

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

September 14, 1982

On this occasion of the beginning of our New Year, I wish to send greetings to all our membership and their families. I hope to see all of you in person at our Fourth Annual Meeting in Dallas next February 12 and 13. I implore all of you to do as much historical research on our ethnic group in Texas as possible. We have a proud record and a proud heritage. It MUST BE RECORDED. This is our Society's reason for existence!

Even though you may have moved to Texas only recently, the record of our religious group in this state forms the spiritual roots for all of us, regardless of how long our families have lived here.

Shalom and a Very Happy New Year,

Frances Kallison
(Mrs. Perry) Frances Kallison

PUBLISHING ARTICLES

Members of The Texas Jewish Historical Society are encouraged to write articles on the Jews of Texas; as, of now, few have been written. TJHS is associated with the Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly, and members may submit articles to the editor for publication consideration. TJHS also encourages affiliation with and research for The American Jewish Historical Society. The AJHS Journal also publishes some research articles. A bibliography on research and oral history is available from them.

MEETINGS

On August 23 the TJHS Board held its mid-year meeting at the Dallas Community Center. Also present were representatives of the Center and Dallas members of the TJHS who are planning the 1983 Annual Meeting to be held in Dallas on February 12 and 13 at the Harvey House Hotel on the LBJ Freeway. Special room rates are \$40 for a single or double. Mr. Herman Abrams is Chairman, assisted by Mrs. Ginger Jacobs. Other committee members will be announced in the January 1983 Newsletter along with program details, registration fees, and cards for room reservations. At the 1982 Annual Meeting it was recommended that a special table be set up for those members wishing to display materials of historical interest, as well as local or regional meetings, to be held at various times during the year.

Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum is sponsoring a three day international symposium on "The Life and Legacy of Judah L. Magnes" on October 11, 12, and 13, 1982, in Berkeley, California.

The Texas State Historical Society's annual meeting will be held the first weekend in March 1983 in Houston, Texas. Mr. Anderes Saustrup, guest at the 1982 Annual Meeting, has invited all TJHS members to attend.

ROSTER

Mrs. Frances Kallison, President, announced that a TJHS roster will be mailed to all paid-up members this year. Dues are now payable.

MEMBERSHIP

Ways to increase and retain membership was discussed at the 1982 Annual Meeting. Proposals included local community meetings, solicitation of people interested in Texas Jewish history, a speaker's bureau, news releases, and a new \$5.00 membership category for children.

New membership envelopes have been printed and will be sent, upon request, to

potential members by Mr. Ed Lax, Treasurer, 4507 Goodfellow, Dallas, Texas 75229. Everyone is asked to seek out new members. In addition, Mrs. Kallison is urging members to submit, along with their dues payments, family trees so that TJHS may begin a historical collection of genealogies.

NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter will be published twice a year until the TJHS publishes its own journal. News items of historical value, bibliographies pertinent to Texas Jewish history, research material sources, and articles on Texas Jews found in print (as in local newspapers and magazines) are welcomed by the editor, Susanna Friedman, 10911 Rampart Avenue, Houston, Texas 77096.

PRESERVATION OF MATERIALS

A tour of the University of Texas at Austin archives was provided as part of the 1982 Annual Meeting program. The tour guide demonstrated how to encapsulate historical materials by using mylar to form a protective "pocket" slightly larger than the materials encased, so that the 3M magic transparent tape used to seal the open sides of the mylar would not stick onto the historical materials. Personal historical material may be preserved by anyone, and mylar is usually available at art supply stores.

PICTURES

At the 1982 Annual Meeting Mrs. Ima Joy Gandler of Waco, Texas, informed members that Baylor University has an archival picture collection to which additions are welcome. Information as to person(s), place, date, etc., and historical information identifying the picture is to be written lightly on the reverse side or on an attached sheet. The Baylor archivist will copy the original picture and return it to the owner.

PAPERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

At the 1982 Annual Meeting of the TJHS, Mrs. Frances Kallison presented a paper entitled "Phineas de Cordova, Pioneer Journalist and Land Developer". He was born in Philadelphia and came to Texas from Jamaica, the de Cordova family seat in the Western Hemisphere. This was the first paper given at an annual meeting and contained many interesting anecdotes. It was very informative as well, for Mrs. Kallison discussed the research involved and gave clues as to the many ways of finding items of historical value.

