



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 10193 • Austin, Texas 78766-0193 • Fall 1990

HOLD THE DATE

What?

Open Board meeting of the Texas Jewish Historical Society in Houston.

When?

Sunday, October 7
9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Where?

At the Jewish Community Center in Houston, 5601 S. Braeswood.

Reservations

To reserve lunch (\$5), please call Barbara Rosenberg (713-494-2668) or write her at 219 Lombardy, Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Curriculum Guide is Out

Society's Texas Jewish history aimed at seventh graders

Representatives of Houston Jewish religious and day schools will receive copies of a new *Curriculum Guide*, recently published by the Texas Jewish Historical Society, at its Board meeting on October 7, according to Doris Glasser, committee chair.

Copies will be distributed to all religious schools in Texas.

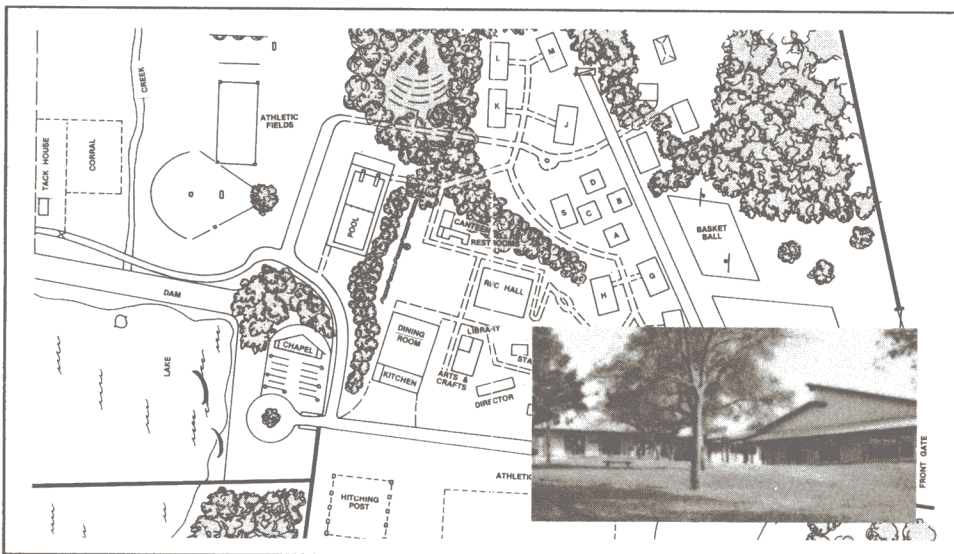
The *Guide* is written for use at the seventh grade level when all Texas junior high students must study Texas history. Funded by the Foundation of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and two native Dallasites, Dr. Stanley Schneider (Austin) and Martin



Freida Weiner, octogenarian and community leader (right) and friend in front of the Houston JCC.

Schneider (Atlanta), the *Guide* is designed to be used as its major text and reference for the TeJHaS's new book, *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*.

The *Guide* was written by Kenneth Midlo, director of education for Houston's Temple Beth Israel and former president of the National Association of Temple Educators.



The Greene Family Camp in Bruceville is just off IH-35, between Waco and Temple.

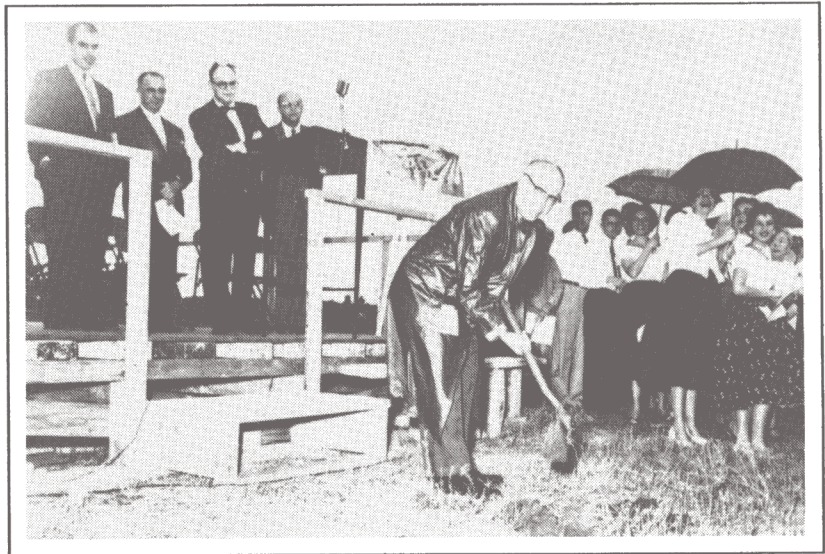
Camp named site of annual meet

Next year's annual meeting has been set for March 1-3 at the Greene Family Camp, located in a lovely rural setting, with large meeting rooms, a library, comfortable cabins, and delicious food. We will enjoy a stimulating weekend in a relaxed and comfortable setting at reasonable prices (\$100, includes everything). Hotel rooms will also be available in Waco and Temple. The Board met July 1 at the Greene Camp and was impressed with the facilities.

