

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980



Spring 2000

Newsletter

Proposed Slate of Officers and Board

Officers

President: Jack Gerrick — *Fort Worth*
First Vice President: Charles Hart — *Temple*
Second Vice President: Ed Katten — *Waco*
Third Vice President: Cynthia Wolf — *Beaumont*
Treasurer: Ben Pfeffer — *Houston*
Recording Secretary: Mitzi Milstein — *Longview*
Shirley Morris — *Fort Worth*
Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Beck — *Houston*
Parliamentarian: Marvin Rich — *Houston*
Historian for TJHS: Blanche Sheiness — *Alice*
Archivist for Barker materials: Howard Lackman — *Arlington*

The total Board is composed of 40 people. They serve for a 2-year term. Half of the board terms expire each year. One person may serve up to three consecutive terms. We currently need 4 people to replace members currently serving 2-year terms for 1999-2001 who will not be continuing, plus 20 new or renewing positions for 2000-2002.

New Board Members

To replace those not continuing for the second year of the 1999-2000 term:

Louis Pink — *Houston*
Don Schlossberg — *The Woodlands*
Roy Elsner — *Odessa*
Sylvia Gayle Klein — *McAllen*

New 2-year term, 2000-2002

Rusty Milstein — *Longview*
Max Stool — *Del Rio / San Antonio*
Doris Epstein — *Laredo*
Buddy Freed — *Fort Worth*
Ima Joy Gandler — *Waco*
Mickey Graubart — *Houston*
Kay Goldman — *College Station*
Goldye Levi — *Dallas*
Berta Schlesinger — *McAllen*
Louis Sokol — *Houston*
Hollace Weiner — *Fort Worth*

Renewing for a second 2-year term, 2000-2002

Norma Albert — *McAllen*
Florence Blum — *Houston*
Walter Fein — *San Antonio*
Dave Hoff — *Midland*
Patti Maltz — *Austin*
Cynthia Mondell — *Dallas*
Annette Lackman — *Arlington*
Mimi Toubin — *Brenham*
Ed Winkler — *Fort Stockton*

This proposed slate of Officers and Board will be voted upon at the Annual Gathering in Laredo on Sunday, March 26, at 9:30 A.M.

Please see details of the Schedule for the Annual Gathering on page 3.

From the TJHS President



Our winter board meeting, held in Victoria January 14-16, 2000, provided an opportunity for 70 people to come together for a marvelous week-end of activities.

This was the largest turnout we have had for a board meeting and we hope it sets a precedent. We prayed together at Temple B'nai Israel, we socialized with the Victoria Jewish community at a lovely Oneg Shabbat and we heard about the Jewish community of Victoria from Dave Lack and Hallettsville from Armand Schwartz. Author Hollace Weiner spoke about her interesting travels promoting her terrific book, "Jewish Stars in Texas-Rabbis and their Work" and she signed so many books I wondered if she might have writer's cramp. TJHS sold an entire case of 28 books and Hollace told us the book is already getting ready for it's second printing! We are so proud to be among the sponsors of this fine historic volume.

TJHS member Max Stool shared the video he made on his recent ShtetlSchleppers trip to Ukraine where he visited with his relatives. The travel department of Jewishgen.com planned this trip and Max was very complimentary about their arrangements. His words and photographs made us feel a part of this unique experience. Noel Graubart also shared some information about his trip to Poland where he was able to locate someone who had

known his mother and her family. We feel like "meshpocha" when we share these experiences.

Saturday evening, at an elegant dinner at the Palace Club, we viewed a very unusual and moving film called, "The Secrets of the Jewish Brigade during World War II." These Jewish soldiers serving in the British Army played an important role during the war that had not been previously documented. Their abilities as trained British soldiers also had an important impact on Israel's War of Independence. This film was funded by the Stephen Spielberg Foundation and is a combination of documentary footage as well as personal interviews with the participants.

