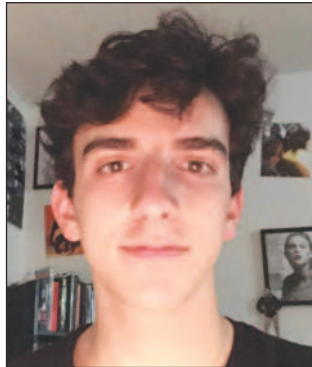


SWJC finds out ‘Where are they now?’

Virtual meeting reveals student locations

With the encouragement of emcee Tammy Nguyen Lee, seven student honorees of Southwest Jewish Congress (SWJC) revealed where they are and the impact their awards have had on their lives, at the June 1 SWJC annual meeting. Since 2014, SWJC has been honoring inspiring youth. The honorees who attended this international Zoom meeting included these past young-adult awardees: Zach Bernstein, Zachary Denn, Teresa Balderas Flores, Matthew Johnson, Esha Kothapalli, Leah Prager and Graham Rosen. At the SWJC meeting, a new slate of board members and officers was installed for next year, along with the announcement of outstanding, complimentary programs for the fall.

In addition to interviewing the youths, Tammy Nguyen Lee, founder of the nonprofit, Against The Grain Productions, led the Q&A from former SWJC adult award recipients. Ms. Lee, an award winning producer and director, was born in Saigon and fled Vietnam as a boat person with her mother when she was 3 months old. An honor graduate of SMU, she received her Master



Zach Bernstein



Zachary Denn



Teresa Flores



Matthew Johnson

of Fine Arts degree at UCLA. Her organization raises funds for orphanages in Vietnam, gives scholarships, and creates outreach programs. She has produced and directed the documentary, “Operation Babylift: The Lost Children of Vietnam.”

The Annual SWJC Texas Sized Event recognizes men, women and young adults of diverse disciplines throughout the community who are diligent in pursuing positive social change and who are generous with their time and talent to make an impact on their communities.

Each of the recipients below has built bridges throughout their communities by fostering deep relationships with others. Despite having their own niches, the participants all exemplify service to others through compassion and dedication.

Zach Bernstein, 2019 Future Man of Action:

- Took a gap year in Jerusalem.
- Sophomore at UT Austin studying at the McCombs Business School.
- Member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and the campus environmental center.
- Joining via Zoom from Jerusalem, he feels that receiving the award inspired him to “live up to the title of the award of future man of action.”

Zachary Denn, 2018 Future Man of Action:

- Senior at UT Austin, involved with Jewish life and student government on campus.
- Involved with TAMID, AIPAC, Chabad, Hillel and Texas Sammy.

- Currently working as an intern for Goldman Sachs in Dallas.
- Looking forward to his studies in the Bachelor’s in Finance and Economics program.
- McCombs Business School Representative.
- He wants to make “sure everyone feels like they really have their voices heard.”

Teresa Balderas Flores, 2015 Future Inspiring Woman:

- Since 2015, she has interned in the Vickery Meadows Summer Program.
- Participated in the Eagle Scholars Program.
- Graduated from UT Arlington in 2017 with a Bachelor’s in Social Work.
- Now married with a young child, she is currently a teacher in DISD.
- She said her motivation in being involved in her community is “something that will follow me and that I’ll always give back to.”

Matthew Johnson, 2019 Future Man of Action:

- Junior at Loyola University of Chicago, on the pre-medical track preparing for his MCAT.
- Campus student leader and two-year resident assistant.
- Enrolled in a pre-health virtual shadowing program through Northwestern University.
- Serves in the community through the Pre-Medical and Pre-Health Societies on-campus.
- Volunteers for donation drives and supports local elementary and middle school students.
- He feels that receiving his award impacted his outlook on community service and has reinforced his “drive to reach out and provide aid to marginalized communities.”

Esha Kothapalli, 2019 Future Inspiring Woman:

- Junior at Texas A&M, studying Public Health with a minor in Geography.
- Active in the College Station

We’ll take that used car off your hands!



Skip the hassle of selling and donate your car to JFS instead.

