](mailto:claire.stagner@gmail.com).



# FINDING LOVE AND COMMUNITY: HOW THE JEWISH FEDERATION BROUGHT JAYCEE AND LEO TOGETHER

After spending a few years away, Jaycee was ready to return to Texas. She decided to take a chance on a new city, Fort Worth, where she moved in with her cousin Katie. Both eager to find community and make new friends, Jaycee and Katie began attending Jewish events in the area.

One day, Katie attended the Jewish Federation's Twenties Brunch, an event aimed at bringing together and strengthening the local Jewish community. It was here that Katie quickly bonded with several wonderful people, including Leo.

Shortly after their meeting, Leo invited his new friends, including Jaycee, to join him for a night of country dancing at Guitars & Cadillacs. The moment Jaycee arrived, Leo asked her to dance, and as they danced many songs together, Jaycee shared her life story and the journey that brought her to Fort Worth.

Leo, who had moved to Fort Worth in 2019 to work at Lockheed, had been searching for a vibrant Jewish community. He attended many local events, hoping to make connections. For the first few years, there wasn't a group in Tarrant County dedicated to young professionals, but that changed when the Jewish Federation began supporting programming for those in their twenties, thirties and forties. These groups have since grown into a strong, supportive community, a testament to the Federation's commitment to fostering connections within the Jewish community.

Leo and Jaycee are both excited and grateful to have found each other with the support of the Federation. In the months since that first dance, they've shared many special memories together— Shabbat dinners with friends and family, running 5ks and cheering Leo on in his distance races, visiting family in Florida, and so much more. All these moments led up to one magical moment on a sunny Florida beach... Leo proposed, and Jaycee said yes!!!!

Leo and Jaycee are excited to continue their Fort Worth journey together. What began as a simple connection at a Jewish Federation event has blossomed into a lifetime together.



# THE SH'MA PROJECT

MITCHELL MANALAPIG

Combating antisemitism and human bias continues to be vital for today's cultural leaders. It requires the willingness to engage in difficult conversations, an openness to teach the atrocities of the past, and an innovative approach to building understanding across varied backgrounds. That is exactly what *The Sh'ma Project*, and Dr. Suki John aims to achieve.

Nearly 35 years ago, Dr. John, Professor of Classical & Contemporary Dance at TCU, created the choreodrama *Sh'ma*, a work telling the story of her mother as she journeys from school days to Jewish ghetto, deportation to concentration camp, refugee to American citizen. Originally produced in the former Yugoslavia in 1990, with a subsequent production in New York in 1999, *Sh'ma* captivated audiences with a gripping story of resilience. After live productions, Dr. John wanted to create a more distributable version of the production in order to transport the powerful message across the globe. This dream became reality in 2023, when *Sh'ma* was developed as a dance film, *Sh'ma: A Story of Survival*.

This beautifully produced dance film evokes kinesthetic empathy in ways that words cannot, and tells a powerful narrative aimed at educating against hate. Partnering with The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, and Texas Christian University, *Sh'ma* was produced with 4 cameras, 15 extraordinary performers, original music and design. Now a multi-award-winning film, *Sh'ma: A Story of Survival* highlights resilience, connection, and hope.

Dr. John's work on *Sh'ma* has now blossomed into *The Sh'ma Project: Move Against Hate*, a larger effort combining the film, UPstander workshops, and free Open Educational Resources (OER). With the film as the cornerstone, the Project's mission is to harness the power of the arts to engage communities, build



understanding, and teach young adults about the Holocaust and human rights.

*The Sh'ma Project's UPstander Workshops* utilize an educational version of the *Sh'ma* film. Classroom educators are invited to collaborate in pre- and post- performance workshops; student groups are guided in thoughtful, safe, and collaborative ways to contextualize history and make contemporary connections. Combining movement, writing, and dialogue, these workshops create an open space for young people to creatively process information about the Holocaust, questions of diversity/bias, or feelings of inclusion/exclusion. The Project and the Federation are currently partnering with the Texas Holocaust, Genocide & Antisemitism Advisory Commission to bring

UPstander workshops, the film, and free educational materials into the Fort Worth Independent School District and beyond.