Any TJHS member wishing to present a paper at the 1983 Annual Meeting in Dallas must send a brief synopsis to Mrs. Kallison, President, by November 1982. A selection committee will then choose the most interesting ones for delivery:

Mrs. Frances Kallison, President
Texas Jewish Historical Society
306 Stanford Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78212

"JEWS IN TEXAS" PAMPHLET

For the Sesquicentennial of Texas, Mrs. Kallison is assembling a pamphlet on Texas Jewry covering the period 1835 to 1836 and the era of the Texas Republic. Copies of materials or articles should be submitted to her as soon as possible for inclusion in this pamphlet. Publication is set for 1986.

ARTICLES ON JEWS IN TEXAS

Articles on Jews in Texas have appeared in past years in issues of the Junior Historian and The Texas Historian (Jews in Jefferson, Texas, and Eagle Pass, Texas are included.)

The Dallas Jewish Archives has had "Today is Tomorrow's History" on display.

A more recent series on contemporary Jewish artists in Texas, written by Susanna Friedman, was published in the Association of Jewish Libraries Bulletin. Artists included are Chaim Goldberg, Judy Saks Rosenthal, Efim Frumin and Frank Freed, each featured with some of their paintings in a separate issue of the AJL Bulletin. In the Winter 1981 issue the latest one featured was Alice Cahana.

JUNIOR HISTORIAN ESSAY CONTEST

The Texas State Historical Association in conjunction with the Texas Jewish Historical Society will award, this coming year, prizes for historical essays submitted by students from religious schools of synagogues and temples, or from private or public schools. Essay topics must be either on Texas Jewish culture, history, biography, an experience, or about a Texas Jewish community. Winning essays will be published in the Association's Junior Historian magazine. Two prizes will be given in the amount of \$50.00 to a student from a Junior High/Middle School and one to a Senior High School student. Since Texas is celebrating its Sesquicentennial of Texas Independence, a student may wish to do research on Jews in the War for Independence or in the Republic of Texas, Mrs. Kallison stated. Articles should be sent to Mrs. Frances Kallison, 306 Stanford Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78212 by ~~January 15~~, 1983, for submission to the Judges Committee. *2,000 words maximum, March*

RESOURCES

A resource list of articles and materials on Texas Jewry, with their locations, is to be compiled by Past-President James Kessler for use by researchers. This list will include oral history tapes and printed material, with the names and addresses of agencies, libraries, or persons where the materials are located. Religious institutions, organizations, and individuals holding or knowing about historical materials available to researchers are asked to contact Mr. Kessler or Mrs. Susanna Friedman:

Mr. James Kessler
1508 Northwood Road
Austin, Texas 78703

Mrs. Susanna Friedman, Editor
TJHS Newsletter
10911 Rampart
Houston, Texas 77096

Synagogues with archives are asked to give the name of the person to whom a researcher should write to obtain permission to use their facilities. Historical sketches and other information on Jews in small Texas communities (i.e., McKinney, Sherman, Corsicana, Greenville, Sulphur Springs, Tyler, etc.) would be welcome. Second-generation children who have moved from such small communities to larger cities, Mrs. Kallison suggested, may have valuable information to submit.

Research sources will be furnished researchers, but research itself will not be done for anyone.

ORAL HISTORY - SPEAKER

Dr. Kenneth Ragsdale, past Director of Education and member of the Texas State Historical Association delivered a talk at the 1982 TJHS Annual Meeting. He spoke about his oral history research of the ghost town of Terlingua, and he emphasized the need to research multiple sources before undertaking an oral history project. Sources to search include correspondence, records of all types (business and personal), photographs, newspaper accounts, and legal papers. "The human experience of people is what to search for," he said. To ensure a complete oral history picture, he stated, it is also necessary to collect data on the social, political, geographic, and economic conditions of the time and to explain the *raison d'etre* of the person or place researched, Dr. Ragsdale has recorded oral histories of Dallas and Ft. Worth residents, which included information on Jews of those areas.