You will receive a tax deduction when you donate your used car, truck, motorcycle, or RV. Donations like these help fund mental health and social services for the Greater Dallas community.



Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas
An open door to all in need

(972) 437-9950 x301
autodonation@jfsdallas.org
www.jfsdallas.org/autodonationprogram



CEDARS
EXECUTIVE COACHING
NAVIGATING TRANSITIONS, REALIZING GROWTH

Over 20 years Healthcare Executive Experience

Susan Cedars

- Executive Coaching
- Team Coaching
- Wellbeing Coaching
- Conflict Intervention



(480) 292-2108 • susan.cedars@cedarscoach.com

community and its international efforts.

- Vice president of A&M's Global Public Health Brigades Chapter.
- Working as a research assistant in a lab collecting data and surveilling tick-borne illnesses.
- She said when she received the award she was transitioning into college and the award served as a motivating factor for her to give to her community.

Leah Prager, 2015 Future Inspiring Woman:

- 2021 graduate of University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Sports Management.
- Returned to Dallas and continues to be involved with her local community.
- Alongside her mother, she has volunteered with the Jewish Family Services Meals on Wheels.
- Acknowledging that the award was an extra-special honor, she feels that her family and the

SWJC have solidified her value of community, "a value that she hopes to take along with her throughout life."

Graham Rosen, 2016 Future Man of Action:

- In 2016, joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at The George Washington University.
- Studied Arabic and received his Bachelor's in International Affairs in 2020.
- Moved to Pensacola and researched the Navy's COVID responses.
- Hopes to coordinate with foreign militaries as a Foreign Affairs Officer in Navy Operations and Intelligence and work with foreign partners.
- Currently commissioned as a naval officer in Virginia Beach, he is inspired by the mentorship that teaches peers "to care for one another and enables him to give back to his community."

Nominations for next year's honorees at the Texas Sized



Esha Kothapalli



Leah Prager



Graham Rosen

Event are now being accepted. If you would like to identify exceptional people for the Audrey Kaplan Inspiring Women of the Southwest Award, the Stan Golden Men of Action Award, or the Future Inspiring Women and Men of Action Award, please email susan@swjc.org to request the nomination form. If you have any questions, contact Susan Myers at 214-404-8114.

Upcoming SWJC programs, in partnership with the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UTD and Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, include:

July 29-Aug. 5: "Passage to Sweden" Film Screening

Aug. 4: "Passage to Sweden" Film Discussion

Aug. 5: Crucial Conversations: Combating Anti-Semitism

Aug. 24: Tainted Games: The Role of Race and Racism in the Berlin Olympics of 1936

Sept. 1: Robbing the Jews: Nazi Confiscation of Property in the Holocaust

Sept. 23: Funk Family Upstander Speaker Series

Sept. 30: The Power of Voice

Oct. 20: U.S. Constitution

November (date TBD): Innocence Project

Dec. 9: Israeli Technology at Elbit

For more information on any of these programs, please contact susan@swjc.org.

—Submitted by Susan Myers

IMA Select

YOUR TREASURES ARE UNIQUE AND MEANINGFUL
THEY REQUIRE SPECIFIC CARE

PROPERTY

AUTO

LIABILITY

Experience the polished assurance of IMA Select

6200 LBJ Freeway, Suite 200 | Dallas, TX 75240 | 972.458.8700
imacorp.com/select

Knowledgeable, Dedicated, Proven = Results
Licensed Texas real estate broker since 1993.

CAPSTONE COMMERCIAL
Real Estate Group, Inc

4300 Sigma Rd.
Suite 100
Dallas, Texas 75244

972.250.5800 (main)
972.250.5801 (fax)
972.250.5810 (direct)

Larry Robbins, Partner
214.766.9101 (cell)
lrobbins@capstonecommercial.com

NORTH DALLAS BANK & TRUST CO

Mortgage Solutions for Every Stage in Life!

- Purchase/Refinance with Cash-Out
- Construction Financing
- Lot Acquisition
- Home Equity Loans
- Portfolio Underwriting

A TEXAS BANKING ORIGINAL

972.716.7379 | ndbt.com | Member FDIC
ADDISON | DALLAS | FRISCO | LAS COLINAS | PLANO