*The Sh'ma Project* encapsulates the meaning of its title, inviting audiences to listen. Through truly hearing, learning, and engaging with one another, the Project moves against hate to create a more peaceful and understanding society. This thoughtful approach of educating and engaging

communities provides inspiration for a more hopeful and understanding future. *The Sh'ma Project* invites you to explore this unique form of storytelling by visiting [theshmaproject.com](http://theshmaproject.com), where you can view a shortened version of the film, learn more about overall efforts, and how you can contribute to its profound narrative.



# ISAAC ISGUR SPENDS THE SUMMER IN ISRAEL

This summer I took a three week trip to Israel with Yallah! Over the course of the trip we visited many cities and saw some amazing holy sites like the Western Wall in Jerusalem. For the first ten days of the trip we traveled with Israeli teenagers from Kibbutz Dorot. It was amazing to talk to them and learn more about life in Israel. Part of our program was learning extensively about the history of Jews in Israel. On one of our first days of the trip we visited Kibbutz Revivim. Revivim is an older kibbutz located in the Negev Desert. This kibbutz was very impactful on my understanding of Israeli history because of all of the innovation that took place in it. I personally loved this day because Revivim helped us understand the spirit that the many young Jewish refugees that moved to Israel had. This was very inspiring for me and gave me a new appreciation for Israel and its nuanced history.

Another big aspect of the program was learning a considerable amount about the terrorist attacks on October 7th. Our first experience learning about October 7th was at the site of hundreds of burned cars northwest of Netivot. At this site we saw the destruction caused on October 7th firsthand and heard stories about many people who perished, and some that committed heroic acts. Learning about all of these brought us closer together, because we knew that no matter where we lived, October 7th affected us all as Jews.

While we learned a lot and talked about heavy subjects, we also did some fun stuff. Many days after doing activities in the hot sun we would go to one of the many beaches in Israel. My favorite one was in Eilat, where we got to snorkel. We were also given the opportunity to explore many cities, where we got to try different foods and walk through shops. While seeing beautiful sites like Masada at sunrise and swimming in all of the different beaches was fun, my favorite activities took place in the Jabotinsky Youth Village where we stayed for most of the trip. We did many things at night in our free time like playing soccer and basketball, watching movies, and just hanging out. These times were my favorite of the trip because it allowed us to all spend time together and get closer. I was able to learn so much about people and make friends. It also gave me an insight to what life in Israel is like for people my age because I was able to talk to the Israelis on the trip so much. Overall I created some amazing memories on this trip and I learned so much about Israel and Judaism as a whole. I would highly recommend that people go on a trip like mine and I'm grateful to the Federation's SKIP program for helping fund my adventure. Thank you for reading!



# LOCAL BBYO UPDATES

## FORT WORTH BBYO / SYDNEY RATNER

BBYO is back in Fort Worth! Earlier this year, we embarked on the exciting journey to establish a new chapter here in the Fort Worth Arlington area. For those unfamiliar with us, BBYO is an international Jewish youth group that gives high school teens the opportunity to grow and find their Jewish identity while participating in unforgettable experiences.

We kicked off the term with a fun Top Golf experience where teens in the community from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade joined us to eat, socialize, and make new friends. Later in the month, we baked dozens of homemade hamantaschen and gave them to Jewish Family Services in celebration of Purim.



Looking ahead into this term we hope to partake in profit shares at some of our favorite local restaurants, enjoy events surrounding holidays like sukkot, host fun and interactive late nights dedicated to learning about BBYO's traditions and values, and ending the term with an Alumni Shabbat—an evening where past alumni from Alton Silver BBG and Rubin Gilbert AZA can come and enjoy a fun evening to reminisce and celebrate the new chapter!

In order for all of these fun festivities to take place we would love your help in spreading the word. I know that life can get busy and teens in the area may already be participating in other activities, but my goal as chapter president is to grow Fort Worth BBYO to become a legitimate chapter even after I graduate in May. I want others to feel the same lasting impact that BBYO had on myself. Thank you to the Federation for all your support in helping the start up of this chapter! To find out more, email me, [syd.ratner@gmail.com](mailto:syd.ratner@gmail.com).

## RALPH BERETS BBYO

BBYO is a 100-year-old international Jewish organization that brings together Jewish teens around the globe. Ralph Berets BBYO chapter was established by local teens in 2021 as a co-ed chapter for high schoolers in the mid-cities area (including Southlake, Keller, Grapevine, Colleyville, Bedford,



Coppell and others). Ralph Berets currently maintains a partnership with Congregation Beth Israel (CBI) in Colleyville to help gain funding and allow location support

Like the 400,000 alumni before us, we are redefining “Jewish Youth Movement” and how we can shape the world—and we’re having a lot of fun along the way. We attend local, regional, and international events that focus on service, advocacy, cross-cultural connections, and meaningful programs.



