



**May 23, 2018**

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**Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Honors  
Tad and Dianne Taube and Taube Philanthropies for Decades of Support**

*Taube Family provides largest-ever single gift to HUC-JIR and announces inaugural Aaron Panken Merit Scholarship*

SAN FRANCISCO / LOS ANGELES - The evening of May 15 marked the fifth Annual Benefit Gala at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) Los Angeles campus to celebrate their leadership and mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Zelikow School of Jewish Nonprofit Management.

Among the key honorees were Bay Area-based Tad and Dianne Taube of Taube Philanthropies, a family that has been supporting Jewish life and culture both in the Bay Area and around the globe for more than 30 years. They recently made a \$15 million gift to update, enhance, and beautify the HUC-JIR campus in Jerusalem – the largest single gift made by Taube Philanthropies to a Jewish institution, and the largest single gift received by HUC.

The campus renovation broke ground in June of 2016, at which time the campus was renamed the Taube Family Campus at HUC-JIR.

“HUC is doing cutting-edge work in training the next generation of Reform rabbis, cantors, educators, and nonprofit leaders, which is essential to ensuring Jewish life and culture continues to thrive in generations to come,” said Tad Taube, Founder and Chairman of Taube Philanthropies.

The event was both celebratory and commemorative, following the recent death of HUC president Rabbi Aaron Panken, whose lifetime of work on behalf of the Reform tradition and the Jewish people was highlighted.

Taube continued, “Conversations with Rabbi Aaron Panken led us to commit this gift to HUC to enhance the Jerusalem campus. Through these discussions, Rabbi Panken became my dear friend. We were excited to see our shared vision of a state-of-the-art Jerusalem campus become reality. Standing here and contemplating the completion of our project without him was not something I could have ever imagined.”

The Foundation also announced a new Aaron Panken Merit Scholarship, which it is funding through a \$150,000 gift over three years. It will provide six rabbinical students who have demonstrated academic excellence the opportunity to study at HUC's Los Angeles campus.

Other notable Bay Area attendees included Sr. Rabbi Emeritus and Taube Scholar at Congregation Emanu-El Stephen Pearce; former federal district judge and State Department legal advisor the Honorable Abraham and Marian Sofaer; Koret Foundation co-president Dr. Anita Friedman and Koret Foundation CEO Jeffrey Farber; Taube Philanthropies' Executive Director Shana Penn; East Bay Jewish Community Federation CEO Rabbi James Brandt; and Jewish lay leader Robbie Cohn.

Additional honorees included Arthur Greenberg, a founding partner at Los Angeles-based law firm Greenberg Glusker, and a special commendation was awarded to Lee Wunsch, the former President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

Photos from the event are available [here](#).

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### **About Taube Philanthropies**

For more than 30 years, Taube Philanthropies has been a leader in supporting diverse educational, research, cultural, community, and youth organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, Poland, and Israel. Founded by businessman and philanthropist Tad Taube in 1981, and now led by Tad and his wife Dianne Taube, the organization works to ensure that citizens have the freedom and opportunity for advancement of their goals and dreams. Taube Philanthropies makes this a reality by issuing grants through its two foundations, the Taube Family Foundation and the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture. For more information, visit <http://www.taubephilanthropies.org>.