

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas  
Est. 1980



August, 2009

## Message from the President by Sally Drayer

I would like to thank Elaine and Phil Albin, Helen Wilk, Marc and Joyce Wormser, and everyone who helped to host our summer board meeting in Rockport. It was a laid-back weekend with dinner Saturday evening, and a wonderful dessert array afterwards



at Elaine and Phil's home. For those of us arriving on Saturday afternoon, it was great to either sit at the hotel pool, or to see the sites in and around Rockport.

Reflecting upon my last statement, it is enjoyable to have a summer break to kick back, rest, and enjoy doing "nothing" (that would also mean not substitute teaching!). But "nothing" means I have time to read books I have wanted to read, go places here in Dallas I've wanted to see but haven't, take my dog on more early morning walks, take those day-trips on my summer to do list, go to dollar movies or rent them from my local library, take short trips to see my brothers and their wives in Houston and San Antonio, talk to my three kids via telephone or instant message on the computer, and visit with friends. I hope each of you make some time this summer to kick back, slow down your pace, and enjoy your friends and family. I also hope that you had the opportunity to visit places that you have always wanted to see or to revisit familiar places.

As noted in the last newsletter, our

fall board meeting will be held in Austin on September 12-13. Prior to the meeting, a symposium on immigration to Texas through Galveston will be hosted at the

Bob Bullock State History Museum on Thursday and Friday, September 10-11. Hopefully, some of you can come early to attend the symposium. Our winter board meeting will be held with the Jewish community of Tulsa, Oklahoma (they are looking forward to our joint meeting—I hope many of you plan to attend) on January 15-17, 2010, and the Annual Gathering will be held April 23-25 in Dallas.

In this newsletter, there is an article by someone in my family—the story by Marc Tracy. My youngest daughter lives in D.C. and is in contact with the Tracy family. We didn't know they existed until the last Pomerantz family reunion held in July, 2003 which they attended.

This year, the High Holidays come the week after our fall meeting, and you will receive our next newsletter in your mailbox shortly after that. I wish each of you an early La Shana Tova—a peaceful and happy new year.

*Sally Drayer*

President, 2008-2010

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- The Jewish Community of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas** 2  
by Marlou Levine
- There's the Rub** 3  
by Marc Tracy
- Hallettsville Jewish Cemetary Gazebo Restored** 5
- Aubry Sacks' Society Syncopator's Orchestra** 6-7  
by Vickie Vogel
- "The Monster Among Us" Wins Jury Award** 8
- TJHS Fall Board Meeting Registration Form** 9
- Pictures from the Summer Board Meeting** 10-11
- Requests for Help** 12
- In Memoriam** 12
- Symposium on the 100th Anniversary of the Galveston Movement** 13
- Save the Date for future TJHS meetings** 15

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# The Jewish Community of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas

## Instrumental in the Economic Development of the Area

by Marlou Levine

Motivated by my family since I was a child, reading, research, and analysis of events have been a major part of my life. “Remember that you were born during a major event in our life—World War II—always read and understand the events that happened before, during and after 1945,” were the words of my parents. Being an “Army brat” gave me the perfect opportunity for my constant research and I will say, for my constant curiosity about all the events in my community and around the world.

Names such as President Truman, MacArthur, Hitler, and Hirohito were

the subject of conversations with the family. Saturday was a beautiful day that I would go and visit my grandparents. My grandma always had a delicious flan and fruits for our brunch. During the day on Friday, I would read, review, and be ready for my grandpa and my father’s constant question, “What are you reading now?” I was supposed to learn something new everyday of my life; even something as simple as a new English word, its meaning and its pronunciation.

In the early 1960s, during my first trip to New York, I specifically re-

quested to see the Empire State Building and of course, Rockefeller Center—just to look at the people with hats, gloves, and a very professional wardrobe! How do you know about the city, 42nd Street, Chinatown, etc. my cousins would ask me. “Just by reading!” I would answer.

Living in Guadalajara, Mexico for five years gave me a tremendous opportunity to learn about Mexican history, government, and way of life. Those years in Mexico also helped me to speak slowly, without the typical Puerto Rican “fast speaking dialect.” Of course, in the beginning, it was very hard for me and for my neighbors in Guadalajara to understand the expressions from the Caribbean that I used.

