



*We are...*



2 0 1 8 - 2 0 1 9    A N N U A L    R E P O R T





*We are home.*

*Home is where you find your family.*



**T**he dictionary provides a number of definitions for “home.” Yes, it’s “the place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household.” But the definition that appeals to me the most is this one:

*A place where something flourishes, is most typically found, or from which it originates.*

I frequently refer to Jewish Life at Duke as a Jewish student’s “home away from home,” because I know that the Freeman Center is a space where students feel comfortable, are able to develop strong friendships, and are nourished – spiritually, intellectually, socially, and literally, with our excellent kosher dining. In everything we do, we seek to make Jewish Life at Duke the community where students can flourish.

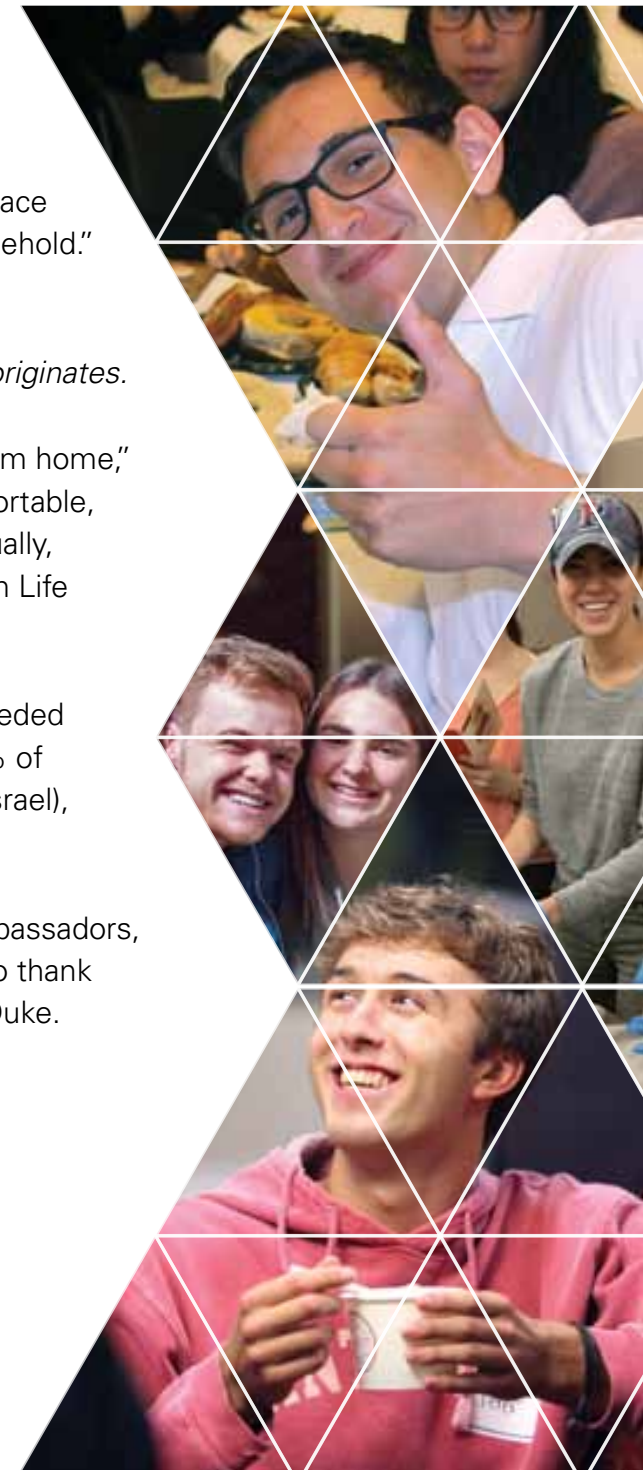
In 2018-2019, we not only met Hillel International’s goals for undergraduate engagement – we exceeded them. 70% of undergraduate Jewish students participated in at least one event or activity, and 40% of undergraduate Jewish students participated in either a high-impact experience (such as Birthright Israel), or at least (and usually more) six Jewish Life at Duke activities.

