

Bnai Zion Texas Region celebrating 110th anniversary

By Deb Silverthorn

The Bnai Zion Texas Region will celebrate the Bnai Zion Foundation's 110th anniversary, Israel's 70th anniversary, its namesake medical center's new protected emergency facility and will honor local benefactors at its annual gala, set for 5-8:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Westin Park Central.

Former staffer Anita Weinstein, supporters Julieann and Butch Hartman, and Pastors Cyd and Ricky Texada will be cited for their service to the local Bnai Zion office.

The evening will feature hors-d'œuvres, dinner and a live auction. Tributes to the honorees and outgoing regional president Diane Benjamin, and comments from Bnai Zion Foundation CEO Cheryl Bier, national president

Steve Savitsky and Bnai Zion Medical Center CEO Dr. Amnon Rofe, will be shared.

"Our honorees live and dedicate themselves to helping Bnai Zion build a more inclusive, healthy and vibrant Israel," Benjamin said. "We're thrilled to support Bnai Zion and, in this turbulent time with rockets flying, the hospital must be prepared to offer the best care. We're passionate about Israel — period. Supporting Bnai Zion means helping enhance the well-being of Israel and mankind."

Bnai Zion Foundation identifies and funds capital projects in Israel in the areas of social inclusion, health and culture, completing over 100 humanitarian projects.



Anita Weinstein

The Bnai Zion Medical Center, located within range of rocket attacks from Lebanon, sees more than 65,000 patients each year in its emergency department, which is designed to withstand rocket attacks

and chemical and biological weapons. The new \$18 million state-of-the-art facility protected unit is designed to have 30 beds, two trauma rooms and six professional clinics, as well as a protected hospitalization department for ongoing care with 90 beds, treatment rooms, doctors' offices, a pharmacy, storage and more.

"The situation isn't if we'll suffer another missile attack, but when. We must be prepared," Rofe said. "Building a protected unit will have a lasting effect on the safety of everyone in Haifa, ensuring access to high-quality medical care regardless of turmoil in the region."

Rofe, who will retire next summer, looks forward to personally thanking members and supporters of Bnai Zion's Texas Region for their financial support and friendship.

"You're supporters and true friends of the State of Israel, and I pray your support will continue to be strong and thriving," he said. "It's been an extraordinary journey to bring the best of the 21st-century health care to the people of Haifa and Northern Israel and we couldn't have done it without you."

Honorees Julieann and Butch Hartman founded Hartman House, a nonprofit which provides funding and volunteer support to organizations around the world serving those affected by poverty, abuse and abandonment. They are also responsible for some of television's feelgood moments.

Julieann has been an actress, executive producer, material supervisor for "Jeopardy," Tae Bo instructor and fitness trainer. An award-winning animator and now creator of **The Noog**



Butch and Julieann Hartman

Network, during his 20 years with **Nickelodeon**, Butch spearheaded "Bunsen is a Best," "Danny Phantom," "The Fairly OddParents" and "T.U.F.F. Puppy."

Cyd and Ricky Texada are the founding pastors of the Colleyville campus Covenant Church, which has long supported Bnai Zion Medical Center, Ahava Village for Children and Youth and other Bnai Zion projects. Ricky, who serves on the boards of Covenant Church and Restored Hope Ministries, is the author of "My Breaking Point, God's Turning Point."

The Dallas Jewish community's own Anita Weinstein has been a cheerleader, supporter, employee and dear friend of Bnai Zion Texas Region. The daughter of Gerardo and Helga Weinstein, sister of Heddy (Bill) and Tricia (Bob), and mother of Robbie Tann, Anita is a lifelong member of Temple Shalom and an associate member at Nishmat Am. A former executive board member of Temple Shalom's Sisterhood, she serves on the board of directors of Stand with Us and the Southwest Jewish Congress and is a founding member of North Texas BLEWS, dedicated to advancing the relationship between the African-American and Jewish communities. Administrative assistant to Ken Glaser for nonprofit activities, Weinstein has served for three years as administrator for Dallas' Israel Today Community Symposium.

Weinstein first went to Israel at 16. She says that summer was the beginning of her great love for Israel. A Hillcrest High School graduate, Weinstein studied business and marketing at the University of Texas.

"Bnai Zion became a second family to me, as I assisted in planning many Bnai Zion fundraising events. I firsthand observed the generosity and sincerity of the community supporting Israel and the Israeli institutions contributing so much



Pastors Ricky and Cyd Texada



Photos: Courtesy Bnai Zion Foundation
Bnai Zion Medical Center CEO Dr. Amnon Rofe, standing amid the construction of a new \$18 million protected emergency facility, will thank the Bnai Zion Texas Region and its supporters in person Nov. 18 for its support and contributions before his impending retirement after 18 years with the organization.

to the world," said Weinstein. While based in Bnai Zion's Dallas office for seven years, she made friends and had mentors here and in New York.

"Thank you Bnai Zion for not only giving me the opportunity to participate in working for your cause," said Weinstein, "but also the motivation to continue my involvement in the nonprofit arena, now my everyday passion."

"The support of our honorees and community is making this new emergency room happen and we couldn't be more proud," said Debbie Tobias, Bnai Zion Texas Region director of development. "September's groundbreaking has everyone excited and inspired to fulfill this dream and our region stands tall in making it all happen."

Summer Paillet and Barry Wernick are co-chairs of the gala, while Rose and Brian Cohen, Rena and Ken Glaser, Michelle and Brian Kravitz and Virginia and Tim Shepherd are honorary chairs.

For more information or to RSVP, call 972-918-9200 or visit bnaizion.org/event/annual-texas-gala-2018.

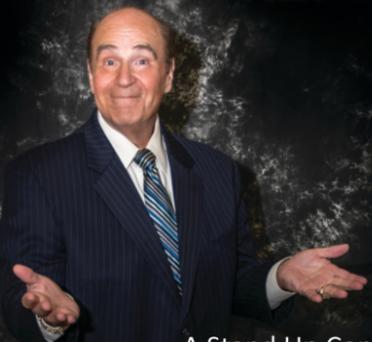


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