Then came the years that I lived in North Central Texas. At Seymour, Baylor County and on the Lubbock Highway, I thought that I was the only Spanish-speaking person in the community. Therefore, that was the motivation to “polish” my English vo-

*continued on page 4*

### The Texas Jewish Historical Society August 2009 Quarterly News Magazine

The Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine is published four times annually. Stories about Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents. Please provide color photocopies or scan at 300 dpi or greater, in .gif, .tif, or .jpg format and send electronically to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka at editor@txjhs.org or mail to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, 512-527-3799. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

**Publisher-Editor** Alexa Kirk  
**Assistant Editor** Davie Lou Solka  
**Photographer** Marvin Rich

Note: The Texas Jewish Historical Society is unable to guarantee the safe receipt and/or return of documents or photographs. It is strongly recommended that you provide color photocopies of both color and black & white documents. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Visit us on the web at [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org).*



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[www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org)

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# There's the Rub

by Marc Tracy

Reprinted with permission from [Tabletmag.com](http://Tabletmag.com) (formerly [Nextbook.org](http://Nextbook.org)), January 27, 2009

About a year and a half ago, I saw a blurb announcing the opening of Hill Country, a new restaurant in New



York City's Chelsea neighborhood. The first line said "How did a nice Jewish boy from Bethesda, Maryland, end up opening a Texas-style barbecue joint?" Being myself, a Jewish boy from Bethesda, who certainly tries to maintain a sunny disposition, I read on. The restaurateur's family, I learned, hailed from Texas; his name, it said, is Marc Glosserman. So, here's a nice Jewish boy from Bethesda named Marc with a barbecue restaurant. Given Bethesda's demographics, we surely are not the only two. But it was enough of a coincidence that I told my Mom about it. "Marc Glosserman," she responded, "That's your cousin."

I always knew that my Texas cousins on my great-great-grandparents on my father's mother's side arrived from the old country via Galveston, but I had never met any of them and knew none of their names. My only reminder of their existence was the goofy, if endearing birthday card that I received each year from the Houston-based Pomerantz cousins.

I also knew that any cousins of mine would have to be Jews, and it was this feature that tripped me up. My Judaism has been the topic sentence in the paragraph of my identity for as long as I was sentient enough to craft one. But my brand of Judaism is

specifically, and rigidly, Northeastern American. I wouldn't say I felt superior to Texas Jews, but I did feel estranged from them, as though our shared religious and cultural classification was mere historical coincidence.

After a few visits, I brought my dad to Hill Country, and he duly introduced me to Marc, my third cousin once removed. Marc describes Hill Country as paying tribute to my family's Texas roots. He has embraced this self-appointed task with a zeal that has bled even beyond the restaurant; Marc's son, born on Hill Country's opening day, is named Austin. Hill Country is modeled after



Kreuz Market, the legendary joint in Lockhart, Texas, where Marc's father grew up. The restaurant's only inauthentic touches are the result of environmental and safety regulations that don't permit, for example, a gigantic open fire pit in the back where customers line up, their faces swallowed by smoke, to get their meat sliced, weighed, and wrapped in butcher paper, as they do at Kreuz. Hill Country has the butcher paper, though, to say nothing of the meat, beer-can chicken, sausages imported weekly from Kreuz Market, and brisket that, against all odds and known laws of chemistry, really does seem to melt in your mouth.

Marc went well beyond the meat (which, by the way, is smoked over Texas oak) or the Texas soda, beer, wine, and ice cream in his effort to found a spot of Kreuz Market North. What signs weren't brought straight from Central Texas antiques stores, were designed by the Lockhart establishment's sign maker. Cowboy music, from an endless playlist curated by Marc's father, plays, except when a country band is jamming downstairs. The walls are adorned with black and white photographs of Kreuz Market pitmaster and Lockhart sites.

The lengths to which Marc went to recreate his roots can almost make you doubt his claim to them. At times, it seems, he doth attest too much. One doubts that someone born in Texas would be quite as obsessive. But then you spy one of the photos on the wall: "Glosserman's Clothiers" it says along the side of a building and it's a picture of the Lockhart shop owned by Marc's grandfather. This also means that it's a picture of the shop owned by (stay with me here) my first cousin, three times removed. Distant? Sure, but still I'm not satisfied with stopping there, or with divorcing the fact of these roots from my conception of my specific



Jewishness, which would admittedly be convenient.

So what's Jewish about Hill Coun-

*continued on page 5*

cabulary and pronunciation. The pronunciation was always my frustration. My father and grandfathers knew the “old English pronunciation,” and for me, that was extremely confusing. The use of “I shall” was very hilarious for my cousins of New York, so that when I spoke using that expression, they would always laugh! Every time we visited my Aunt Isa Levy from Metairie, Louisiana, she would tell me about the “American English” expressions. She taught at Tulane University for many years, and her recommendation was to watch the television for the idiomatic expressions, and to pay attention to the American vocabulary used for daily communication.

