



NEWSLETTER

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WINTER, 1985-1986

TJHS ANNUAL GATHERING TO BE HELD IN DALLAS MARCH 14 - 16, 1986

The Annual Gathering of the Texas Jewish Historical Society will be hosted by the Dallas Jewish Archives at the Dallas Jewish Community Center on March 14-16, 1986. This year's guest speaker will be Don Carleton, Director of the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas in Austin. The archives of the Texas Jewish Historical Society are housed at the Barker Center.

Dr. Carleton will be presenting an overview of his recently published book, *Red Scare* (Texas Monthly Press) which deals with the McCarthy era in Texas on Saturday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the JCC in Dallas.

A native of Dallas, Dr. Carleton received his PhD in History from the University of Houston. He has been the director of the Barker Texas History Center since 1979, as well as a faculty member of the University of Texas. He is on the editorial board of *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and is the author of many scholarly and popular publications on Texas History. Dr. Carleton is a recent appointee of Governor Mark White to the Texas History Records Advisory Board. He also advised James Michener on his novel, *Texas*.

Dr. Carleton will also be leading a workshop on Sunday morning during the Annual Gathering.

Other workshops will be conducted by author and historian Ruth Winegarten and Chester de Cordova, a descendant of the Jewish pioneer family. Natalie Ornish, who has recently written a pamphlet describing the involvement of Jews in the Texas War of Independence, will also lead a workshop.

Accommodations for out of town guests attending the Gathering will be provided by Harvey House Hotel at Coit Road and L.B.J. Freeway. Single or double rooms are priced at \$45.00 per night.

For further information or to make your reservation for the Annual Gathering, contact Karen S., 7900 Northaven Road, Dallas, Texas 75230, 214-739-2737. ☆

Annual Gathering - March 14, 15, 16 Dallas, Texas PROGRAM

Friday, March 14

Friday evening services at
Temple Shalom
6930 Alpha Road
Rabbi Kenneth Roseman
Oneg Shabbat honoring TJHS
following.

Saturday, March 15

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Executive Board Lunch

Registration at Harvey House
Hotel, Coit Road and L.B.J.

2:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Presentation by Rabbi Sheldon
Zimmerman
of Temple Emanuel in Dallas

7:15 P.M.

Cocktails

8:00 P.M.

Dinner at Sheraton Park Central
Coit Road & LBJ

Sunday, March 16

8:30 A.M.

Continental Breakfast at JCC

9:00-1:00

General Assembly of Membership

10:00 A.M.

Workshops

Hotel Rooms - single or double \$45.00

Dinner and Cocktails on Saturday night

\$50.00 per couple

\$25.00 per single

Local News . . .

AUDREY DANIELS KARIEL DONATES RECORDS TO MUSEUM

Marshall - Mrs. Audrey Daniels Kariel has recently donated all of the records of Temple Moses Montefiore of Marshall to the Harrison County Museum. Mrs. Kariel, who has been in possession of the records since 1973, says that she felt that "this would be a good way to remember the Jewish Community (of Marshall) in the Sesquicentennial year."

In 1887, Jewish residents of the Marshall area organized the Moses Montefiore congregation. Daniel Doppelmayer, a Civil War veteran and pioneer Jewish settler, was the first president and it was at his suggestion that the congregational name was chosen to honor Sir Moses Montefiore (1784-1885), the noted Jewish financier and philanthropist of England.

The temple itself was constructed in 1900 under the direction of President Ike Hockwald. An elaborate Middle Eastern style structure, the temple served as the congregation's place of worship and center of the community's cultural and civic activity until 1973, when it was razed.

It was in 1973 when Mrs. Kariel took possession of the records. She subsequently published an article about the history of the Jews in Marshall in *Western States Jewish Quarterly* (April, 1982) based on a paper she gave to the Southern Jewish Historical Society in 1980. Her story was published in Spanish in *Herencia Judia* which reached Caribbean and South American readers. She also presented a paper at the TJHS Annual Gathering in 1981.

The records include B'nai Brith minute and roll books dating back to 1876 as well as congregational minutes from 1887. There were also minute books from the Temple Sisterhood dating from 1930, when it was founded. These minutes, says Mrs. Kariel, "show how their social hall was built in the 1930's by selling homemade hot tamales."