It is because of our thoughtful and committed Advisory Board, our volunteer alumni and parent Ambassadors, our generous donors, and our dedicated team that we are able to reach so many students. I want to thank every one of you for helping provide Jewish students with the opportunity to truly flourish here at Duke.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Joyce Gordon".

**JOYCE GORDON**

*Director for Jewish Life at Duke*







Heath Freeman T'02 with his sister and fellow Advisory Board member, Amanda Freeman T'98



The 2018-2019 Fiscal Year was yet another gratifying year with growth and progress for the Freeman Center and Jewish Life @ Duke. Simply put, total donors increased by 22% year over year and overall giving increased by 40% year over year. We attribute much of this growth to focus, by our staff and board, on a mission we embarked on just a few short years ago to increase visibility, participation, and passion for all that we offer to the Duke community. By continuing to provide our students, alumni, parents, and friends with a platform to express their interests in support of Duke's Jewish community, Jewish Life at Duke is alive and thriving.

While this Annual Report looks back at the great year that was, I want to call particular attention to what's ahead. This new year marks the 20th anniversary of the Freeman Center, the home for all things Jewish at Duke and a "home away from home" for our Jewish students. The Freeman family couldn't be prouder of what the Center has become with incredible people and programs that have shaped and transformed students' lives. It's truly the legacy of my parents, Brian and Harriet Freeman.

I want to once again thank our Advisory Board and the Jewish Life at Duke staff for their passion, dedication and service. I am honored to serve as Chairman of the Freeman Center and Jewish Life at Duke.