One of the challenges in my life was when I came to the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. I found an area in the beginning of a major growth, not only in population, but in a tremendous economic development. To my surprise, I found a Jewish community that employed hundreds of residents. I was hired by a corporation which had its headquarters in San Antonio that employed hundreds of people. For me, to be part of this corporation was a learning experience. Every day I learned and analyzed the impact of the corporation helping this area. I saw that other Jewish corporations in the Valley had that same impact—it created jobs and a better standard of

living for their employees.

Of course, I thought that my Spanish was more “polished” since I came from Guadalajara, Mexico, and I was considered to have good communication with the Spanish-speaking people of this area. However, it was a challenge when I began working with United Fashion of Texas. “You speak Spanish, but in your face you are saying to me that you do not understand my vocabulary,” a customer once told me. “Un vestido curro que no sea muy guango.” (A short dress not too loose). I had not heard that expression before, but I told the customer, “Come with me, and I am sure with our good selection, you will find your dress.” The very polite customer showed me what she was looking for. She did not buy one dress—she bought three—and became a regular customer of the store.

In training staff and management for the corporation, I always emphasized the importance of learning from the customers and giving good customer service. Remember, “the customer is the one who pays our salary!” That expression was part of the training.


I never had in my mind to be in the retail business, but when I came to the Rio Grande Valley, my soul and my enthusiasm became part of the Jewish immigration that came many years before and established busi-

nesses across the Valley.

A lot of the businesses and corporations that came to the Rio Grande Valley and received the patronage of the community demonstrated that the interdependency of a business or any corporation and the community is essential for the growth of the city—such as the growth of the cities of the Rio Grande Valley today.

As my husband Al used to tell me, “the customer is the most important person in our business—he is the one who tells us what to buy and prices that we can have, and he motivates us to go to the market.” When I joined my husband’s business, the memories of our trips to the market included my husband naming the merchandise at the show for a specific regular customer.

As I mentioned before, I never dreamed that I would be in the retail business, but I always remember my mother telling me that “if someone was born without a head, you could sell that person a hat.” I am amazed that the Rio Grande Valley Jewish community gave me the opportunity to be a part of their retail business, and that it also taught me about the impact of the Jewish contribution to the economic development of the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

My gratitude to God for my blessings. 

## We need Your Stories!

We are currently looking for stories with ties to Texas Jewish history! Any kind of story about your family history or your Temple’s history can fill the pages of our quarterly newsletter. You can write it, or call our editor for an in-depth inter-

view, and it can be written for you!

Everyone has a story to tell, long or short. Your history is of interest to members across Texas and the nation! And you will be able to see your family’s history in print. It is a wonderful keepsake and a valuable piece

of genealogy for future generations.

So what are you waiting for? Send in your article to our assistant editor, Davie Lou Solka, at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org), mail it to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, or call her at 512-527-3799.

try is Jewish in a way that even I can understand and hold onto? I think the answer lies in something that I've realized while thinking about what Marc has done. One frequently hears the



term "rootlessness" thrown around to clarify the Jewish condition of perpetual wanderers, especially as it existed in the pre-Zionist world that brought my family to the States, and some of it to Lockhart. But the example of Hill Country makes me realize that a far better term than rootlessness is many-rooted. While usually not assimilating fully, Jews frequently

adopted the mores of the culture surrounding them, executing a process of replication whose intensity, earnestness, and fidelity to detail would be familiar to anyone who knows about Torah study, or to anyone who has been to Hill Country.

Had my grandparents been alive when I came up with this idea, they probably would have been scratching their heads. "Why in the world would you wanna do that?" Glosserman told me. But the proof is in the White Shoepeg Corn Pudding—Bethseda or not, Jewish or not, these are his roots, as he understands them. I remember my grandmother going and buying five pounds of brisket, ten links of sausage, and with this huge piece of butcher paper putting it on the table for everybody. Marc remembers childhood visits to Lockhart, and his expression, as he says this, with the way his eyes turn upwards as though he is looking backwards in time, tells

you what you need to know.

Nothing uniquely Jewish in that, despite how it sometimes feels, ours is



not the only food-obsessed culture. But the brashness and audacity required to locate your childhood not where you physically grew up, but where your self-defined heritage is, and then to go to somewhat outrageous lengths to recreate it in a place as culturally far removed from your heart's home as could be, strikes me as indelibly and unmistakably Jewish. As Jewish, as, well, my mother's brisket. 🇺🇸

## Hallettsville Jewish Cemetery Gazebo Restored

Samylu Rubin and Bob Gindler, TJHS board members, helped to restore the Gazebo in the Hallettsville Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville, Texas. Dr. Norman Rubin, Samylu's late husband and most of the deceased members of the Rubin Family are interred here.