We create fun, exciting events and would love for your high schoolers to join us. In addition, we have opportunities for teens to get involved in leadership activities such as planning events, learning how to fundraise, and using key marketing skills. In addition to 8-12<sup>th</sup> grades, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome at some of our events.

### UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDE:

- **October 12: Yom Kippur Service and BreakFast**
- **October 20: Sukkot and Service**
- **November 9: Movie and Overnight Retreat**
- **December 1: Baking event**

For more information about any of our events, please send us an email at [bbyorb@gmail.com](mailto:bbyorb@gmail.com).

You might wonder how we came up with the name Ralph Berets. Two of our founding members—Ali and Bekah Scileppi—were deeply impacted by Mr. Berets, a Holocaust survivor and English professor who visited their middle school to provide an educational program. The founding members all decided to honor his legacy of impact by naming the chapter in his honor.

Our current Ralph Berets chapter board includes: Matthew Price (N'Siah), Shawn (S'Ganim), Justin Hamilton (Morim), and Jacob Cohen (S'hlichim) and has two volunteer advisors: Amy Hamilton and Caryn Watsky-Scileppi.



# ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING

CINDY SIMON

In August, community members participated in an Active Shooter Training. Officer Byrom and Sergeant Yacobi from the Fort Worth Police Department taught us how to handle an active shooter breaking into our location. We were taught to look for the exits anywhere we go, how to barricade a door (and do it quietly), how to wrap a tourniquet and use an Israeli bandage (or anything that was available) to wrap a wound. We had classroom time as well as practical “in the field” training at their training center. All are grateful to have had this opportunity for this important activity.



## DIRECTOR OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE'S AFRICA INSTITUTE VISITS FORT WORTH

On July 24<sup>th</sup> we were privileged to host for lunch, Wayne Susman, the Director of the American Jewish Committee's Africa Institute. Mr. Susman is based out of Johannesburg. He spoke to a gathering of Jewish spiritual and lay leaders. Topics and discussion included the challenges faced by the Jewish community in South Africa in the wake of their government's case brought regarding the Israel-Hamas war, and more broadly about AJC's work across Africa.



Right: Iftar Dinner sponsored by the Muslim Jewish Advisory Council of DFW

## IFTAR DINNER

Inter-faith relations are especially important to the work of our Federation. Howard Rosenthal serves on the Board of the Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council of DFW. Both Barry and Howard were in attendance for an Iftar this last Spring, sponsored by that group.



