

SOUTHWEST JEWISH CONGRESS 2018 TEXAS SIZED EVENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Audrey Kaplan Inspiring Women Lifetime Achievement Award

DONNA C. PIERCE

- Dedicated to mentoring young people and to working with the local, national, and International Planetarium Society
- American Field Service (AFS): Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter; Highland Park High School Sponsor and Liaison
- A major woman of science and a Fellow of the International Planetarium Society
- Guest of the Jet Propulsion Lab of Voyager II in 1977; received the Distinguished Service Award by the Dallas Health and Science Museum (1968-72)
- Past President Architect Wives Club, North Texas High School Golf Coaches Association, Southwestern Association of Planetariums
- Girl Scouts of North East Texas: active SU 160 Team member; Boy Scout Astronomy Merit Badge Counselor



Stan Golden Men of Action Lifetime Achievement

GARY GRIFFITH

- Current President of the Today Foundation whose mission is to positively impact the lives of young people through leadership and character development, environmental education and historic preservation
- Board Member Citizen's Advisory Board at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office; ACTI; State Fair of Texas Association; Imagination Station; Dallas Summer Musicals; Garland Road Vision program; and The University of Texas Ex-Students Association
- Leadership roles with SAE Educational Foundation; Texas Hospital Association; the State Commission on Judicial Conduct; Texas Optometry Board, and the Texas Lyceum Association.
- Former leadership roles include groups such as: Dallas City Council member; Safer Dallas-Better Dallas; Support Our Public Schools; White Rock Lake Conservancy; Greater Dallas Planning Council; Dallas City Park Board; Planning and Zoning Commission; Rotary Club; Child Care Dallas and Dallas Ballet



2018 Audrey Kaplan Inspiring Women of the Southwest Award Recipients

SEJAL DESAI

- Business Director for Communities Foundation of Texas, involving over 100 companies in philanthropic and educational events
- Co-founder, Orchid Giving Circle; founder SevaYatra, social enterprise offering volunteerism and volunteerism opportunities in India
- Prior Principal at MHT Partners, investment bank in Dallas, championing US/India business mergers and acquisitions
- Leading Board, Advisory, membership or volunteer roles at: North Texas Food Bank, DFW South Asian Film Festival, Opportunity Plus, Dallas Assembly, StewPot, Hunger Busters, Think India Foundation, Texas Credit Union, Leadership Richardson
- Master/Liberal Studies, SMU; MBA at UT Dallas; Chartered Accountant at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India



2018 Stan Golden Men of Action Award Recipients

STEVE DENSON

- Cox Director of Diversity and Community Engagement at SMU; teaches courses in Negotiation at multiple levels
- Created a scholarship to support Clements American Indian research; assists the Archaeological Collection and Curation Committee in repatriating human remains/funerary objects
- Member, SMU's Turner's Commission on the Status of Racial Minorities; advises minority/ student associations
- Hosts corporate, agency and international visitors to SMU and Paul Quinn College to connect and highlight students
- Collaborates with the Doc Arnette Foundation to teach financial literacy to high school students
- Designated "American Indian Individual of the Year" by American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Texas



LISA ATLAS GENECOV

- Partner and Head of Healthcare Transactions, Dallas at Norton, Rose Fulbright; Fellow, American Bar Association
- Volunteer at Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas; Board Member, Vice Chair (2014-2017), Chair of Lawyers Division, Lawyers, Pacesetters and Young Leadership
- Chair and Co-chair of several committees and Member of the Council of the American Bar Association Health Law Section (ABAHL); Co-founder, Center for Women in Law at UT Austin School of Law
- Past leadership roles: Diversity Coordinating Committee and editorial board of ABAHLS
- Designations: "Lawyer of the Year, Dallas Healthcare Law," 2018, Top 50 most powerful Women in Law in Dallas (by the National Diversity Council; Who's Who in Healthcare 2013 named by the Dallas Business Journal; Texas Super Lawyers; America's Leading Lawyers for Business by Chambers USA and winner of the Bill Finkelstein Award of the Cardoza Society.



DON HOOTON, SR.

- 2004 founder and current Executive Chairman President, Taylor Hooton Foundation, "the little organization that could" making a national impact against use of anabolic steroids and other Appearance and Performance Enhancing Substances included nutritional/dietary supplements
- National spokesperson against use of enhancing drugs by youth, including multiple appearances before Congress, state legislatures, and television and radio programs
- Member of the Advisory Board of Digital Citizens Alliance which educates the public on making the Web a safer place for consumers
- Hosts "Hoot's Corner" on the Web, with latest findings on enhancing drug issues
- Designated "Texas Sports Personality of the Year" by the *Dallas Morning News*; named "Top 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America" by the Institute for International Sport
- 33 years in the telecommunications software business



SUSIE JENNINGS

- Registered nurse, "The Blanket Lady," advocate for the homeless
- Founder, Operation Care International
- Addresses homeless issues in 10 countries, from Brazil to Taiwan/China Cambodia
- Has had featured stories of her work in 10 publications, including *The Dallas Morning News*
- Global Humanitarian Award, Continental "Who's Who", nine other awards for philanthropy