Norman Rubin was born and raised in Hallettsville, and was very involved in his community. He was president of many organizations including the Chamber of Commerce,

Hallettsville Rotary Club, the South Texas Optometry Society, Temple Israel in Schulenberg, Texas, and of the Hallettsville Independent School District Board. He served on the Hallettsville School Board for twenty-five years.

Norman formed the Hallettsville Housing Authority and was chairman of that organization for fourteen years. Because of his dedication to proper housing for everyone, the Hallettsville Village Apartment Park was named in

his honor on Dr. Norman Rubin Day September 8, 2005. Norman Rubin passed away in Dallas on September 22, 2006.

Bob's wife, Laurie, who passed away in 2005, was also very active in the Hallettsville community, serving as chairperson of the City library for over twenty-three years. She was instrumental in obtaining grants for its expansion. Her ashes are in a Memorial Garden at the French Simpson Library in Hallettsville. 🇺🇸

**WANT THIS  
NEWSLETTER BY  
EMAIL?**

Would you like to save paper and instead receive this newsletter by email? You would be able to read the latest TJHS news in your inbox days before it would be scheduled to arrive in your mail

box. Please send an email to [alexa.kirk@gmail.com](mailto:alexa.kirk@gmail.com) indicating that you would like to be on the email list. (The usual size of the newsletter is 2 MB.)

# From Our Archives

by Vickie Vogel

*This is the second in a series of articles on materials and information that can be found in the TJHS archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas in Austin. If you would like to write an article on any of the items in the archives, please visit <http://www.cah.utexas.edu/services/using.php>.*

## Aubrey Sachs' Society Syncopators Orchestra by Vickie Vogel<sup>1</sup>

Aubrey Sachs was born on February 13, 1910, in Waco, the son of Harry Sachs (1857-1946) and Beatrice Blum Sachs (1875-1934). He lived in Waco all his life, where he was widely known for his business success, but how many of his friends later in life knew of his early musical career? Without formal music training, Aubrey played the piano by ear, but his first love was playing drums. In elementary school, he beat the drum for his principal to call the children to class.<sup>2</sup>

In the TJHS archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History,



*Aubrey Sachs*

there is a photocopy collection of press clippings from his years on the stage entertaining the citizens of

Waco.<sup>3</sup> Aubrey was the drummer, manager, and driving force behind a number of musical incarnations, variously called Aubrey Sachs Society Syncopators, the Southern Syncopators, Sachs Southern Orchestra, Aubrey Sachs Southern Syncopating Serenaders, or simply the Aubrey Sachs Orchestra. The newspapers from which the clippings are taken are not often identified, but most no doubt appeared in the Waco Times-Herald which began publication in 1897 as a morning paper, or the Waco News-Tribune, the afternoon paper.<sup>4</sup>

The stories read like any up-and-coming musician, until you realize Aubrey was only 15 at the time his musical career began to blossom. An orchestra of residents of the Hardin Apartments announced its formation with a piano, banjo, and drums. It is not known if they added a cornet and saxophone as planned. Aubrey was the drummer. Another article announced that a seven-piece orchestra was recently formed: Sachs' Southerners Orchestra of Waco. "After careful selection, the orchestra was finally assembled, the seven members all being well trained musicians. The managing director is Aubrey Sachs."<sup>5</sup>

The City Federation Valentine Bazaar on February 14, year unstated, included on the program "a seven piece orchestra composed of Aubrey Sachs, Clarence Hutchenride, Newton Padgitt, Edwin Dossett, Billy Statton,

Edwin Ginsberg, and Mrs. Frances McClusky."<sup>6</sup>

One ad touts that Sachs' Orchestra would be heard on radio station WJAD on Tuesday for "more than an hour. A varied assortment of popular dance numbers will be rendered," and referred to the jazz orchestra as the "ever-popular Society Syncopators." The group played again on WJAD on Monday, January 12. To book them, one is advised to "just phone 4278 and get Jazzland's Orchestra De Luxe."<sup>7</sup>

They played at the formal opening of the new Manhattan Cafe while free cakes and coffee were dispensed. Known for "the very latest of music," the Society Syncopators played at the St. Paul's Episocopal Church's 50th Anniversary festivities, whose announcement read that the May fete for the "young people on the tennis courts...will be followed by a dance with music by Aubrey Sachs' orchestra."<sup>8</sup>

Sachs' Southerners' Orchestra played at the regular meeting of Toby's Don't Worry Club<sup>9</sup> where a member was elevated to the "exalted position of Grand Knight Without Worry."<sup>10</sup> After the business meeting, refreshments were served with a musical program including Sachs' Southerners' Orchestra under the direction of Miss Frances McCloskey, pianist. The article touts that the orchestra is composed of boys, none over the age

*continued on page 7*

of 15, with Aubrey on drums.