## A PENGUIN PARTY

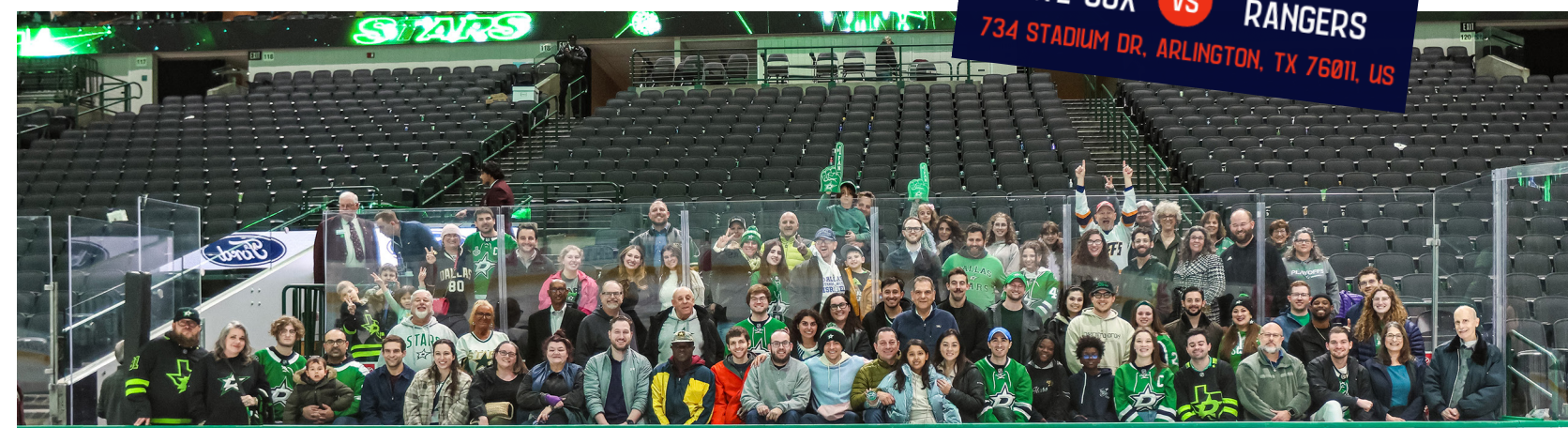
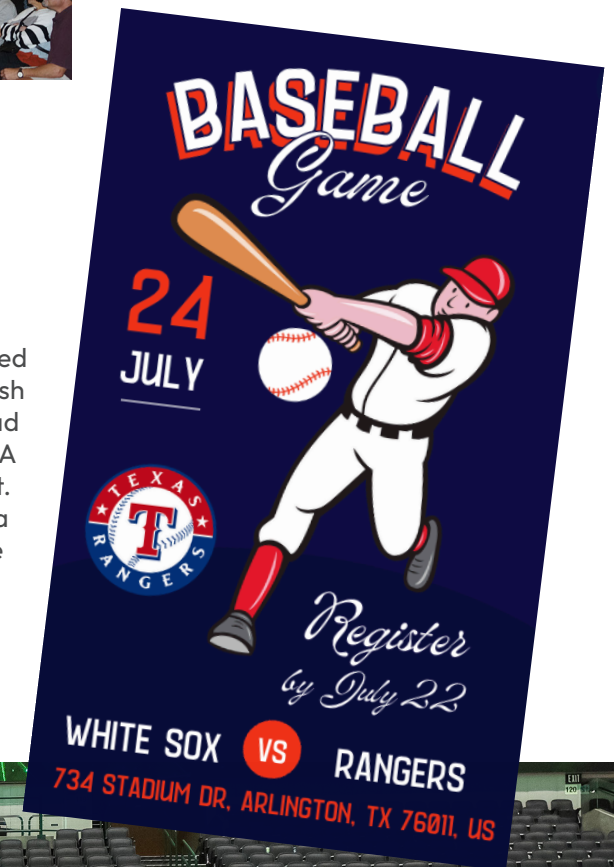
Community members enjoyed hearing from Mike Kapin and Barry Schneider about their recent adventure to Antarctica. These animated storytellers showed a slideshow and shared some of their best stories from their trip. Dinner was provided and the event was held at Beth Shalom.



## JEWISH COMMUNITY NIGHTS AT THE DALLAS STARS & THE TEXAS RANGERS

At the heart of our Federation's mission is “to build a strong and unified Jewish community.” No one can say that we have not tried to accomplish this while having a good time. On February 29, we again took the lead for the Third Annual Jewish Community Night at the Dallas Stars. A great time was had by the over 200 fans in attendance for this event. We enjoyed having our friends from the Dallas Federation join us for a night of fun. We look forward to doing this again as the season will be kicking off soon.

Not to keep the fun and games “on ice” while waiting for the upcoming hockey season, we held our inaugural Jewish Community Night at the Texas Rangers on July 24. It was certainly a “big hit.”





# THE NETWORK SOCIETY

A program of the Jewish Federation

## THE NETWORK SOCIETY

AUDREY ABERGEL



Audrey Abergel



Jessie Miller

Today, we want to take the time to introduce you to The Network Society. And if you did not hear about it yet, that is not too late! That is what this Communique is all about. Keep you informed of great things we have to offer all year long...

The Network Society is an exclusive program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County. More than a program, it is a group that allows us to gather people from the Jewish community in their 30s and 40s! At the foundation of The Network Society are our two co-chairs Jessie Miller and Audrey Abergel. They both wanted to start a group that could reunite Jewish adults from Fort Worth and Tarrant County. When you become wiser/older you have, generally speaking, the tendency to run after time: you have work, kids (they are the best of all!), work again, groceries, and you run, run and keep running at a fast speed with no time for you to 'Pause'. If on top of it you are from a different country, city, or state, not only you see yourself running all the time, but you can also feel easily trapped in your lonely bubble. The Network Society has been created to break your routine and explode that bubble!

