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HEARTS OVER HATE NEWS



Hello everyone,

I hope you're enjoying a wonderful summer! I can hardly believe that another three months have flown by. I have been incredibly busy, launching Luvline and organizing various events. So much has transpired, and I'm eager to share everything with you.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER-JORDAN WERKMEISTER



Jordan Werkmeister is a cherished family friend. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Policy and Planning from UC Davis. With a career focused on environmental and land development, she has participated in numerous community initiatives and non-profit organizations. Currently, she holds the position of Vice President of Programs on the board of the San Diego Association of Environmental Professionals, where she organizes events for members. Jordan first met our family in Sacramento, and we have since come to appreciate her presence in our lives. We believe she will be a tremendous asset to HOH, and we are thrilled that she has accepted a position on the board.

Exciting News: Partnership with JFS Finalized!



We are thrilled to share that we have officially finalized our partnership with the Jewish Family Services of San Diego.

On behalf of the entire Hearts Over Hate team, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for the completion of our pledge to create **Dr. Benjamin Harouni Hope and Healing Fund**. Benjamin's legacy will continue to inspire us as we uphold his values of kindness, dignity, and service to others.

We are dedicated to advancing his legacy through the Jewish values he cherished—compassion, community, and a commitment to assisting the most vulnerable and underprivileged.

Additionally, as we are currently unable to deliver our care baskets due to the ongoing court case, the JFS will kindly deliver our baskets to those in crisis.

BY HILDA HAROUNI HOH UPDATES

OUR FIRST MUSIC CONCERT IN SACRAMENTO

We are thrilled to share that our board members are in the process of organizing our very first music event in Ben's hometown! This inaugural fundraiser will take place in Sacramento on Wednesday, November 26th, just one day before Thanksgiving. Keep an eye out for more details coming your way soon!







MURDER CASE UPDATES

It has been nearly 17 months since Ben was tragically murdered. Unfortunately, our flawed system has resulted in no progress on our case. We have endured nine competency hearings, the most recent of which took place on July 15th. Each time, we dread facing the monster who shows no remorse as he stares back at us.

Our next court date is set for August 20th, with the hope that the competency trial will commence on August 26th. This trial is expected to last at least a week, simply to determine whether he is fit to stand trial. We continue to receive support at each hearing, primarily from our close friends in Sacramento. I am forever grateful for each of our supporters at each session for their love and encouragement.



EXCITING NEWS: LAUNCH OF LUVLINE FLOSS

We are thrilled to announce that Luvline Floss — Ben's unique creation — officially launched on June 30, 2025!

I cannot express how profoundly this project has impacted my life. This endeavor has provided me with a new perspective on continuing Ben's legacy. You see, Ben did not leave behind a wife, girlfriend, child, or pet; rather, he entrusted me with a project to carry forward.

Since the day he passed, this project has become my purpose, and now that it has come to fruition, it serves as my connection to Ben and his legacy. Following his vision and instructions on how he wanted this floss to be was a significant challenge, and now that it's complete, I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved.

We launched in New York, engaging with numerous dentists to discuss this product. The support we received was truly overwhelming. We are delighted to see that several dentists have begun to carry Ben's product in their offices. Since our return to San Diego, we have been doing the same. We will be visiting Sacramento and San Francisco, as Benjamin has deep roots in both areas.

If you haven't purchased Luvline Floss yet or would like to try it before buying, please let me know, and I would be happy to drop by with a couple of samples.

This floss is truly one of a kind; crafted with love, it makes you want to floss!

Additionally, with your purchase of each floss, one gets donated to Hearts Over Hate as well as Free Dental Clinics in underprivileged communities in the US.

Please support us in spreading the word! Keep flossing, keep smiling, keep shining!







FLOSS

MY PERSONAL NOTE

These past few months have been very emotional for me. We had a family wedding and our first family trip without Ben.

Past two weeks have been both joyful and painfully heavy. The soft launch of Luvline Floss—a product born from Ben's dream—has been met with beautiful support. Offices are reaching out, asking for boxes, and each time, I feel a spark of joy. I know Ben would've been so proud.

But talking about him in these offices, sharing his story, showing up with a brave face—it takes everything out of me. After a day or two, I often find myself back in bed, hiding under the covers, trying to catch my breath.

Still, the next day brings another email, another request, another reminder that his dream is becoming real. And that helps me rise again.

We've been trying to sell our apartment for over a year, with the goal of moving closer to LA—less time on the road, more time together.

When I was asked why I needed to be close to San Diego, I said, "Because Ben is here, I visit Ben every week to clean his grave and change the flowers." Then one of my sons said something that shook me awake

He gently said, "You need to live for the two living boys and not for the one who's gone." It broke me open. He was right. As much as I will always honor Ben, I need to be closer to the ones still here—to my two amazing

boys, to life itself. That doesn't mean I'll visit Ben less. It just means I'm learning to carry him differently now—through Luvline, through love, through living.

> Thank you for reading, Hilda