The orchestra was popular at theaters and vaudeville-style shows, including the Hippodrome<sup>11</sup> when Raymond Griffith's "A Prince of a Fellow" played, with Aubrey Sachs Southern Syncopating Serenaders as an added attraction. The ad promises "moaning saxophones, the Charleston, joy, fun, pep."<sup>12</sup> The balconied Orpheum<sup>13</sup> also saw performances by the band. Few of the clippings are dated, but one appeared in the Waco newspaper on February 15, 1926 with an ad for the Orpheum Theater production of "Just Home Folks" written by William Byron Sutherland with "special music for the occasion by Aubrey Sachs and His Southern Syn-

copators." Theater patrons were urged to then go eat at the Manhattan Café, where Aubrey had also played. The play was pronounced a hit.

Grand openings of businesses were sometimes accompanied by live music, and Sachs' Syncopated Orchestra filled the bill for the grand opening of the Goodyear Shoe Repair Shop. The ad promised cigars for the gentlemen and souvenirs for the ladies. Baylor also steered business Aubrey's way in 1926 for the Annual Trained Bear Feed and Circus honoring Baylor's Golden Bears, including

their win over Texas A & M (Baylor 20, A & M 9). This event was sponsored by the Baylor Chamber of Commerce and the Society Syncopators played.

On June 5, 1925, Aubrey received a thank you letter from the YWCA for the Southerners Orchestra performance at their vaudeville event. Another thank you letter, signed by Lenore Goldstein, was received from "the Council" for playing at their bazaar. When the Waco Tigers<sup>14</sup> won the state football championship in 1927, the victory banquet was played by Sachs' Society Syncopators, the Orpheum Harmony Quartet, and Curtis Lightfoot. Moving pictures of the 1925 championship game between

Waco and Forest and the championship game of 1926 between Oak Cliff and Waco were shown, both of which Waco won.<sup>15</sup>

By the age of 25, Aubrey's musical career had given way to marriage and business. The Sachs and Feist families were life-long friends. Aubrey married Waco native Charlotte Rose Feist (1917-1989) on November 28, 1935 and they celebrated more than fifty anniversaries. They had one daughter, Jane Sachs Bounds,

who still lives in Waco. Aubrey enjoyed a successful career with his upscale women's clothing store, Sachs Austin Avenue, which closed in October, 1981.<sup>16</sup> The name is a clever play on Saks Fifth Avenue, and you are considered "Old Waco" if your mink coat has a tag from Sachs Austin Avenue.<sup>17</sup>

Aubrey Sachs died August 24, 1990 in his hometown, where he is buried in Hebrew Rest Cemetery.<sup>18</sup> Fortunately, the jubilant sounds of Waco's teenage drummer can still be heard in our archives.<sup>19</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup>With thanks to Ima Joy Gandler, our archivist, for background information.

<sup>2</sup>Telephone interview with Jane Sachs Bounds, June 11, 2009

<sup>3</sup>Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, TJHS D.I.T.H Box 3J162

<sup>4</sup>The Waco Times-Herald was purchased by the Waco News-Tribune in late 1927. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/WW/eww4.html>

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., Box 3J162

<sup>6</sup>Ibid., Box 3J162

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., Box 3J162

<sup>8</sup>Ibid., Box 3J162

<sup>9</sup>See a 1903 NYTimes article on the Don't Worry Clubs at [http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archivefree/pdf?\\_r=1&res=9F02EFDE1639E433A25757C2A9639C946297D6CF](http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archivefree/pdf?_r=1&res=9F02EFDE1639E433A25757C2A9639C946297D6CF). They were popular in other cities as well.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., Box 3J162

<sup>11</sup>The Hippodrome became the Waco theater. <http://www.wacohistoryproject.org/remember.htm> It was restored in 1987 as a performing arts center on Austin Avenue. <http://www.wacohistoryproject.org/timeline.html>

<sup>12</sup>Ibid., Box 3J162

<sup>13</sup><http://www.wacohistoryproject.org/remember.htm>

<sup>14</sup>When Waco high schools merged in 1986, the Tigers became the Lions. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waco\\_High\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waco_High_School)

<sup>15</sup>Waco was recognized as the national high school champion in 1927. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waco\\_High\\_School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waco_High_School)

<sup>16</sup>Telephone interview with Jane Sachs Bounds, June 11, 2009.