The collection also includes the minutes from a social group called the Jewish Ladies Aid Society. These minutes recorded births, deaths, marriages, and all events of Jewish life in Marshall for many years.

In addition, records from the oldest Jewish organization in Marshall, the Hebrew Benevolent Society, are in the collection. The Society was the owner of the Hebrew Cemetery Association. These records also date back to 1887.

Mrs. Kariel says that when she obtained the records, her goals were to preserve Marshall's Jewish history by publishing as well as obtaining a historical marker for the site where Temple Moses Montefiore once stood. The marker was placed in 1982.

Mrs. Kariel continues to offer lectures on Marshall's Jewish community for churches, schools, and clubs in her area.

Ft. Worth - The Jewish community of Ft. Worth is planning a Sesquicentennial Celebration to honor the significant contributions of the Jewish Community to the growth and development of Ft. Worth, according to Allen Kottler, director of the Dan Danziger JCC of Ft. Worth.

Under the auspices of the Danziger JCC, a sesquicentennial committee of about 60 people has been formed to plan the multi-stage celebration. The committee is currently in the process of collecting histories and memorabilia as well as cataloging them for reference.

The committee is divided into many sub-committees including: History of Jewish Business, Family Histories, Jewish Organizations, Historical Sites and Demographic Movements, and Oral Histories. Other committees will be developing exhibits, slide presentations, a map and guide book, as well as a commemorative book about the Jewish Community in Ft. Worth to be published in late 1986.

The efforts of the committee are directed to the development of a tour of the historical Jewish sites in Ft. Worth with exhibits at each site. The tour will culminate with a larger exhibition of memorabilia at the JCC. The tour is expected to begin in May.

The Ft. Worth Sesquicentennial Committee is chaired by Barbara Rubin.

The Ft. Worth Sesquicentennial Project is being funded in large part by the Endowment Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ft. Worth and Tarrant County and the Potishman Laird Foundation.

Corsicana - In 1898, a group of Reform Jews established Temple Beth-El in Corsicana. By 1900, the congregation dedicated a small synagogue with octagonal onion-domed towers on 15th Street. Although nearly 500 Jews lived in the city at that time, the congregation has diminished until their numbers were too few to support the Temple in 1980.

In 1981, the building and the lot were offered for sale. A group of people interested in the preservation of Corsicana's historical buildings formed the Save the Temple committee to try to save the Temple from destruction. With the help of many generous gifts from local foundations, service clubs, and private citizens, funds were raised. Local professionals donated their time and expertise to make certain that all procedures were in compliance with proper standards for historical preservation. With the endorsement of the Navarro Historical Society, the committee purchased the Temple on February 24, 1982 from the local congregation for \$30,000. The purchase price included a grant of \$10,000 from the Texas State Historical Commission.

Work is now underway to halt the advance of deterioration, especially to stop water erosion under the building and stabilize the foundation. The cost of external restoration will be about \$30,000 and an additional \$30,000 will be required to restore the interior of the Temple.

When the building is restored, it will provide a much needed small community center for groups of 75 to 100. Corsicana has no other civic center.

The Navarro Historical Society has called for contributions to preserve this stately building for the future.

Contributions may be sent to Save the Temple, 1517 Princeton, Corsicana, Texas 75110.

From the President's Corner . . .

Time

I do not know exactly what it is.

I know that it can frustrate, enrich, heal all wounds, put the lie to prediction and perhaps most of all, give us something from which to learn. We can kill it, spend it, waste it, measure it — and still never know what it is.

Mostly, we trivialize it. And that is our great sin. The truth is, no matter how we utilize time, there is some very powerful instinct within each of us that makes us look back with fondness at "the good old days".

Not just our own "good old days" either. I mean the prior existence of our kinsmen.

Like the magical organic process by which coal is converted into diamonds, *Time Makes Diamonds*.

The steerage ticket a forefather used to gain passage to America;

the scribbled recipe a great-grandmother kept for making gefilte fish;

the books of account for an ancestor's day of labor;
a business card, a post card, or an old photograph,
capturing a moment little known and long forgotten.

All of these things may have been of little consequence to mankind, but now they are diamonds.

Time Makes History.

That is what the Texas Jewish Historical Society is all about.