We are here to bring colors in your life and have you meet new faces, interact with the outside world while creating beautiful new memories and friendships along the way...in a nutshell: Network!

Our past events were a hit! Wine tasting, After Hanukkah/Pre-New Year Celebration, Annual Spring Event Celebration, Wine Down Wednesdays, Shabbat dinners and so much more! Thanks to you, we made it a success. The great part about it that we are not going to stop here! Many events are coming your way and let's tell you one thing: be ready for it!

Whether you've heard of us or not, we are ready to meet you! The Network Society is made for you and we want to get to know you!

**Want to learn more? Contact, Audrey Abergel at [audrey.abergel@hotmail.com](mailto:audrey.abergel@hotmail.com)**

## THE NETWORK SOCIETY & TARRANT COUNTY TWENTIES ANNUAL SPRING CELEBRATION





# TARRANT COUNTY TWENTIES



Emily Slifkin and Katie Resnick

This season has been a remarkable one for our community, filled with fun, meaningful, and impactful events. In March, we kicked off with a group excursion to Fossil Rim, underwritten by Judy Cohen, which provided a fun and educational experience in nature and with animals. April was a time of joy and connection as we gathered for our Spring Celebration, fostering a sense of renewal and togetherness. June marked our first Wine Down Wednesday at the Jewish-owned Magnolia Wine Bar, offering a relaxed environment for members of the Tarrant County Twenties and Network Society to socialize.

We also began a series of Shabbat Dinners that ran through June, July, and August, with each gathering strengthening our bonds and creating meaningful connections. This August Shabbat Dinner was particularly memorable, with over 35 attendees from the Tarrant County Twenties and Network Society joining us. Also, this August, we also hosted an extremely important event, the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Training, put on by the Fort Worth Police Department, providing our community with crucial safety knowledge and preparedness. We had eleven Federation members attend, and we look forward to continuing this type of training in the future.

We are so grateful to help facilitate meaningful events and look forward to continuing to grow together.

Warmly,

Co-Chairs Katie and Emily

**Want to join the GroupMe?**  
Please email Emily Slifkin, [emily.slifkin@tcu.edu](mailto:emily.slifkin@tcu.edu).



Tarrant County Twenties Poolside Shabbat Dinner



Above and below: Tarrant County Twenties Shabbat Dinners



Above: Tarrant County Twenties Fossil Rim



Below: Wine Down Wednesday at Magnolia Wine Bar



# YOM HAATZMAUT

On Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> the community celebrated Yom Ha'Atzmaut at Beth-El Congregation. We got to hear from high school student Gabrielle Merrill who was in Israel on October 7. She shared her difficult experience during that time. We enjoyed Israeli delicacies, wrote letters to members of the IDF and did Israeli dancing led by Eli Halevi. It was a memorable evening.



PJ Library Babka Bake at Chabad of Southlake



# PJ LIBRARY

**PJ Library is a FREE book program** for Jewish children, birth - 12 years old. Created in December 2005 by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, this fantastic program is financially supported by your Federation Annual Campaign, a wonderful local member of our community, Judith Cohen, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

For the past 2 years I've been privileged to attend the PJ Library International Conference held in Springfield, MA. We happened to be there during the eclipse and I was grateful for the opportunity to witness this miracle first hand! It was amazing! PJ Library is an international program published in 7 languages and distributed to 40 countries. This year, I met PJ Library representatives from Berlin, Germany; Cape Town, South Africa; Kiev, Ukraine; Moscow, Russia; and Mexico City, Mexico. It was truly moving to see Judaism flourishing in all of these parts of the world. It was especially fulfilling to hear the stories of how the books got delivered to Jewish children who were displaced because of the war in Ukraine. The Ukrainian PJ Library staff were determined to not have anything stand in their way of the children receiving these valuable books. There were many sessions I attended, but one I found particularly valuable addressed the role of grandparents in raising grandchildren, run by the *Jewish Grandparents Network*. Keep watch for grandparents and special friends programming coming up!