Our business meeting brought us up to date on all our projects. We are still in the idea stage and gathering information on potential authors for our new book. The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio is ready to add more electronic equipment to our exhibit. Our Directory is finally in print. (Please let us know if you detect errors.) Membership Chair Cynthia Wolf announced that we added 5 Victoria families to our membership during this weekend. She also encouraged everyone to help recruit new members. We heard about the presentation on Texas Jewish history that was made by Hollace Weiner, Kay Goldman and Sherry Zander at the Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting in Richmond Virginia.

Doris Epstein and Barbara Rosenberg presented plans for our Monterrey Tour and Laredo Gathering. Details of

those schedules are in this Newsletter and you still have time to send in your registration. This will be a special experience and we have planned it so that you can attend either one or both events. At the general business meeting on Sunday March 26 we will elect our new officers and board members and during lunch at La Posada Hotel our Annual Gathering will culminate with the installation of officers and Board. We hope you will be with us!

This was a great weekend and left all of us looking forward to being together again at the Laredo Annual Gathering...See you there.

Helen K. Wilk

Special Note

TJHS will be included in the prestigious meeting of the Texas State Historical Association. On Thursday, March 2, 2000, at 9:00 a.m. in Austin, there will be a panel with Rabbi Jimmy Kessler as Chair, Allen Mondell as commentator and Hollace Weiner and Sherry Zander as panelists. Hollace's topic is "Rabbis as Mixers, Mavericks and Mensches," and Sherry will speak on "Synagogues as Touchstones of Texana."

This annual meeting brings together historians from around the state and TJHS is proud to have had this panel selected to be among the presentations.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter

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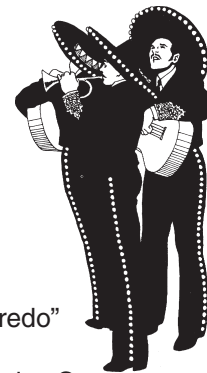
Helen Wilk (Corpus Christi).....*President*
 Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth).....*Managing Editor*
 Walter Fein (San Antonio).....*Proofreader*
 Geri Gregory (San Antonio).....*Layout, Typesetting and Distribution*

TJHS 21st Annual Gathering -Laredo, Texas

March 24-26, 2000



Hotel-La Posada
1000 Zaragoza St., Laredo, Texas 78040 • (956) 722-1701



Schedule of Activities

Friday March 24, 2000

Breakfast on own
Walking tour Laredo
Lunch at Laredo National Bank Restaurant-Speaker on the History of the "Jewish Bank."
1:30 p.m. TJHS Open Board Meeting-La Posada Hotel
5:00 p.m. Congregation Agudas Achim
Shabbat Dinner catered by Sisterhood
Shabbat Services-History of the congregation
Oneg Shabbat

Saturday March 25, 2000

8:00 a.m. Torah study - Rabbi Jimmy Kessler
Breakfast Buffet
9:30-10:15 a.m. Overview of Laredo Jewish Community
- Irving Greenblum & Ike Epstein
10:15-11:00 a.m. "From Serf to Surf - The Mexican Jewish Experience" - Rabbi Jimmy Kessler

Saturday March 25, 2000 (cont'd)

11:00-11:30 a.m. "Jewish Businesses in Laredo"
- Les Norton & Sam Meyers
12 noon - Lunch at hotel; Speaker - Dr. Stanley Green
1:30-2:15 p.m. Workshop-"Creating a Synagogue Archive"
- Fay Brachman
2:20-3:30 p.m. The Katz Family - Frieda Katz Dow
3:30-4:30 p.m. Panel - "Generational Memories of Growing Up in Laredo"
6:30 Private bus transportation to Nuevo Laredo for dinner and shopping

Sunday March 26, 2000

Breakfast on own
9:30 General Membership meeting-Hotel; President's report
Election of officers and Board Members
11:30 Lunch at Hotel and Installation of Officers and Board
- Rabbi Jimmy Kessler

**There may still be time to make a reservation for either of these fantastic events!
Call Doris Epstein, Globetrotter of Laredo, at (956) 727-5600.**