<sup>17</sup><http://www.wacohistoryproject.org/remember.htm>

<sup>18</sup><http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Sachs&GSsr=41&GRid=8503655&>



*Aubrey and Charlotte Rose Feist Sachs on their 50th anniversary in 1985.*

# Honor or Memorialize a Friend or a Loved One With a Donation to the TJHS Endowment Fund

When you honor or memorialize a friend or a loved one with a donation to the Texas Jewish Historical Society's Endowment Fund, you help support important programs. Send the honoree's full name, type of honor (memorial, congratulations, and occasion—birthday, anniversary, award, new child or grandchild, etc.) and your 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**

Your support of Texas Jewish Historical Society's programs is greatly appreciated and will be recognized in an issue of the quarterly news magazine. Thank you.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society gratefully acknowledges your gift to its Endowment Fund in the amount of

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

In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Save the Date!

Sherry Zander will have an exhibit of her photographs of small town synagogues at the Dell Jewish Community Center in Austin, Texas from September 2 to October 12, 2009. *(The dates in our last newsletter were incorrect.)*



## "The Monster Among Us" Wins Jury Award

Media Projects, founded by Allen Mondell and Cynthia Saltzman Mondell, is very proud to announce that their documentary on anti-Semitism in Europe today, *The Monster Among Us*, has received the Special Jury Award at the 42nd Annual WorldFest International Film Festival in Houston, held in May, 2009. This award recognizes outstanding creative achievement in filmmaking. During the ten-day festival, 450 filmmakers from more than thirty-two nations around the world were in attendance.

The film documents how, sixty years after the Holocaust, a new

brand of anti-Semitism has emerged once more in Europe, directly connected to radical Muslim beliefs and actions that have spread from the Middle East to Europe. Jews from all walks of life in six different European countries tell of being attacked in their neighborhoods, of cemeteries desecrated, of synagogues burned, and of being ostracized at work. This anti-Semitism has surfaced on university campuses, in the media, on the streets, at political demonstrations, on the Internet, and in seemingly innocent social situations. 





# Texas Jewish Historical Society Fall Board Meeting

## September 12-13, 2009 in Austin, Texas

at the **Holiday Inn NW Austin (NW/Arboretum)**

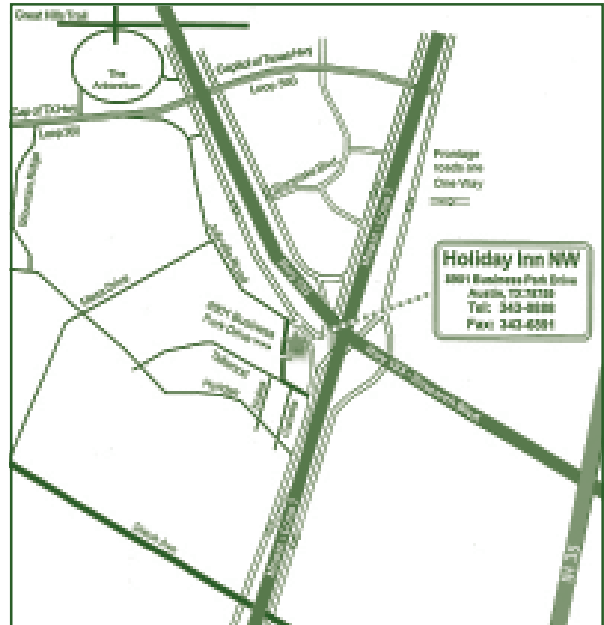
8901 Business Park Drive • Austin, Texas 78759, Reservations 512-343-0888

*Ask for the TJHS rate of \$99 per night, which includes breakfast. Guest will be billed for tax and gratuity.*

**Deadline for Hotel Reservations is August 28**

### Saturday, September 12, 2009

- 1:00 - 5:00 PM Meeting registration at hotel.
- 2:00 - 3:30 PM Tour of *Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island* at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum (optional—must have reservation).
- 6:30 PM Dinner at the hotel. Guest speaker is Jay Rubin, CEO of JCAA.



### Sunday, September 13, 2009

- 7:00 - 8:30 AM Breakfast at hotel for registered guests.
- 9:00 AM Board Meeting.

## Fall Board Meeting Registration Form

**Deadline for Registration is September 1**

Please list name of each person attending:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$38 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(number attending)

Mail form and check made out to TJHS to:  
Davie Lou Solka at 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759.  
If you have any questions, contact Davie Lou  
at 512-527-3799.