**PJ Library turned 18 years old!** We had three fun-filled, well attended PJ Library 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Parties between February and April! *The Creature Teacher* and *Magical Matty* entertained the children! We appreciate the celebration partnerships with Congregation Beth Israel, Ahavath Sholom, Beth-El and Congregation Beth Shalom. We enjoyed a wonderful *Babka Bake* at Chabad of Southlake. Everyone went home with their own babka! We also had a great pop-up book reading at JudyPie's in Grapevine! Thanks to Lil Goldman Early Learning Center for having me back for a Passover book reading and Congregation Beth Shalom for inviting PJ Library (my first one there) for a tot Shabbat! If you would like to get more involved in the planning of PJ events or would like to be a parent connector, please reach out to me at [c.simon@tarrantfederation.org](mailto:c.simon@tarrantfederation.org).

**To receive FREE Jewish books sign your children or grandchildren up for PJ Library visit [pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org).**



PJ Library 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Oakmont Park



PJ Library 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at Congregation Beth Shalom



Above: PJ Library Pop-up Book Reading at JudyPie  
Right: PJ Library Pop-up Book Reading at Monkey & Dog Books



# Thank you to everyone for supporting the

As of September 10, 2024

## **KING SOLOMON SOCIETY (\$50,000 & above)**

Dick & Julie Abrams  
Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal  
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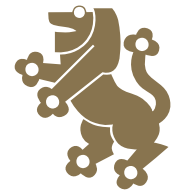
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# TRIBUTES - HONORARIUMS & MEMORIUMS

## JEWISH FEDERATION In honor of

**Mike & Jenny Herman**  
By Tim & Elaine Petrus

**Marvin Blum**  
By Joe Hardt

**Birth of Jon & Medea Suder's  
granddaughter, Jordan**  
By Carole Rogers

**Jon Suder's Birthday**  
By Carole Rogers

**Elanor Blumenfeld's Bat Mitzvah**  
By Bob & Phyllis Fenton

**Ira & Sandy Hollander's "Special"  
Anniversary**  
By Howard & Rhoda Bernstein

## JEWISH FEDERATION 2024 CAMPAIGN PLEDGES In honor of

**Howard Rosenthal**  
By Rabbi Brian & Mimi Zimmerman

**My Israeli family**  
By Ken Sherwin

**Alexa Sankary**  
By Lynny Sankary

**Adam and Alex Uptegraft**  
By Lynny Sankary

**Phyllis Pepper**  
By Jordana Pepper

**Aaron & Jacob Lax**  
By Anna Lax

**Diane Kleinman**  
By Tricia Wood

## And also in memory of

Roz Rosenthal  
By Carole Rogers  
By Mary Ann Slater  
By Robert & Cindy Simon  
By Allen & Elaine Schuster  
By Bill & Noreen Houston  
By David Grabstald  
By Robert & Donna Chicotsky  
By Barry & Gwen Rubin

## JEWISH FEDERATION In memory of

**Galit Danieli Abels**  
By Carole Rogers  
By Barry & Charwynne Schneider  
By Robert & Cindy Simon  
By Allen & Elaine Schuster

**Elliot Messing**  
By Bill & Noreen Houston

**Celia Pilar Escamilla**  
By Lora Escamilla

**Bernie Appel**  
By Arlene Appel Kleinberg

**Of our parents**  
By Slava & Maria Serebro

**Sarae Cohen**  
By Howard & Rhoda Bernstein

**Ruthie Hamill**  
By Cynthia Gilbert

## JEWISH FEDERATION 2024 CAMPAIGN PLEDGES In memory of

**Jerry & Ruth Berkowitz**  
By Michael & Jane Berkowitz

**Holly Clegg**  
By Michael & Jane Berkowitz

**Rhea Nudleman**  
By Meagan Cohen

**Ted & Sylvia Krakover**  
By Jerry & Carol Courter

**Leah Spitz**  
By Louis & Dvorah Cristol

**Jerry Weiner**  
By Melissa Weiner  
By Sylvia Weiner

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By Loesje Blumberg

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By Marian Haber

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By Martin & Deborah Goldsmith