**HEATH FREEMAN**  
*Chair of the Advisory Board*

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*We are student leaders.*

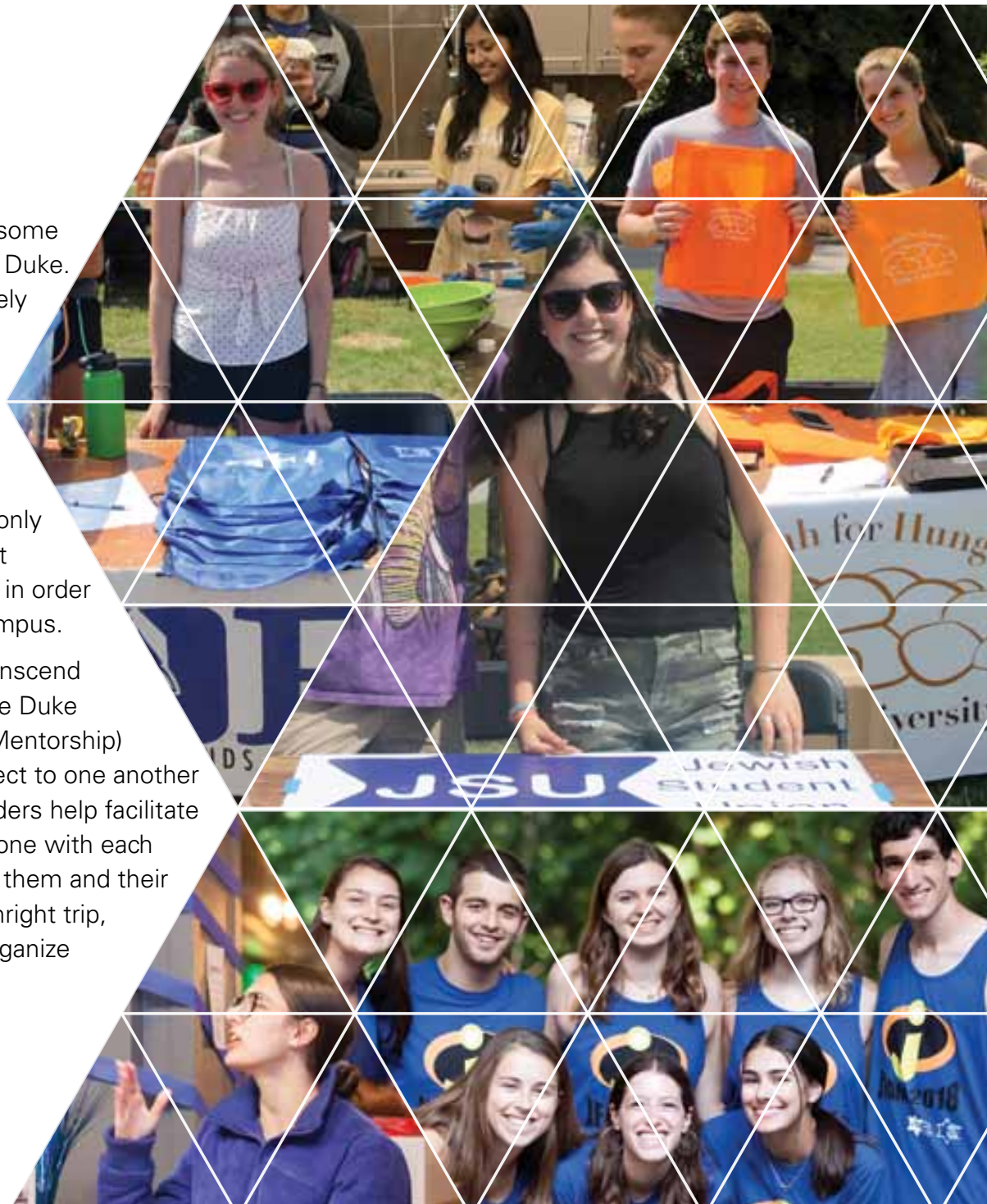




Community. Learning. Worship. Kosher meals. These are some of the many reasons students engage with Jewish Life at Duke. The outcome? Opportunities to lead and to grow in uniquely Jewish ways. Leadership comes in many flavors at JLD.

For instance, leadership may look like a formal role in a student organization. Students make a significant impact on campus through their leadership in the groups affiliated with Jewish Life at Duke. Jewish Student Union leaders, for example, view it as their responsibility to not only program great events and activities for the Jewish student community, but to also to engage with peers one-on-one, in order to grow and deepen the community's connections on campus.

Jewish Life at Duke also offers a space for students to transcend traditional leadership roles. Our student leaders served the Duke Jewish community as JFAM (Jewish First-Year Advisory Mentorship) "parents," helping first-years acclimate to Duke and connect to one another and to the wider Jewish community at Duke. Student leaders help facilitate our Jewish Learning Fellowship classes, meeting one-on-one with each class participant during the semester to learn more about them and their Jewish journey. Students recruit peers for our annual Birthright trip, lead prayers during Shabbat and High Holiday services, organize *hamentaschen* baking for Purim, and so much more.







# *We are learners and travelers.*

There's a reason that we talk about a student's "Jewish journey;" it's because we know that being Jewish means the opportunity for lifelong learning and discovery without end. Jewish Life at Duke provides many diverse occasions for students to explore and strengthen their own Jewish identities, through study, travel, worship, and building relationships with their Duke Jewish community.



**522** Jewish students (70% of self-identified Jewish students on campus) participated in Jewish Life at Duke events, programs, and holiday services.

**40** students and 4 student interns participated in the fifth cohort of Jewish Learning Fellowship: Life's Big Questions, where for ten weeks they explored Jewish approaches to friendship, honesty, disagreement, intimacy, and more.

**64** students traveled to Israel in 2018-2019 Birthright Israel trips, connecting personally with our history, our people, and our land.

**11** students extended their trips on Birthright Excel, Onward, or other programs, seeking deeper engagement with Israel.

**316** students celebrated the festival of lights at Latkapalooza, noshing on latkes and jelly donuts while adorned in the best of tacky sweaters.

**43** students served in ongoing leadership roles in one of the Jewish Life at Duke-advised student groups, helping build and strengthen the Duke student Jewish community.

**2** students were called to the Torah and became B'nai Mitzvah, surrounded by family, loved ones, and friends.

## SHARING PERSPECTIVES

Each year, we bring speakers to Duke who challenge, inspire, and encourage students to be curious.

In 2018-2019, we welcomed:

**Deborah Lipstadt**, the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University (co-sponsored with the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Duke Center for International and Global Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Duke Office of Civic Engagement, POLIS, the Coalition for Preserving Memory, and the Center for Jewish Studies), who spoke to a packed audience about her timely and important book, [Antisemitism: Here and Now](#).