Historical Marker to be placed at Temple Emanu-El cemetery —

2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, 3430 Howell at Lemmon

Texas pioneers in business buried at site in Dallas



Courtesy of Dorothy M and Henry S. Jacobus Temple Emanu-El Archives

Louis Tobian, chair of the Temple Emanu-El Building Committee, wields the shovel in 1955 for the groundbreaking of Temple Emanu-El's building at 8500 Hillcrest in Dallas.

The Temple Emanu-El Cemetery, established in 1884 by Temple Emanu-El Congregation at Howell at Lemmon Avenue, was the second Jewish cemetery in Dallas. (The first was established by the Hebrew Benevolent Society in 1872, located downtown on Akard St.

It is now called the Pioneer Cemetery beside the Dallas Convention Center.)

The first burials at the Howell location were those of Russian immigrants Aaron L. Levy and Jacob Rosenthal, both born in Russia in 1856 and died on October 7, 1884.

Others interred here are many of Dallas' earliest business, civic religious, political and social leaders like Sanger, Harris, Dreyfuss, Marcus, Kahn, Linz, and Kramer, as well as Rabbis David Lefkowitz and Levi A.

Olan. Also buried here are veterans of both world wars and several survivors of the Nazi Holocaust.

Records of all burials are kept in a log book; some burials have "pauper" written and the congregation absorbed the cost.

The cemetery has approximately 3400 graves, and at an average of 26 burials a year, would have space for another 137 years.

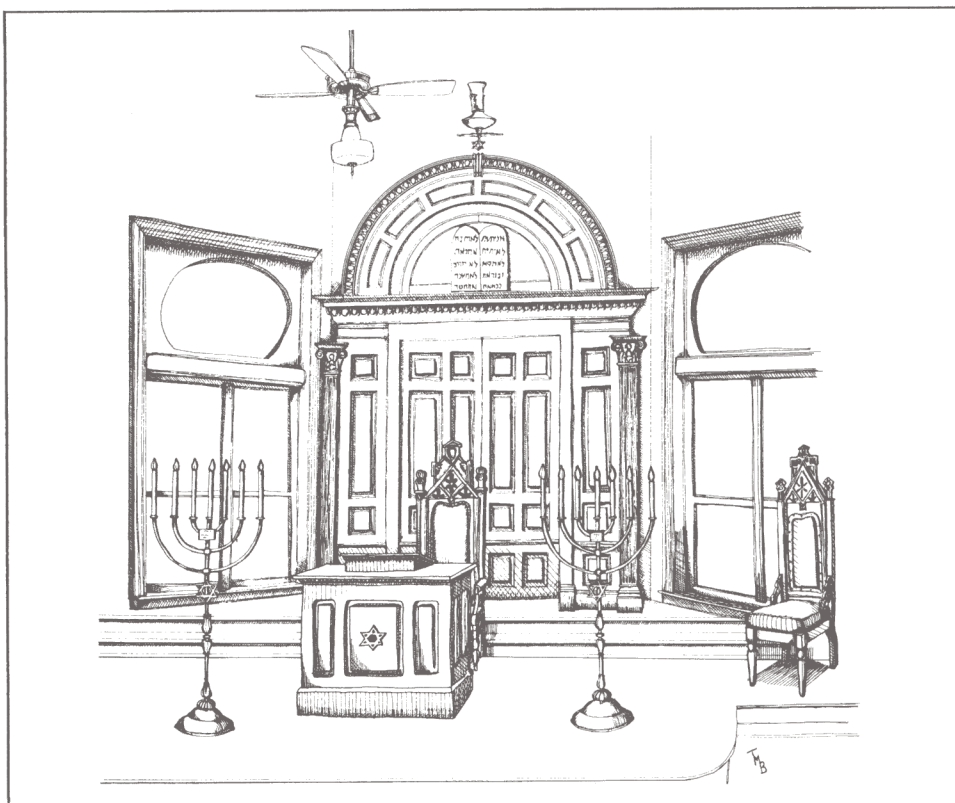


Illustration shows the Ark of the Covenant, Temple Moses Montefiore in Marshall.