**Dean Schreier**  
By Ellen Adrian

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By Sonny & Penny Brister

**Martin Berkman**  
Michael Berkman & Amber Estenson

**Frederick W. Hall**  
By Charles Hall

**Nell Hall**  
By Charles Hall

**Brett Aycock**  
By Howard & Nikki Slobodin

**Stephanie Posner**  
By Jay & Sarah Hatler

**Charles & Bernice Etcoff**  
By Fred & Michele Reynolds

**Sallye Rosenblum**  
By Tim & Michelle Finucane

**Jack Koff**  
By Ben & Sophie Deutsch

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES In honor of

**Carole Rogers dedication to JFS**  
By Jacob & Dana Rosenstein

**Carole Rogers 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary**  
Allen & Elaine Schuster

**Bessie Bodzy's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
By Robert & Donna Chicotsky

**Lynell Bond**  
By Eve Lubin

**Susan Wisch**  
By Ruth Bogart

**Joanne & Bert Barnes 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
By Carole Rogers

**Engagement of Susan Luskey &  
Dr. John Crawford**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Bat Mitzvah of Elanor Blumenfeld**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Ben & Ashley Ray's Wedding**  
By Carole Rogers

**Birth of Selma Sherman's Great  
Granddaughter, Jordan**  
By Carole Rogers

**In honor of upcoming wedding of  
Susan Luskey & Dr. John Crawford**  
By Bob Grossman & Jan Luskey  
By Michael & Sharon Krost  
By Carole Rogers

**Ellen & Harold Berenzweig's 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary**  
By Carole Rogers

**For the bravery of Linda & Ed Sands  
children in Israel**  
By Carole Rogers

**Graduation of Jonathan Feldman**  
By Carole Rogers

# TRIBUTES - HONORARIUMS & MEMORIUMS

**Harriette Gachman's Special Birthday**  
By Alden Karotkin  
By Allen & Elaine Schuster  
By Carole Rogers

**Jack & Marilyn Rubin's Special Anniversary**  
By Allen & Elaine Schuster

**Wedding of Susan Luskey &  
Dr. John Crawford**  
By Allen & Elaine Schuster  
By Larry Luskey  
By Jack & Marilyn Rubin

**Birth of Wanda & Larry Brunell's  
2<sup>nd</sup> grandchild**  
By Carole Rogers

**Birth of Chip & Sheryl Kaye's 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild**  
By Carole Rogers

**Carol & Jerry Courter's granddaughter's  
Bat Mitzvah**  
By Carole Rogers

**Alex & Sophia Nason's Golden Anniversary**  
By Carole Rogers

**Drew Weinberg's Acceptance to  
Nursing School**  
By Carole Rogers

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES SPEEDY RECOVERY in honor of

**Scott Minker**  
By Allen & Elaine Schuster  
By Jack & Marilyn Rubin  
By Laurin & Cheryl Baum

**Lorin Michael**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Reggie Wittlin**  
By Laurin & Cheryl Baum

**Debby Rice**  
By Jack & Marilyn Rubin  
By Ronnie & Carol Goldman

**Hollace Weiner**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Joan Rosen**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Alan Feinberg**  
By Alden Karotkin

**David Lavine**  
By Alden Karotkin

## JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES In memory of

**Mary Frances Antweil**  
By Jeff & Jeri Lyn Sebert  
By Jerry & Deidra Pozez

By Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal  
By Eddie & Trina Schukar  
By Howard & Joan Katz

**Jerry Weinstein**  
By Phillip Saltzman

**Jennifer Monday Goldman**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Sharon Roberts**  
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By Laurin & Cheryl Baum  
By Howard & Joan Katz  
By Carole Rogers

**Noel Lewis Barstein**  
By Marty & Debbie Goldsmith  
By Carole Rogers  
By Hedy Collins  
By Michael & Etta Korenman

**Roz Rosenthal**  
By Barry & Charwynne Schneider  
By Jack & Marilyn Rubin  
By Marvin & Laurie Blum  
By Laurin & Cheryl Baum  
By Bob & Phyllis Fenton  
By Jeff & Olivia Kearney  
By Michael & Etta Korenman  
By Alden Karotkin  
By Elsie Blum