CHAD HOUSER

- Founder and Executive Chef of Cafe Momentum, restaurant and training center for adjudicated youth
- Renowned chef and former co-owner of Parigi Restaurant
- Member, El Centro College Fund, Food & Hospitality Institute; former president, Dallas Farmers Market Friends; vice-chair El Centro Executives
- Featured in Starbuck's "Upstanders"
- Designated a "Best Business Leader in Dallas"; *Dallas Business's* "40 under 40" and the 2015 "Ten Outstanding Young Americans" by the Junior Jaycees



**SOUTHWEST JEWISH CONGRESS
2018 TEXAS SIZED EVENT AWARD RECIPIENTS
(continued)**

**2018 Audrey Kaplan Inspiring Women
of the Southwest Award Recipients**

MARTY MARKS

- Real Estate top producer and relocation industry expert for Virginia Cook Realtors
- Bilingual, former Spanish teacher, Highland Park High School
- Leadership roles as Director of Girls, Inc. of Metropolitan Dallas, Senior Source, Habitat for Humanity, Dallas Women's Foundation, DISD Realtor Task Force, and Association of Women Executives
- Volunteer at Dallas Museum of Art, Trinity River Mission Housing Authority, and Center for Non-profit Management Goodwill Ambassador for the realty profession at local, state and national levels



MADELINE J.A. THOMAS, DDS

- Distinguished Fellow in the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists (Dental Honor Societies)
- Facilitator with "Rite of Passage, Inc." a Character Centered Youth Program
- First STEM Program Coordinator, Dallas Chapter of The Links, Inc. and an integral part of "Linkage to Life National Program for Wellness" for Links, Incorporated
- Volunteer for National Dental Association HEALTH NOW™, Colgate® Bright Smiles, Bright Futures™ Community Outreach Initiatives
- Past Chairman, Board of Trustees, National Dental Association; Past President, Gulf State Dental Association of Texas, and The Texas Association of Women Dentists



Future Inspiring Women

ERIN DENISE MCGUIRE

- Senior, Greenhill School, completed her term at the School for Ethics and Global Leadership in Washington, D.C. and will attend American University in the Fall.
- Gave over 100 hours of community service at McShan Elementary School in Dallas, working with Girl Scouts to help immigrant students learn English
- Awarded Bronze Presidential Service Award, Theater Pin, Girl Scout Gold Award, Duke TJP Scholar, and Hermes Society Member
- Volunteer roles as Hill Guide, Adoption Counselor, Animal Handler, Teen Attorney and Juror at Plano Teen Court
- Participant in Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church Youth Musical, Junior Classical League, Fall Drama, and other theater productions



ALEXANDRIA OWENS

- Freshman at the University of North Texas in Denton; Majoring in radio, television and film, minor in journalism
- Member of the Top Teens of America, under leadership of Top Lady of Distinction, Inc., where she is editor of the *Top Teens Times* and Statues of Women Chair
- Member of the Alzheimer and Beautification committee
- Volunteer at March for Babies, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, 2016 AIDS Walk for the Cure, and Community Clean-up at St. Phillip's School
- Assists with feeding the homeless, mentors middle school debaters and works for beautification projects for St. Paul Church, where she is a member



**2018 Stan Golden Men of Action
Award Recipients**

RICHARD MARCUS

- His passion is to help others effect change by exercising the power of their ballots
- Built a network of approximately 900 volunteer deputy registrars, developed registration events in underrepresented population groups to register new voters; provided voter and general election education; planned voter engagement events and arranged to get voters to the polls
- Has registered approximately 20,000 new voters in the past 2½ years
- Created a website "The Coalition of Justice" (coj-dallas.org) to promote voter engagement in social justice
- Formed "Make a Difference in Someone's Life", a Temple Emanu-El Sh'ma group, to make a difference in a family or individual's life by providing opportunities to them that otherwise may not be available in their time of need



BYRON SANDERS

- Advocate for education, economic development for minorities and/or underprivileged
- President/CEO of Big Thought, a creative opportunity agency
- Board member, KIPP/DFW, Children at Risk, Mayor's Star Council and Greenhill Board
- Education co-chair of WINS South Dallas Collective Impact Initiative and member, Dallas Assembly
- Named "Minority Business Leader" by *Dallas Business Journal*, TED speaker, 2017 Presidential Leadership Scholar in Who's Who in Black Dallas



Future Men of Action

TREVOR BURKE

- Senior at St. Mark's School of Texas
- President of the Texas Society of the Children of the American Revolution, the oldest patriotic youth organization in the United States
- Conducted and led three significant conservation projects at Connemara Conservancy to preserve and protect the nearly extinct Blackland Prairie in Allen, Texas
- Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow
- Given a national TEDx Talk and made numerous Earth Day presentations educating others about the Blackland Prairie, its native grasses and wildlife, and challenging them to preserve their local environment



ZACHARY LOGAN DENN

- Senior at Yavneh Academy, planning to attend college in the Fall
- School leadership roles include: founder/president of the Human Rights Club; president, Junior World Affairs Council; member, Student Leadership Parliament
- Community leadership roles with BBO (B'nai B'rith Youth Organization) include: Regional President, Chapter President, and Vice President of membership and the Jewish Heritage/Social Action committee
- Worked closely with the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) in planning a community Havdalah with 300 people attending, featured two speakers to discuss the current political climate of the Middle East
- In April 2018 participated in "The March of the Living" in Poland and Israel