Please indicate your choice for dinner

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Guest 1  | Guest 2   |
| <input type="radio"/> Monterrey chicken            | <input type="radio"/> Reservations are Necessary for the Galveston Exhibit Tour |
| <input type="radio"/> Pasta w/vegetables           |   |
| <input type="radio"/> Attending Galveston Exhibit? |   |

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# TJHS Summer Board Meeting

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*Bob Abzug, Sally Drayer, Doug Braudaway, and Phil Albin.*



*Rusty and Mitzi Milstein*



*The TJHS Board convenes for a meeting. Back row: Doug Braudaway, David Leff, and Barbara and Ben Rosenberg. Front row: Ed Katten, Rosalie Weisfeld, Ima Joy Gandler, Joyce and Marc Wormser, and Rae Brown.*



*Rosalie Weisfeld, Vickie Vogel, Ima Joy Gandler, and Ed Katten.*



*Rae Brown and David Leff*

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# Rockport, June 27-28, 2009

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*Elaine and Phil Albin, our hosts for Saturday evening dessert.*



*Above picture: TJHS President Sally Drayer conducts the board meeting while recording secretary Marilyn Jorrie takes the minutes.*



*Picture to the left: Doris Katten, Claire Brooks, Julian Serebrin, and Dick Brooks.*

*Picture below: Back row: Jack Solka, Marc Wormser, Phil and Elaine Albin, Vickie Vogel, and Joyce Wormser. Front row: Larry and Helen Wilk.*



*Jack Solka and Joyce Wormser*



# Requests for Help

## Need Information on Charles and Idah Friedman of Dallas

Oren Nauman, of Tel Aviv, Israel, is looking for information concerning the family of Charles & Idah Friedman of Dallas. Charles Friedman was born September 6, 1906, and passed away on September 3, 1986; Idah Friedman was born June 9, 1915, and passed away September 1, 1995.

They are buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park in Dallas. The last address that Mr. Nauman had for the Friedmans was 6714 Pemberton Drive in Dallas. The Friedmans had three daughters, but Mr. Nauman does not know their names. If you have any information about the Friedman family, please contact Mr. Nauman at [orennauman@gmail.com](mailto:orennauman@gmail.com).

## Need Information on Jewish Immigrants involved in the Beauty Pageant Industry

Tranette Ledford of San Antonio, Texas, is looking for information about Jewish German immigrants who were involved in the beauty pageant industry in Texas during 1924 and 1925. She has come across one name, Otto J. Pfeiffer, from an archival search in old Galveston newspapers. If you have any information that could help her, contact her at

10806 Tioga  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
Office: 210-886-8821  
Mobile: 210-849-0545  
Email: [tranette@ledfordllc.com](mailto:tranette@ledfordllc.com)  
<http://www.ledfordllc.com/>

## Seeking Eastern European Correspondence

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People is looking for personal or family correspondence written from Eastern Europe to relatives in the United States, Israel, or elsewhere—especially for the years preceding the outbreak of World War II, but also for other periods. Many people holding such letters are unaware of their historical significance. Please send original materials or photocopies to [archives@vms.huji.ac.il](mailto:archives@vms.huji.ac.il)

**Thank you for any help you can provide!**

## TJHS Traveling Exhibit

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has compiled two museum quality photo exhibits with explanations depicting early Jewish life and contributions. Both exhibits highlight the lives of Jews in Texas since the early part of the century.

Each exhibit is comprised of approximately thirty-six photographs that can either be self-standing with an easel back or hung on a wall. There is no charge for the exhibits and they will be shipped prepaid freight via UPS in

waterproof boxes to your location. The only expense to the borrower will be the shipping of the exhibit back via UPS ground.

The exhibits have been displayed in various locations in Texas and other parts of the United States, including Rhode Island and California. They are an excellent program for schools, congregations and other organizations. To schedule the exhibits, please contact Jack Gerrick at 817-927-8765 or email him at [texbed@aol.com](mailto:texbed@aol.com).

## In Memoriam

**R. D. Moses**, Fort Worth, past TJHS Board Member, died May 9, 2009. He is survived by his wife Beverly, children Lynell Bond, Rene and Dee Johnson, Buddy and Rochelle Moses, Arthur and Linda Moses, and Shayne and Lisa Moses, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

**Milton Harelik**, past TJHS Board Member, died in Hamilton, Texas on June 19, 2009. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, children Mark & Spenser Harelik, Marcia and Joe Medrano, and Matt and April Harelik, and two grandchildren.