**Galit Danieli Abels**  
By Alden Karotkin

**Alan Dreeben**  
By Jack & Marilyn Rubin

**Polia Berman**  
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By Hedy Collins

**Eli Davidsohn**  
By Carole Rogers

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By Carole Rogers

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By Carole Rothschild

**Roz Prupes**  
By Carole Rothschild

**Sarae Cohen**  
By Alden Karotkin  
By Carole Rogers

**Linda Usdan**  
By Jack & Marilyn Rubin  
By Carole Rogers  
By Alden Karotkin

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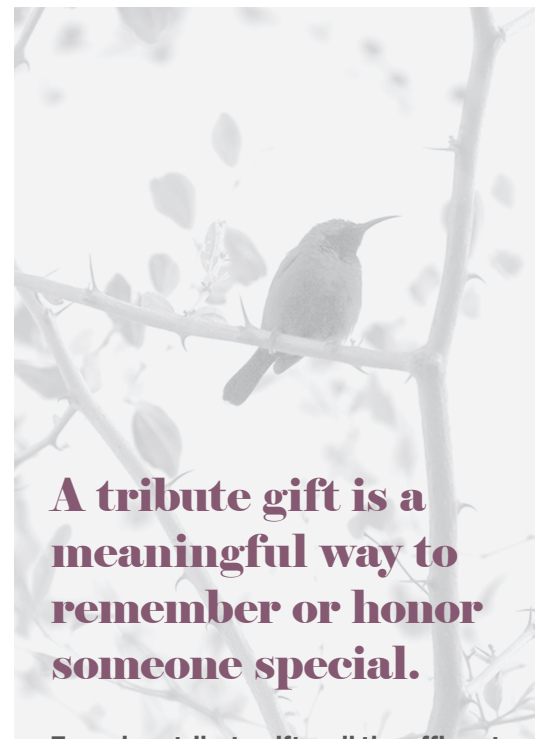
**Debby Rice**  
By Selma Sherman  
By Carole Rogers  
By Michael & Etta Korenman  
By Susan Luskey

**Brian Toobin**  
By Carole Rogers  
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**Ruthie Hamill**  
By Carole Rogers  
By Richard & Carol Minker  
By Michael & Etta Korenman  
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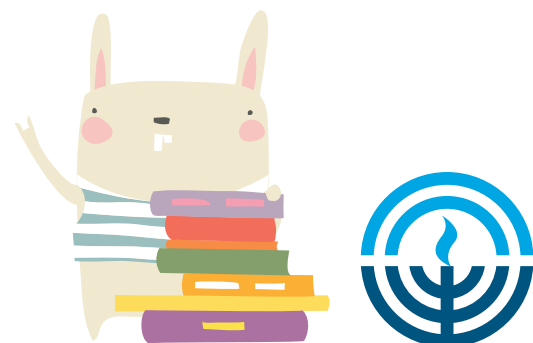
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# Imagine the Impact We'll Have **AS ONE**



As the shofar call signals the start of a new year, we are reminded of the incredible power of unity, hope, and renewal. This Rosh Hashanah, as we step into 5785, let's imagine the possibilities that lie ahead when we come together, As One.

## Imagine the Hope We'll Spread

As One, we will remain steadfast in our support of our brothers and sisters in Israel as they continue to heal and rebuild. We will draw strength and inspiration from their stories of courage and resilience in the face of tragedy.

We will strengthen the bonds that unite our global family in Israel and over 70 countries, and ensure flourishing Jewish communities around the world.

**Your support sends aid to Israel, and keeps Jewish life thriving worldwide.**

## Imagine the Legacy We'll Build

As One, we will keep the stories of Holocaust survivors alive and provide them with the care and support they deserve. We will confront the insidious rise of antisemitism, and stand up to hatred and bigotry in all of its forms.

We will invest in educational programs that build bridges across cultures, and advocate for policies that promote peace and understanding. We will fight for Israel's security and protect its right to exist as a democratic Jewish State.

**Your support combats antisemitism and preserves the legacy of Holocaust survivors.**

## Imagine the Lives We'll Touch

As One, we will be a source of hope and compassion for all members of our community. We will actively seek out those feeling isolated or vulnerable to extend a hand of friendship and support.

We will care for and support those struggling with mental health challenges, facing food insecurity or lacking access to healthcare. We will ensure that everyone in our community feels seen, heard, and valued.

**Your gift makes a difference in the lives of those who need it most.**

## Imagine the Future We'll Shape

As One, we will build sanctuaries of learning and joy in our synagogues, schools, and community centers where Jewish life can flourish. We will foster inclusive and welcoming spaces where our differences are celebrated, and everyone feels a sense of pride and belonging in their Jewish identity.

As One, we can create a year filled with hope, joy, and meaningful connection.



**Wishing you and your loved ones  
a sweet and happy new year.**

**L'shanah Tovah!**



**The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County  
Board of Directors and Staff**



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