SITE IS 109 YEARS OLD

State marker honors cemetery in Marshall

An official Texas Historical Marker was dedicated for the Marshall Hebrew Cemetery on May 18 at the Marshall Public Library.

The Cemetery was established in 1881 by the Hebrew Benevolent Society, founded in 1867 with 25 charter members.

Prominent citizens buried here include Daniel Doppelmayer, first president of the Moses Montefiore Congregation; Rabbi Max Sylvius Handman; and members of the Kahn and Weisman families.

Milton Smith: Report from the President

Did You Know?

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of our organization, this is a good time to reflect upon our progress and accomplishments as well as contemplate goals and priorities for the future. We have much of which to be proud. Since our founding meeting in San Antonio in 1980:

Films and Oral Histories

We have provided partial funding for:

- The widely-acclaimed film, "West of Hester Street," by producers Allen and Cynthia Mondell, about the Galveston movement.

- A documentary film, "This Is Our Home—It Is Not For Sale," by Jon Schwartz about the Jewish community of Riverside in Houston.

- An oral history project of Soviet Jewish emigres to Houston.

- An oral history of Rabbi David Jacobson of San Antonio and his wife, Helen Jacobson.

Essay Contest

For a number of years we have sponsored an essay contest for Jewish religious and day schools throughout the state.

Photographic History

Publication in 1990 of *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*, a photographic history.

Curriculum Guide

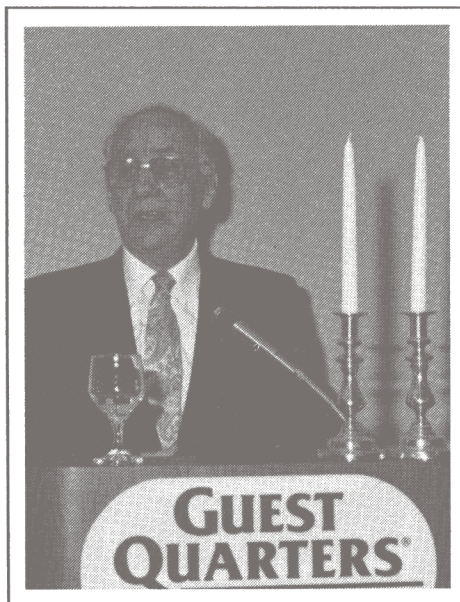
This fall, our *Curriculum Guide*, designed for 7th grade Jewish religious and day school students will be widely distributed.

The Handbook of Texas

We are in the process of doubling the number of entries to be included in this forthcoming revised edition of the state's encyclopedia. The TeJHaS has contributed funds to the Texas State Historical Association to complete the *Handbook*. Rabbi Jimmy Kessler serves as liaison with the TSHA.

Membership

We have more than tripled our membership in the last two years, with over 400 now paid up, under the



Milton Smith, President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, addresses the membership at the Annual Meeting.

guidance of membership chair Fay Brachman. We are developing activities in a number of cities around the state, including Houston, Fort Worth, Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Beaumont.

Newsletter

We have regularly published a newsletter for five years and plan to continue, expand and improve it.

Speakers Bureau

Various members of the Society

have spoken around the state and will continue to do so, particularly in conjunction with our new book, *Deep in the Heart*.

Oral Histories

Ginger Jacobs, the Oral History Chair, conducted a very successful Oral History Workshop for our members in Ft. Worth (with participants driving in from West Texas as well), at the home of Fay Brachman.

Archives and Acquisitions

Ima Joy Gandler, Archivist, advises that our Collection at the Barker Texas History Center (UT Austin), continues to grow. We had an exhibit of items from our Collection at the Barker Center during last March's Annual Meeting in Austin.

Expanded Board

Our Board has doubled in number, with representative leadership from around the state.

Priorities for the Future

The board is in the process of determining future priorities and goals. Proposals include a documentary/video film, the conducting of oral histories of all Texas retired rabbis and their wives, membership recruitment and retention in more cities, and documentation of all the state's Jewish cemeteries.

Support our special projects: join the campaign to boost Society's Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund of the Texas Jewish Historical Society urges you to participate in its campaign to raise funds.