**Yair Rosenberg**, Senior Writer at Tablet Magazine, who spoke about how viral fake news makes its way into both left- and right-wing narratives.

**Erin Schrode**, activist, social entrepreneur, and COO of #ChefsforPuertoRico, Chef Jose Andres' feeding program in Puerto Rico that now invests in local, sustainable agriculture and food systems island-wide. She spoke about leading a progressive, activist life, and supporting Israel.

**Judith Ruderman**, retired Duke Vice Provost for Academic and Administrative Services, who discussed her recent book, [Passing Fancies in Jewish American Literature and Culture](#) – and had the students all singing along to a tune from a 1962 song from *MAD Magazine*.



*We are The Freeman Center.*





The Freeman Center for Jewish Life serves as the hub for Jewish life on campus. Students can be found meeting up over a kosher dinner, playing UNO or pool with friends, singing and strumming along during Shabbat Shira, studying in the Sassower Library, or sharing the best part of their week at the end of every Shabbat service. In 2019, students gained the opportunity to put their stamp on the Freeman Center, with our new, interactive, free-expression wall. Each semester, we will refresh the wall with a new question intended to provoke thought about our Jewish identities – and students will respond with words and art.





*We are a community...*



*...of people who care*



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*Recognizing gifts made between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019*

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*We are alumni  
 who give back*

So many alumni embody the Forever Duke spirit by giving back to Jewish students on campus. This past year, we've connected alumni and students in person and digitally. Alumni have offered advice, mentorship, and a sounding board for students exploring their academic, career, and Jewish pathways. Through this engagement and through generous giving, alumni sustain Duke and its Jewish community.







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Duke parents are incredible. Not only have they raised, educated, and nurtured the amazing students that make Jewish Life at Duke what it is, but they continue to support the entire Jewish student community through the gifts of their time and resources. Parents strengthen Jewish life on campus – thank you!







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 Ashley Wolitzer  
 Alison & David Wynn  
 Marissa Faye Zarco  
 Adam Zell  
 Sarah & Marc Zemel

## GIFTS IN HONOR

### *Alphabetical by Honoree*

Stephen Barringer  
*Laurie & Jonathan Blank*  
 Sophie Barry's first year at Duke  
*Michelle Kaufman & Dave Barry*  
 Sarah Beckmen's graduation  
*Janice & Jeff Beckmen*  
 Rachel Berlowe Binder's graduation  
*Andrea & Jonathan Berlowe Binder*  
 Josh Berman, T'22  
*David Berman*  
 Jason Black, T'05  
*Sheila & Mark Black*  
 Dean Brenner and Neal Shore –  
 Jewish Dukies  
*Steven Brenner*  
 Evan Charney  
*Ofir Golan*  
 Rebecca Diluzio, T'20  
*Kim Diluzio*  
 Rabbi Elana Friedman  
*Margaret Anderson & Harold Baranger*  
*Lori Rubin & Seth Frank*  
*Cyndi Yag-Howard & Corey Howard*  
*Amy & Edward Kronsberg*  
*Jodi Posner*  
*Julie Littky-Rubin & Leonard Rubin*  
*Robert Satloff & Jennie Litvack (z"l)*  
*Jordan Taylor*  
 Samantha Garland, T'20  
*Glenda & Scott Garland*  
 Jerry Stein Gimesh  
*Marc & Cynthia Samwick*  
 William Griffith  
*Susan & David Stollwerk*  
 Professor Joel Fleishman  
*Julie Sandorf & Michael Weinberger*  
 Aubrey Rose Howard, T'19  
*Cyndi Yag-Howard & Corey Howard*  
 Sarah Jacobs, T'21  
*Allison & Kenneth Jacobs*  
*Catherine & Robert Snowden*  
 Alexis Sherwin James, T'00  
*Shelly & Gregory Sherwin*  
 Jewish Life at Duke  
 in honor of a beautiful Reunion weekend  
*Irene & Stephen Moff*  
 Jewish Life at Duke's efforts  
 to fight anti-semitism  
*Jonathan & Karen Morton*  
 Marley Kaplan, T'21  
*Terri Stein & David Kaplan*  
 Robert & Marcia Kargon  
*Isabelle & Jeremy Kargon*  
 Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman  
*Honnava N. Ananthaswamy*  
 Dr. Eugenie Kleinerman & Dr. Leonard  
 Zwelling  
*Michael L. Eisemann*  
*Nancy & Richard Freed*  
 Kenneth Kornblau, T'79, L'83  
*Daniel Kornblau*  
 Robert Landau, T'79  
*Laura Landau*  
 The birth of Naomi Eliana Lichman  
*Rachael & Barry Lichman*  
 Victoria, Jacob, & Michelle Meyerson  
*Sasha & Geoff Meyerson*

