

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas  
Established 1980



A Quarterly News Magazine of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

Fall 2004

## A MESSAGE FROM TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT MARVIN RICH



Many thanks to Vickie & David Vogel for preparing a fabulous Fall 2004 Quarterly meeting event. Held October 15-17 in Schulenburg, the weekend included a variety of fun and interesting activities. Enjoy the photographs and articles in this issue. Also, thank you to Beverly Beck Trachtenberg for organizing our fall meeting held July 11, 2004 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 3131 West Loop South in Houston. Photo memories from that weekend are featured in this issue.

Mark your calendar for January 14-16, 2005, for our Texas Jewish Historical Society Winter Board meeting in Galveston! This gathering promises a great time for all who make the trip!

Please welcome longtime Texas Jewish Historical Society Board member Barry Green, Tyler, Texas, to his new position as Parliamentarian. Barry will serve the Society in this capacity at general membership and Board of Directors meetings. Many members of the Society, including Barry, have observed the need for more expeditious business meetings. I have welcomed Barry's experience with other Jewish organizations and his excellent suggestions, which have resulted in getting our business accomplished much quicker. With Barry's help, we will have more time to enjoy the Society meetings and activities. I would like to thank Rusty Milstein for serving in this capacity for the first few meetings of this term.

I was in a quandary about what I should write about for this column. I certainly am not a rabbi so don't expect anything too deep. However, in my acceptance to serve as your president, I referred to our aging membership. It is too obvious when fewer members participate, and many of those who do use walking assistance. Even Blanche Sheiness no longer drives her car to the meetings. It must just be Houston, because she always drove when she lived in Alice. (Happy 91st Birthday Blanche!)

*(President's Message, cont. page 3)*

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**Warm up to the Texas Jewish  
Historical Society**

**Winter Quarterly Meeting  
January 14, 15, 16, 2005  
Galveston, Texas**

**All are welcome  
and encouraged to come  
enjoy the weekend!**

## Book A Free Traveling Exhibit For Your Next Event or Program

By Jack Gerrick

Your organization can benefit from a display of old photographs, stories and a glimpse into the earliest beginnings of Texas Jewish history, provided free of charge by the Texas Jewish Historical Society. In cooperation with the Institute of Cultures in San Antonio, TJHS has developed two traveling exhibits on museum-quality reproduction foam board.

The exhibits include 25 large photos with descriptive literature, and can be displayed on self-standing easels or hung on a wall. The exhibit is packed in a waterproof box that can be shipped to you or your organization. Afterward, it should be returned to the Texas Jewish Historical Society using prepaid freight.

The Society will prepay the exhibit to the point of the showing. Over the past years, the exhibits have provided insight into Jewish history and have been shown in a number of venues including schools, synagogues, Hadassah meetings and events for children.

### THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE FALL 2004 ISSUE

*Editor - Designer: Susan Elsner Furman*

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Marvin Rich*

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We hope you enjoy this issue of the Texas Jewish Historical Society news magazine. Your articles, oral histories, and photographs are welcome! Email them to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka, [davielou@solka.net](mailto:davielou@solka.net) or mail to 501 Bermuda Place, Corpus Christi, TX, 78411. 361-852-5815.

We are unable to guarantee the safe return of your documents and photographs. Therefore, it is strongly advised that you provide color photocopies only, both for color and black and white originals.

If you have suggestions, comments or ideas regarding the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine, please email them to Editor Susan Elsner Furman at [Susan@ElsnerFurman.com](mailto:Susan@ElsnerFurman.com).

Thank you for helping to make the News Magazine an interesting and exciting part of Texas Jewish history.

## TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gratefully acknowledges your gift to its

### Endowment Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

In \_\_\_\_\_  
Of \_\_\_\_\_

An acknowledgment has been sent to the party you specified.

Your gift will further the efforts to record, preserve and disseminate historic information about Texas Jewish culture.