The Fund is designed to develop special projects and programs, using only interest from investment of the principal. Pledges of \$1,000, \$2,500 or \$5,000 can be paid over a five-year period.

For further information, please contact Herbert Kadish, administrative assistant, at P.O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193 or call him at (512) 451-0051.

BOOK PARTIES, SPEECHES, BOOK FAIRS

Watch for us as we travel around the state

- Saturday, Sept. 15, 9-10 p.m., Fort Worth
Temple Beth-El
Pre-Slichot speech, book signing
- Sunday, Sept. 23, 2-4 p.m. San Antonio
Temple Beth-El; Host: Glenda Alter
- Thurs-Sat., October 4-6, Austin
Thompson Conference Center; Texas Women's History Conference
- Sunday, October 7, Houston Jewish Community Center
TeJHaS Board meeting
- Sunday, Oct. 14, Waco, 2 to 4 p.m.
Place to be announced; Chair: Ima Joy Gandler
- Tuesday, Oct. 16, Dallas
Dallas Jewish Historical Society at Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northaven
- Thursday, Oct. 18, Brownsville
Hadassah, 7 p.m., Chair: Eva Silberman
- Friday-Sunday, Oct. 19-21, Houston
Texas Jewish Feminist Conference, Westin Galleria Hotel
- Friday-Sunday, Oct. 26-28, Bruceville
Greene Family Camp, B'nai B'rith Institute. Chair: Milton Smith
- Sunday, October 28, Longview
Temple Emanu-El
- Monday, October 29, Marshall
Friends of the Public Library & Harrison County Historical Commission
- Sunday, Nov. 4, Hall of State at Fair Park
Dallas Historical Society
- Sunday, Nov. 11, Houston
Jewish Community Center; Jewish Book Fair
- Tuesday, Nov. 13, Dallas, 7:30 p.m., Temple Shalom
- Wednesday, Nov. 14, Austin
Jewish Community Center; Jewish Book Fair
- Sunday-Mon, Nov. 18-19
New York City Jewish Book Fair



Fannie Pravorne Wienir donates funds to place *Deep in the Heart* in 40 Texas libraries.

Books gain distribution through Wienir funding

A generous gift from Fannie Pravorne Wienir, formerly of Dallas, has made possible the placement of 40 copies of *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*, to libraries throughout the State of Texas.

The books are deeply appreciated. Brenda P. Tirrell of the Houston Public Library writes, "Thank you for your gift of ten copies of *Deep in the Heart*. It will be a welcome addition to the collections of our Texas Room, Social

Sciences Department and six branches that serve a sizable Jewish population." Mrs. Wienir was one of the state's first women to pass the bar. She attended the Jefferson School of Law at night and passed the five-day Texas Bar Examination in 1928 with excellent grades. "I was a rarity in those days," she recalled. "The doors were opened to women. Finally, I found an office where they allowed me to hang my hat, provided I would answer the phone."

Mrs. Wienir moved to Philadelphia where she worked as a legal secretary. After her marriage to Harry Wienir, they owned a successful pharmaceuticals business in St. Louis. The couple retired to Los Angeles.

Mrs. Wienir's volunteer activities have included helping found the Dallas Business and Professional Chapter of Hadassah in 1937 and more recently, serving as a Life Trustee of the American Society of the Technion of Israel.

Add some spice to your group's program



Cathy Schechter and Ruthe Winegarten, authors of *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*.

We are available for speeches to organizations, congregations, family reunions, and all manner of gatherings.

Topics will be tailored to suit your needs.

Call Cathy Schechter (512) 479-6202, Ruthe Winegarten (512) 453-7919, or Jimmy Kessler (409) 765-5796.

WORDS OF PRAISE

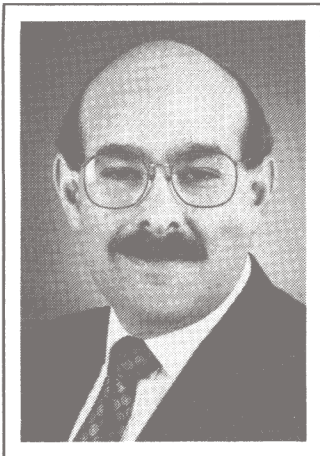
"Your book is great."
—Henry S. Jacobus, Jr., Dallas

"This book should be in every Jewish home in Texas."
—Eva Silberman, Brownsville

"I've stayed up way past my bedtime to finish 'the book.' It is so wonderful—I love it."
—Nat Rosenblum, Dallas

"We were all thrilled to receive *Deep in the Heart*. It is very attractive."
—Tom F. Shelton,
UT Institute of Texan Cultures

"It is a handsome book and an excellent piece of work. I am sure it will be of great use to us in our research on the *Handbook*."
—Dr. Ron Tyler, Director,
Texas State Historical Association



Rabbi Jimmy Kessler of Temple B'nai Israel, Galveston, is consulting editor of *Deep in the Heart*, and founding president of TeJHaS.

