



# JEWISH COMMUNITY OF THE HILL COUNTRY

January – February, 2024

## Our New Home

As of January 1, 2024, the Jewish Community of the Hill Country will call the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kerrville home.

As we have experienced during the past six months, the Fellowship building offers some distinct advantages: a large screen TV enabling us to use PowerPoint for our services rather than rely on the service books; a large, off-street parking lot with abundant outdoor lighting for our safety; and an “all under one roof” floor plan.

We are very grateful that we were permitted to meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Hill Country for all these years. We offer our sincere appreciation for the kindness and understanding we have received. The hospitality that the UUCHC has provided us has helped us sustain ourselves to this point. We hope that the friendship between us, built over this time, will continue for years to come!

The Fellowship is located at 213 Loma Vista Drive, only two miles south of the UU Church of the Hill Country.

## “O Hanukkah, O Hanukkah, Come Light the Menorah!”

And light it we did! For the third year, our 12-foot Menorah “shed a sweet light,” much to the delight of 100+ Kerrville and Kerr County residents who joined us. Chris, Karen, David and Greg from the New Buddy Holly Band provided music once again and for the first time members of the Kerrville Board of Realtors supplied much-appreciated coffee, hot chocolate and water. See the photos and read the articles at [2023 JCHC Hanukkah \(thejchc.com\)](https://thejchc.com) .



## Shabbat Services

Friday, January 12, 2024 at 6:00pm  
Friday, January 26, 2024 at 6:00pm  
(With short Tu B'Shevat service)  
Friday February 9, 2024 at 6:00pm  
Friday February 23, 2024 at 6:00pm



## Torah Study

Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm  
Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm  
Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm  
Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 11:30am to 1:00pm

## News from the Board of Directors

**W**e are very happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Dawn Elmore to the JCHC Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large; her appointment was ratified by the membership at the Annual Business Meeting on December 11, 2023.

We welcomed Dawn and her husband, Matt Kordelski, into the JCHC in the summer of 2022. Dawn and Matt will be the subjects of our new feature, "Getting to Know You," which will premier in the next edition of *Gedenk*.

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## Looking Ahead...

During the past year and a half, our well-designed and meticulously maintained website (Thanks, Robert!) has attracted a record number of viewers. To take this to the next level, the JCHC will soon have a social media presence! Matt and Dawn will be setting us up on Facebook and Instagram.

We will celebrate Passover on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 6:00pm. Two options have been suggested: return to the YO and make it a large affair or celebrate the Seder at the Fellowship in an intimate, family-style setting. Plans have yet to be finalized and we will keep you informed. But for now, mark your calendars! **Do you have a preference? Please feel free to contact any member of the Board of Directors and make your wishes known.**

# Adventures!

On February 5, 2023 seven JCHC members first met for lunch at DiMassi's Mediterranean Buffet in San Antonio, then toured the Holocaust Memorial Museum located in The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Jewish Campus. In the coming year, here are some destinations we discussed:

Tour the LBJ Ranch in Johnson City, followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant. Peg has volunteered to make the arrangements.

[Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/lbj/)



The Museum of Western Art in Kerrville, which is free on the 4th Saturday of the month. Peg will arrange to have a docent available for our group tour. Afterwards we would eat lunch together.

[Kerrville Texas | Museum Of Western Art | Hill Country](https://www.museumofwesternart.com/)

In San Antonio, Congregation Agudas Achim has a Kosher BBQ contest!

[The Texas Kosher BBQ Championship – TheTexasKosherBBQChampionship](https://www.texaskosherbbq.com/)



"Living History Farm," the Sauer-Beckmann Farm on the grounds of the LBJ State Park, lunch following

[Sauer Beckman Living History Farm \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/lbj/)

**Do you have an Adventure you'd like to share?**

**LET US KNOW!**

# Don's Final Thoughts

It's no secret that religion seems to be on the decline, not only in the United States but throughout the world. Decline in attendance at Synagogues, which began during the onset of COVID-19, is still with us, as is a decline in membership in most congregations.

However, in the Jewish Community of the Hill Country, we are experiencing growth, much to the envy of my colleagues in the Cantor's Assembly!

On July 1, 2022, our membership consisted of 7 households representing 11 members. As of January 1, 2024, our membership stands at 13 households representing 21 members.

So, what's our secret? YOU ARE! Jews have a Covenant with God and we have a Covenant with each other based on love and respect. We have embraced the concept of Family; with our Torah Scroll, it's the glue that binds us together!