TJHS Tour 2000 to Monterrey, Mexico

Monday March 20-Thursday March 23, 2000

Schedule of Activities

Monday March 20, 2000

Depart Laredo 1 p.m.- Chartered Bus
Arrive Monterrey 4 p.m.
Dinner La Parola Restaurant 5:30 p.m.
Purim services-reading of Megillah at
Adat Israel Synagogue
Bus returns to hotel



Tuesday March 21, 2000

Breakfast at hotel 8:30 a.m.
9:30-10:30 Lecture-brief history of Monterrey and Nuevo Leon and Luis Carvajal el Mozo by Ana Portnoy Grumberg, program director, Monterrey JCC
Coffee Break
10:45-11:45 Lecture-Jewish Immigration to Monterrey in 20th century by Ana Portnoy Grumberg
12 Noon Lunch at Hotel
1:00 p.m. Bus tour of Jewish sites, school, Jewish Center, Cemetery, ancient neighborhood, and Monterrey in general.
8:00 p.m. Dinner at La Escondida

Wednesday March 22, 2000

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel
9:30 a.m. Bus to Biblioteca Cervantina at ITESM
Lecture-Sephardic traditions of Monterrey-Dr. Ricardo Elizando
View rare volumes on Mexican history from 16th century
11:00 a.m. Bus to Archivo General del Estado de Nuevo Leon
Visit with director
12:30 Lunch
2:00 p.m. Visits to Barrio Antiguo-the ancient neighborhood Marco Museum-Largest modern art museum in North America OR Museo de Monterrey
5:00 p.m. Bus returns to hotel
Evening free to explore, shop, dine, visit

Thursday March 23, 2000

8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel
9:30-1:00 Free time to shop at nearby Galerias within walking distance.
1:30- Chartered Bus departs for Laredo

This & That . . .

Our condolences to the family of **Esther Goltz Wolf**, of Waco, who died January 21, 2000.

Address Changes

Has your address changed? What about your Area Code or phone number? Has your name changed? Do you want your name to appear differently on the TJHS mailing label? Please let us know. We'd really appreciate your help.

Please send new information to:

Geri Gregory
327 West Lullwood Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78212

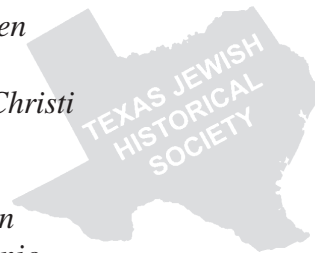
We will be printing a list of corrections to the Directory in the next TJHS Newsletter.

Thank you!

Welcome New Members!

September 15, 1999 to February 25, 2000

Maurice and Sarah Aronstein, *Cuero*
Morris Atlas and Rita Willner, *McAllen*
Marcie Baker, *Houston*
Abraham I. and Pearl Blum, *Corpus Christi*
John and Helen Brook, *Houston*
Sam and Anna Feinhandler, *Houston*
Dr. D.J. and Lilyan Feinstein, *Houston*
Steven and Helena Gossen, *San Antonio*
Leo and Sue Greenblum, *Laredo*
Eli and Frances Hoffman, *Waco*
Maurice and Charlotte Labens, *Waco*
Jay and Barbara Lack, *Victoria*
Harold U. and Betty Jane Leon, *Victoria*
Robert and Marjorie Loeb, *Victoria*
Eric H. and Carol Nelson, *Houston*
John Perel, *Houston*
Perry J. and Bunny Radoff, *Houston*
Gerald and Lila Rauch, *Houston*
Mary Lynn Rhodes, *Rockport*
Evelyn Schlader, *Corpus Christi*
Rabbi Avi Schulman, *Missouri City*
Armond G. and Jean Schwartz, *Hallettsville*
George and Evelyn Smith, *Dallas*
Bernard and Edith Stolbun, *Houston*
Mark B. and Elizabeth Toubin, *Houston*
Eliot F. and Ronnie Zolin, *Roslyn Heights, New York*



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* by your name indicates a paid-up membership for 2000.