Donate a book to your library

Many individuals and organizations are giving welcome gifts to their local public, junior and senior highs, and religious school libraries.

This is an excellent way to popularize the history of Texas Jews and help the general public become educated about our contributions and achievements.

Deep in the Heart

The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews

A Photographic History

By Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schechter
Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, Consulting Editor

Deep in the Heart: The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews, which the Society sponsored, sweeps the state from the Rio Grande to the Red River with over 500 photographs, most never before published. From pioneer days to the present, the struggles and triumphs of a proud people are captured in an absorbing narrative. Texas Jews helped build the state's great institutions — schools, synagogues and symphonies.

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FOOTNOTES:

Films, slides, oral histories requested

All members recently received a letter and questionnaire asking for information about available oral histories, videos, transcripts and documentary films of Jewish institutions, organizations, individuals, families, businesses, cemeteries, etc.

We would like these materials for two purposes:

1. To add to our growing archival collection at the Barker Texas History Center, which is part of the UT Austin Library System.

2. To use as a reference or to use possibly some excerpts in a film which would tell the Texas Jewish history story. Please send them to Ima Joy Gandler.



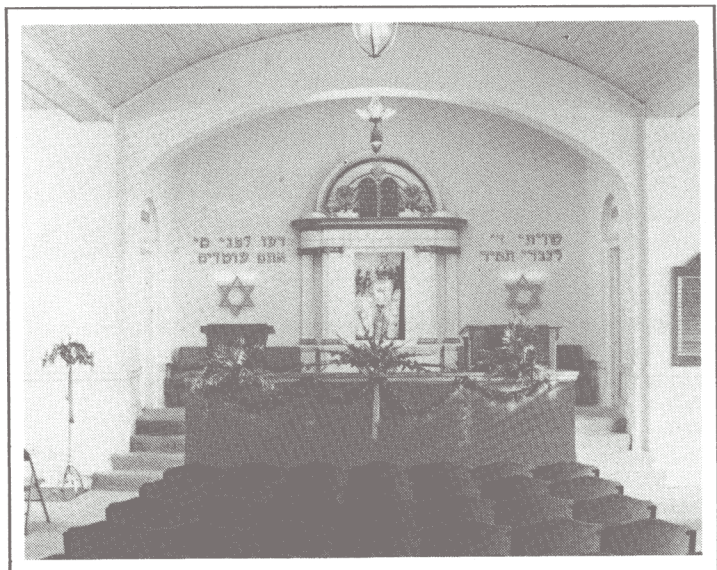
Photo of the grave of Julia Levy Simon in the B'nai Abraham Cemetery, Brenham, Texas, taken on the occasion of the placement of a historical marker by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas on February 19, 1989. A marker was also placed at the grave of Julia's mother, Mary A. Levy. Julia was one of twenty children of pioneer Houstonian Jews, Lewis A. and Mary A. Levy. Julia and her husband, Alex, settled in Brenham in 1866, moving from Dallas after they heard the railroad was coming to the small Central Texas community. Courtesy of Rosanne and Daniel Leeson.

Cemetery project seeks support

The Texas Jewish Historical Society is determined to document the existence of every Jewish cemetery in the state.

If you have information about the founding date, location (if in a rural area, please include directions from a major highway), history, photos, and location of records, please contact Archivist Ima Joy Gandler (3001 Wooded Acres, Waco, Texas 76710, or call (817) 772-5717.)

*L'Shanah
Tovah*



An early photo of Congregation Agudas Achim in Austin on San Jacinto Street. Courtesy of Juanita Silverstein.

Items added to Barker Texas History Center

"The History of Temple Beth Israel, Austin, 1876-1957"

Donated by Ginger Jacobs: Programs from the Dallas Hebrew Free Loan

dinner, 1984; the Premier of *"West of Hester Street,"* a documentary film by Allen and Cynthia Mondell, sponsored by the National Council of Jewish

MAZEL TOV

To Sandra Weiner of Houston, recently elected president of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, and immediate past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston.