Do not be intimidated by the methodology or talent of the professional historian. History is what we make of it.

The Texas Jewish experience has not been told yet by the professional historians. It depends upon all of us for the telling. It's just a matter of doing it.

By providing the diamonds of our existence, we, *all of us*, can show that we counted for something and that the Texas Jewish experience has been a rich, stimulating, enduring experience.

Lionel M. Schooler
Houston, Texas

TEXAS JEWISH WOMEN FEATURED IN NEW BOOK

Ten Jewish women are featured in a new book by Ruthe Winegarten, *From Indian to Astronaut, a Pictorial History of Texas Women*. It will be published by Eakin Press, and includes some 250 historical photographs. The publication date is March, 1986.

Jewish women were pioneers, spies, business leaders, and community builders. They were wives, mothers, religious leaders, judges, and novelists. As individuals and through their organizations, they have contributed to the development of the state.

Jewish women pictured in the book include Helena Landa of New Braunfels who managed the family's general store, cotton gin, and flour mill when her husband fled during the Civil War to avoid being hanged for freeing their slaves. Landa preserved Jewish traditions by reciting Friday night prayers, lighting candles, and observing Passover. Rosanna Osterman of Galveston is noted for bringing the first rabbi to Texas in 1852.

Olga Kohlberg of El Paso, Anna Hertzberg of San Antonio, and Gerry Beer of Dallas are representative of a large number of Jewish women who founded community institutions. Kohlberg led the El Paso Women's Club to found Texas's first kindergarten and El Paso's first public hospital. Hertzberg founded the San Antonio Symphony Orchestra and was a leader of the National Council of Jewish Women. Gerry Beer founded and was first president of Dallas's Family Place, a shelter for battered women and their children.

Jewish women have been leaders in the world of fashion. Elsie Frankfurt designed the nation's first fashionable maternity clothes and with her two sisters founded a family corporation, the Page Boy Company, to market them. Carrie Marcus Neiman, co-founder of Neiman-Marcus, brought high fashion to Texas. And Idelle Rabin, owner of Dallas's Delann's, received the Golden Sun Award by the Southwest Apparel Manufacturers Association for creative retailing.

To order the book, write Rosegarden Press, Box 49084, Austin, Texas 78765.

The editor incorrectly reported in the Autumn newsletter that the Hebrew Cemetery at Hempstead would be rededicated in memory of Louis Gale. The correct name is Lamar Gale. The editor regrets the error.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society seeks to collect, preserve, publish and popularize materials that chronicle the Texas Jewish experience. You can contribute by sending articles for our newsletter, materials for our archives and by sending your tax deductible donation for our projects.

We urge individuals, families and organizations to share their histories with us. Articles and photographs for publication in the Newsletter should be sent to Cathy Schechter, 1910 Avenue K, Galveston, Texas 77550. Deadline for the spring newsletter is April 1, 1986.

Materials for the archives should be sent to Jimmy Kessler at 1508 Northwood Road, Austin, Texas 78703. Photostatic copies of memorabilia are acceptable.

Your financial support is also needed to preserve our history for future generations. Please send your membership dues today in the enclosed envelope.

Bulletin Board . . .

Mrs. Viola Weiss, Executive Director of Jewish Children's Regional Service in New Orleans, writes to tell us that information is available from agency files. The agency has been in existence since 1855 and operated the Jewish Children's Home until 1946. Many children from Texas lived in the home during its years of operation.

According to Mrs. Weiss, some of the children were orphans, while others were left by a widowed parent who could no longer care for them.

While the data available on children who were residents in the home may be sparse, it will usually provide a birth date, place of birth, parents' names, as well as the siblings who were also in the home.

Today, the Agency provides consultation and placement services for troubled children as well as scholarships and camperships for Jewish children.

Anyone who believes that one of his or her forebears was a resident of the Jewish Children's Home can contact Mrs. Weiss at P.O. Box 15225, New Orleans, Louisiana 70175. There is a records search fee of \$15.00. ☆

Mrs. Marvin Sheiness of Alice, Texas is a member of her local Sesquicentennial Committee. She has asked that anyone with descendants and / or knowledge of the Jewish community in Duval County or Alice, Texas contact her at 223 Presnall, Alice, Texas 78332

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Texas Jewish Historical Society

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