**Jeanne Hurwitz**, Houston, TJHS member, died in Houston. Among her survivors is her husband Phil.

**May their memories be a blessing.**

**The deadline for the November, 2009 TJHS Newsletter is September 5.**

# — Symposium on the 100th Anniversary — of the Galveston Movement

Did your family come to Texas through Galveston at the turn of the 20th century? If so, they might have been aided by an organized immigration plan—known as the Galveston Movement—that helped Eastern European Jews find homes and jobs in the American Heartland.

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum and the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin are proud to announce an upcoming Symposium in Austin, Texas, on September 10 and


11, 2009, on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Galveston Movement.

The Movement brought thousands of Jews to small towns in Texas and throughout the Midwest between 1907 and 1914 through the gateway of Galveston Island. The Symposium is part of a year of programming held in conjunction with the Bullock Museum’s nationally traveling exhibit, “Forgotten Gateway: Coming to American Through Galveston Island.”

The Symposium will bring together national scholars, medical doctors, playwrights, rabbis, filmmakers, children’s authors, and descendants for a full day and a half of discussions and presentations. Also featured will be children’s book readings, scholarly papers, and film clips on such topics as the harsh treatment of “Hebrews” by medical and legal inspectors at America’s Gateway, the plight of the single woman traveling alone, and the Angels of Mercy who helped newcomers settle in their new homeland.

Come share your own family stories. Listen to the stories of Texas Jews whose parents or grandparents came through Galveston at this time. Participate in the debates about the value and legality of this immigration plan and take a behind-the-scenes tour with Dr. Suzanne Seriff, curator of the Forgotten Gateway exhibit.

A \$25 fee includes a fabulous reception of Eastern European delicacies on Thursday evening, September 10, as well as a lox and bagel breakfast and catered luncheon on Friday, September 11. The Symposium is generously funded by the Schusterman Center, the Texas State History Museum, and Humanities Texas.

For more information or to reserve your space at the Symposium, call the museum at 512-936-4649. Credit cards may be used for payment. 



UTSA's Institute of Texas Cultures 073-0938, San Antonio, Courtesy Temple Bnai Israel.



Courtesy David and Binnie Hoffman, Evant

*Charlie Hoffman, grandfather of TJHS board member, David Hoffman.*

# Speakers Bureau

When an organization asks TJHS for a speaker, we will suggest those on our list who match the criteria. That organization is responsible for making contact with the speaker and handling any details. No re-

muneration (other than expenses, lodging, meals, etc.) is provided to the speaker. If you would like to be included in this database, please provide the following information:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Topic(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of each topic (use another sheet of paper if needed):

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\_\_\_\_\_

Distance you are willing to travel: \_\_\_\_\_

Restrictions or special requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this information to:  
Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193,  
or email it to txjhs@yahoo.com.*



# Texas Jewish Historical Society 2009-2010

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### *1st Vice-President*

Rusty Milstein (Longview)

### *2nd Vice-President*

David Hoffman (Evant)

### *3rd Vice-President*

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Samylu Rubin (Dallas)

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Jenny Solomon (Fort Worth)

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David Vogel (La Grange)

Hollace Weiner (Fort Worth)

Sherry Zander (Dallas)

Rotating Member (Various)

## Welcome New Members!

*April 17, 2009 - June 26, 2009*

### **Boris & Jolene Shif**

3306 Cumberland  
San Angelo, TX 76904  
325-617-4643  
808-255-6812  
joleneshif@yahoo.com

### **Has Your Address Changed?**

If you have any changes in your information, please send those changes to: **Leon Brachman, 3720 Autumn Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109, phone: 817-924-9207, e-mail: leonhb@flash.net**

## Save the Date

**September 12-13, 2009**

Fall Board Meeting in Austin

**January 15-17, 2010**

Joint Board Meeting with  
Oklahoma Jewish Historical  
Society in Tulsa

**April 23-25, 2010**

Annual Gathering in **Dallas**

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

P.O. Box 10193  
Austin, Texas 78766-0193

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## **Texas Jewish Historical Society** **New Membership and Information Update Form**

Join the Texas Jewish Historical Society today! Or use this form to update your contact information. Complete each section below. Clip out and mail this form with your check made payable to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. **Please PRINT.**

**YES!** Count me in! My dues are enclosed.  Please **update** my information

### Check the Appropriate Box(es)

New Member  Gift Membership/Recipient's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewing Member Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 **Updated Information Only** Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

\$36 Annual Member  \$100 Sponsor  \$500 Benefactor  
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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law.*