ORAL HISTORY - FORMATS

For those members desiring to do oral histories, some recommended books are:

Oral History for Texans by Thomas L. Charlton, Director of the Baylor University Program for Oral History, published by The Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711. It contains a short form for an oral history.

Oral History for the Local Historical Society by Willa M. Baum, American Association for State and Local History, Nashville, Tennessee, 1971 edition.

Our Family History published by Avenel Books of New York has forms to use for a family tree.

Record and Remember; Tracing Your Roots Through Oral History, by Ellen Robinson and Rona Mendelsohn, published by Monarch, Division of Simon and Schuster, 1978.

Shiloah; Discovering Jewish Identity Through Oral/Folk History, a Source Book, by Passi Rosen-Bayewitz and Minda Novek, Institute for Jewish Life in New York, 1976.

A 6-page Oral History Outline and Bibliography, prepared by Mrs. Ginger Jacobs. For a copy send \$1.50 to cover postage and mailing costs to her at 7060 Brookshire Drive, Dallas, Texas 75230.

ORAL HISTORY

Dr. Elaine Maas and Mr. Lionel Schooler, TJHS members from Houston, and Mrs. Selma Weiner of the Institute for Texas Cultures from San Antonio, were appointed by President Kallison to compile an oral history source list for research use.

Dr. Maas stated that oral histories can be formal, factual ones for statistical or sociological purposes, or may be informal, whereby the interviewee talks, guided unobtrusively by an interviewer who keeps the interviewee "on line," if needed, to pursue unfinished anecdotes or other topics which may be important to record.

The oral history sources will be part of the Research Bank and the list of source material available for researchers.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Allan and Cynthia Mondell of Media Projects in Dallas, Texas, announced at the 1982 Annual Meeting that the film "West of Hester Street: The Galveston Movement" is now in the production stage. Shooting began at the end of the 1982 summer. TJHS has given support for this project and will be furnished copies of the completed film.

CONDOLENCES OR HAPPY OCCASIONS

President Kallison is asking members to notify her of any sad or happy occasion among our membership. Members may write her at her home address.

THANKS

The editor and President Kallison would like to thank Leah Rae Miron for her able assistance in editing this Newsletter and to all the other volunteers who offered to help get out this publication.

OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF TJHS

For those members who have not received a list of the officers and trustees of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, a list is attached.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FAMILY HISTORY

Attached is a bibliography of some of the many books available for information on how to do a family history.

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 7986
University Station
Austin, Texas 78712

1982
OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Mrs. Perry (Frances) Kallison
306 Stanford Drive
San Antonio, Texas 78212

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT Mr. Lionel Schooler
12331 Silo Lane
Houston, Texas 77071

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT TO BE FILLED AT A LATER DATE

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Mr. Lee Wunsch
12122 Kittybrook
Houston, Texas 77071

RECORDING SECRETARY Mrs. Michael (Ginger) Jacobs
7060 Brookshire
Dallas, Texas 75230

TREASURER Mr. Edwin Lax
4507 Goodfellow
Dallas, Texas 75229

ARCHIVIST Mr. Jimmy Kessler
1508 Northwood Road
Austin, Texas 78703

ASSOCIATE ARCHIVIST Mrs. Ben (Susanna) Friedman
10911 Rampart Avenue
Houston, TX 77096

TRUSTEES

Mrs. Louis (Audrey) Kariel	503 Lansdowne	Marshall	76570
Mrs. J. E. (Ima Joy) Gandler	3001 Wooded Acres	Waco	76710
Mr. Colin Carl	5908 Highland Hills Dr.	Austin	78731
Mr. Edward Gardner	10101 Fondren, #134	Houston	77096
Rabbi David Jacobson	207 Beechwood Lane	San Antonio	78216
Mrs. Joseph (Helene) Levy	107 Market	Galveston	77550
Mrs. H. D. (Norma) Schlinger	7023 Mason Dells	Dallas	75230
Mrs. H. J. (Barbara) Schachtel	2527 Glenhaven	Houston	77030
Mr. Milton Smith	8112 West Court	Austin	78759

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Susanna Friedman
10911 Rampart Ave.
Houston, Texas 77096

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HOUSTON, TX 77096



James + Shelley Kessler
1508 Northwood Rd.
Justin, TX 78703