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Micah Segal-Miller, T'21  
*Melissa Segal & Aaron Miller*

Ethan Miller's graduation  
*Wendy & James Miller*

Shane Neibart, T'16  
*Kathleen & Steven Neibart*

Aaron Niedermayer T'03  
*Roy Niedermayer*

Sheri Nusbaum's birthday  
*Elizabeth & Mark Mirkin*

Dylan Posner's graduation  
*Jodi Posner*

Evan Rosen, T'21  
*Linda & Alan Rosen*

Dr. Judith Ruderman  
*Dmitry Nemirovsky & Aleeza Nemirof*

Benji Satloff's graduation  
*Robert Satloff & Jennie Litvack (z"l)*

Evan Seiden, T'21  
*Bari Seiden-Young & Brad Young*

Aviv Sheetrit  
*John Spencer*

Jordan Sokoloff, T'22  
*Lori & Bret Sokoloff*

Dr. Laura Svetkey & Dr. Charles van der Horst (z"l)  
*Anne Akwari*

Yael Loeb, Aviva & Patrik Donahue Villani  
*Steven Klein*

Ethan, Seth, & Aviva Weiss  
*Joanna & Matt Weiss*

The B'nai Mitzvah of Aubrey Howard & Jackson Prince  
*Rachel Shapiro*

The Class of 1959 – 60th Reunion  
*Carol & Jordan Levitin*

Shabbat Across the Nation  
*Leisa & Andrew Dillon*

## **GIFTS IN MEMORY** *Alphabetical by Honoree*

Dr. Fred Berger  
*Celeste & Daniel Strohl*

Myles Beskind  
*Marcie Beskind*

Henry and Helen Bienenfeld  
*The Bienenfeld Family*

Lynne Cohen  
*Amy Cohen Epstein & Matthew Epstein*

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*Scott Finkelstein*

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*Amanda Hope Freeman  
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Robin & Robert Waldman*

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*Michele & Mitchell Garber*

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*Natalie Geisler*

Robert Kramer  
*Amy Kramer*

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Lowentritt, Sr.  
*Joshua Lowentritt*

Jay Panter and Ruth & David Weinreb  
*Bonnie Panter & Jack Weinreb*

Joseph C. Ramage  
*Sophie Shiffman*

Roslyn and Jack Roitman  
*Lisa & Howard Roitman*

Gerald Schwartz  
*Katherine & Michael Schwartz*

Iosef and Khaya Talal  
*Michelle Talal*

Jaqueline H. Wilen  
*Lilly and Barry Wilen*

## **THE LEGACY SOCIETY**

Anonymous

Estate of Nathan Ansell (z"l)

Dr. Richard & Judy Berg

Scott Richard Berg & Freddi Lipstein

Frances K. Burka (z"l) &  
Leonard W. Burka (z"l)

Estate of Alyse Cooper (z"l)

Lawrence L. Friedman

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Estate of Dorothy Kamsly (z"l)

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L-R: Director Joyce Gordon, Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Moneta, and Advisory Board member Leslie Chatzinoff P'11, P'15, P'21.

This year, we celebrated our friend Larry Moneta before he retired as Duke's Vice President of Student Affairs in June 2019. Over his 18 years of service to Duke University, Larry not only transformed the many student spaces and places on campus, but was a stalwart advocate for Jewish Life at Duke, helping us grow through the years – all in order to enrich Jewish students' experiences at Duke.

In his honor, we established The Moneta Family Endowment for Jewish Life at Duke. When Jewish students seek study, socializing, worship, social justice, and celebration, this endowment will ensure that these opportunities are always available for them – as Larry has been there for Jewish Life at Duke for so many years.