## Donations To The TJHS Endowment Fund

Your donations to the Texas Jewish Historical Society help support important programs. Recent donations to the Texas Jewish Historical Society include the following:

- Marvin Rich – in honor of his Presidency of the TJHS, Hilda & Herschel Rich
- Ellen Kusin, get well wishes
- Mitzi Milstein on the death of her father
- Olive Bucher on the death of her husband, Arthur
- Mazel Tov to Congregation Beth Israel in Houston on their 150th Anniversary
- Mazel Tov to Congregation B'nai Israel in Galveston on their 136th Anniversary

Thanks to all who have made contributions to the Endowment Fund. To honor a friend or loved one, send the honoree's full name, type of honor (congratulations & occasion, memorial, etc.), and your name / donor name along with a check in the amount of your choice to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX, 78766-0193. An acknowledgement will be sent to you upon receipt of your gift. ♦ TJHS

Corrections: In the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Journal, April 2004, the following errors were noted in "Waco's Temple Rodef Sholom 125th Anniversary Celebration." Rabbi Wolfe Macht served from 1919-1952; Rabbi Mordecai Podet served for 24 years; correct spellings include Rabbi Alexander Schindler, A.J. "Joe" Schechter, Ellan Burke, Marcia Olmsted, and Harry A. Wood III.

What I am trying to say is, we need new, younger members who care about Texas Jewish history. Attracting Jewish students at universities would be a good source. Greg Myers is a primary example of doing this. I recommend that we renew our scholarship program for students to attend our Annual Gathering in Austin next April. The Symposium will be held on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, and the format is likely to appeal to our best prospects. We will send notices to History Departments of universities and to Jewish student organizations on Texas campuses. I am asking all members to also spread the word by contacting nearby colleges and Jewish organizations of interest. By starting now, we should have results.

I believe we should also support programs including Hillels and other Jewish Student Organizations on all Texas college campuses. We can do this by placing our new Texas Jewish Historical Society brochure and the news magazine at gathering sites. We also should contact directors of the organizations to offer programs about the Society. If we get even one started, it will be a foot in the door.

This will work two ways, both for the benefit of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and as a great experience for you to learn of the terrific jobs Hillels and other Jewish student groups are doing. At Texas A & M, Rabbi Peter Tarlow has been director for over 20 years for the student Aggies as well as in the Jewish community in Brazos County and the surrounding area where there is no synagogue. Past President Charles Hart is Secretary of their Board of Directors, and longtime member and past president, Buddy Freed, is also a long-time member of the A & M Board.

If you have any connection to Texas A & M, I encourage your support of their programs.

At The University of Texas at Austin, the Hillel just broke ground on a new \$6 million building to replace the 55-year-old facility. We will have the opportunity to see its progress in April 2005, during the Annual Gathering. UT has the largest Jewish student population in the state, and many of us have been associated with the great work there for a long time. Our founder, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, was the Director and helped to revive the programs, and I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Board following Milton Smith. The current Director, Rabbi David Kessel, has built participation in activities to an all-time high. The Hillel serves students of all interests, with student-led religious services from Reform to Orthodox, Israel support groups, and of course the Center of Social Interest. Many couples have found their spouses there, and like at A & M, lifetime friendships are made.

In Houston, the Hillel serves Jewish students at Rice University and the Texas Medical and Nursing Schools, and

has a presence on the University of Houston campus with the same types of activities as UT and A & M. I am not familiar with the activities at Texas Tech or at colleges in the North Texas area, but I hope that each of you will find out how you can help with the Jewish student centers at your local colleges. The Jewish college students of today are our future community leaders and Texas Jewish Historical Society members.

*All of the best to y'all,*



Marvin Rich  
President

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## HONORABLE *MENSCHENS*



Mazel Tov to TJHS members **Barbara and Ben Rosenberg** of Sugar Land, proud maternal grandparents of **Zachary Mayer Welk** of West Palm Beach, Florida.

While hurricane Frances was battering his home in West Palm Beach, Zachary was safely born in Houston's Methodist Hospital. He arrived one month ahead of schedule, fittingly on Labor Day weekend. Zachary Mayer was born September 4, 2004 at 11:50 p.m., weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces. Gena and Marc Welk are the proud parents. Paternal grandparents are Taube Cohen and the late George Cohen of San Angelo, and the late Rose and Max Rosenberg of El Paso. His paternal great-grandparents are Shirley and the late Nathan Levey of Aurora, Colorado, and Elsie and Robert Welk of Parker, Colorado.

Best wishes and Mazel Tov to Texas Jewish Historical Society past president (1986-1989) and founding member **Ginger Jacobs**. Ginger was honored with the Dallas Jewish Historical Society Founders Award at a High Tea held on November 21st at Dallas' Columbian Club.

Mazel Tov to **Mary Meyers Rosenfield** of El Campo, TX., who was inducted into the Governor's Texas Women's Hall of Fame for her work in Health and Human Services. The ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber in Austin on October 19, 2004.