To Dr. Seth Wolitz, Gale Professor of Judaic Studies at UT Austin, for receiving a Fulbright grant to do a year of research in literary modernism in Jerusalem and Paris, France.

Women, Dallas, 1983; and *"Confirmation Service, Temple Emanu-El, Dallas, 1972."*

For more information write the TeJHaS .

FROM THE MAILBAG

**Leader Ribak
Definitely Jewish**

Last issue we ran an article asking whether certain members of the Texas legislature were Jewish. Our readers assure us that **Abraham Ribak** (not Ribald) of San Antonio is Jewish, as is **Edgar Berlin** of Port Neches.

Marlin Barad, 13 Sedgwick Drive, Englewood, Colorado 80110 writes requesting information about his paternal grandfather, **Louis Pulaski**, who married **Jewel Haag Juron** in Dallas in 1936. **Louis** started **Pulaski Iron and Metal** in the 1930s and '40s and then an oil business, **MPS Production**, in the '40s and '50s in Houston.

He was a philanthropist who worked with his business partner, **Morris Rauch**, to enhance Jewish life in Houston and was a builder of **Beth Yeshurun Congregation** which has an auditorium named "**Pulaski-Rauch**." **Barad's** sister is **Jane Pulaski Gravatt** of Austin.

Mrs. Melvin D. (Betty) Cohen of San Antonio writes:

"**Ben Dubinsky** was my father's (Dr. **Alexander Brown's**) brother-in-law, being married to my father's sister, **Leah Brown Dubinsky**.

"I was always under the impression that **Ben Dubinsky** invented the **Reliable Battery**, which is still manufactured by the **Du-**

binsky family here in San Antonio. His grandson, **Gerald Dubinsky**, is President of **Standard Industries**. **Henry Hirshberg**, a local lawyer, served as a **Federal Bankruptcy Judge** and retired at about 90. He was a good friend of **Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson**. He helped them plan their wedding here in San Antonio and served as **Lyndon's Best Man**. One sister, **Hannah Hirshberg**, was active in **Temple Beth-El** and the **Sisterhood**; a small **Chapel** is named in her honor.

"**Florence Ramer Rabe** (one of Texas' first female attorneys), . . . being a dramatic person, went to California and got a part at the **Pasadena Playhouse**. A scout saw her and had her try out for the movies. She

became quite famous as **Florence Bates** and played character parts in many movies; the reruns are still shown on Cable TV. The first Jewish woman to be president of the **American Association of University Women** (in Texas) was **Mrs. Israel (Fanny Weil) Alexander** of **Corpus Christi**. . . . We also have a modern watercolor artist here in San Antonio who is well known **Beth Weidenfeld Eidleberg Stern** (**Mrs. Leonard Stern**). My husband, **Col. Melvin D. Cohen**, was one of the first men to drive an automobile from San Antonio to Mexico City before there was a **Pan American Highway**. He served in all three theaters of war during **World War II**: **Hawaii, Europe, and the Pacific.**"

1990-91 Officers and Board Members

President: Milton Smith, Austin
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Treasurer: Shelley Kessler, Galveston
Archivist: Ima Joy Gandler, Waco
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Staff: Herbert and Phyllis Kadish, Austin

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Doris Lascher, Houston	
Itta Lenowitz, Seguin	
Dr. Philip Leonard, Austin	

Picture yourself in this photograph. Become our editor.

**WANTED:
Volunteer
newsletter
editor**

Did you always make "A's" in English? Are you creative and resourceful? Have you always wanted to win the Pulitzer Prize for Literature? Do you have 2 days to devote every three months? Now's your chance to put your talents to good use as editor of this Newsletter. Send your name to **Nat Rosenblum**, 7831 Park Lane #132, Dallas, TX 75225. (214) 739-5328.

**Californian
seeks info
on father**

Marvin Hamburger of California (15670 Indian Head Court, Ramona, California 92065) asks if anyone has information about his father who was born in Columbus, Texas.

**Please Join
TeJHAs**



TeJHaS
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I am enclosing my contribution of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for the 1990 membership year.

Classification of Membership: \$25 — Annual Member; \$50 — Supporting Member; \$100 — Sponsor and Organization; \$250 — Sustaining Member; \$500 — Benefactor; \$1,000 — Patron

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone () _____

I am interested in serving on a TeJHaS committee

My areas of interest are: _____

Please furnish us with a brief family history for our archives:

Contributions to TeJHaS are tax deductible within the limits of the law

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to a friend. Let us know
if you need more copies.**

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