We thank the following donors for their generous and meaningful gifts to The Moneta Family Endowment for Jewish Life at Duke.

## THE MONETA FAMILY ENDOWMENT

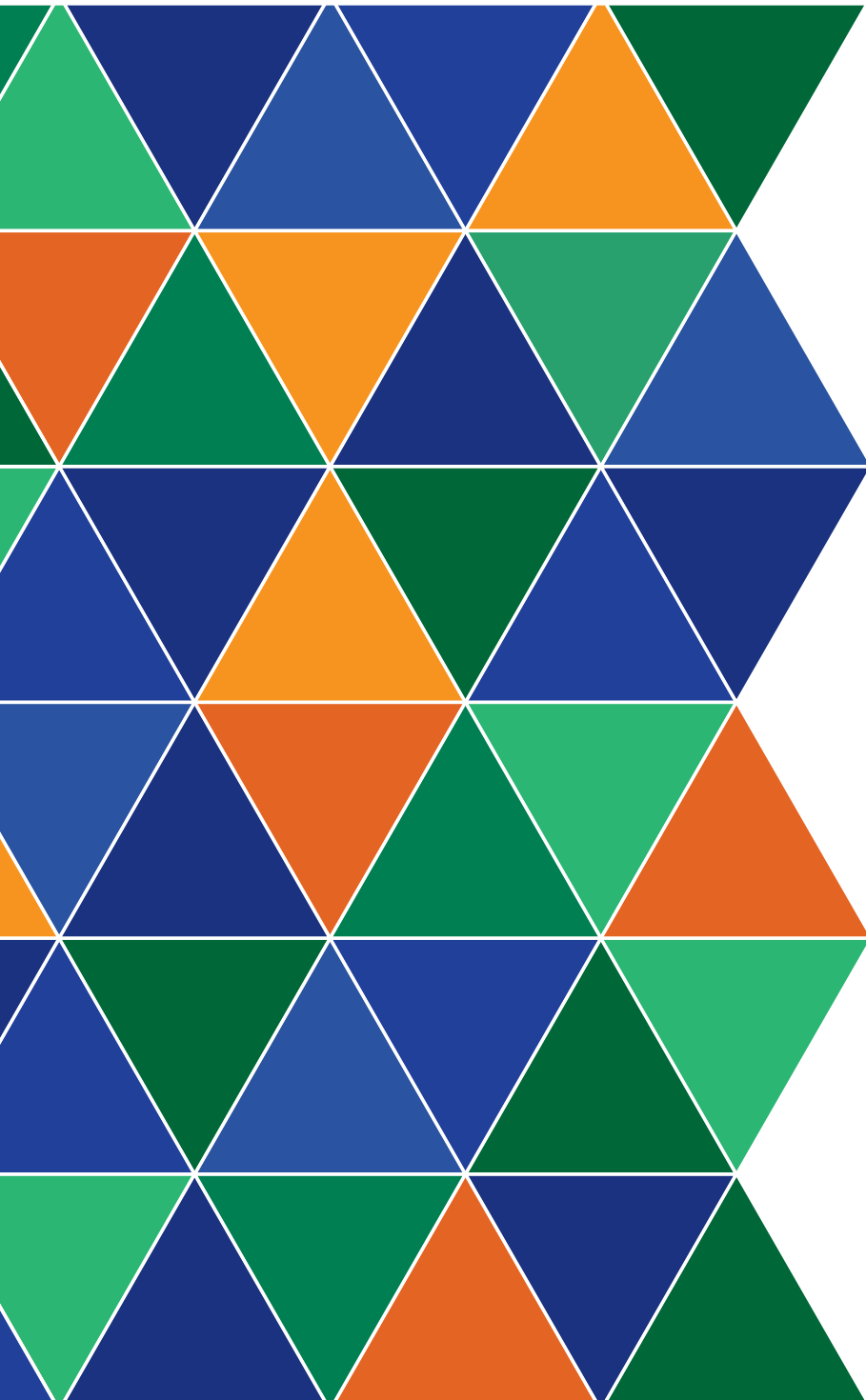
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