



NEWSLETTER

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

Hold the Date •

What ?

Quarterly Open Board Meeting of the Texas Jewish Historical Society in Dallas.

When ?

Sunday, December 9
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Where?

At the Jewish Community Center in Dallas, 7900 Northaven

Reservations

To Mrs. Marie Bitterman,
3001 Maple Avenue
#101, Dallas, Texas
75201-1226, (214) 871-2611. Lunch is \$6.00

BBC TO PRODUCE FILM ON TEXAS JEWS

The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) is producing a major new



Chaya Rachel Andres of Dallas (l) and her sister Anuta (r). Chaya Andres is the author of several Yiddish books. Print by Andy Reisberg

educational series of five new films on Jewish history and culture. The series, "The Jewish Enigma," is part of a course offered by the Open University, Britain's largest extension learning institution, in association with the London University-based Spiro Institute for Jewish History and Culture.

The film on the United States will focus on the Jews of Texas and Dallas. *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews* is being used as the major reference for the film. Co-author Ruthe Winegarten was interviewed by series producer Graham Turner for the film. The series will air toward the end of 1991; negotiations for airing the series in the U.S. are under way with PBS.

Annual Meeting Plans in Progress

Next year's annual meeting has been set for March 1 - 3 at the Greene Family Camp, located in a lovely rural setting in Bruceville, Texas, south of Waco, right off of Interstate 35. The camp is equipped with large meeting rooms, a library, comfortable cabins and delicious food. We will enjoy a stimulating weekend in a relaxed setting at reasonable prices (\$120 includes everything). Hotel rooms will also be available in Waco and Temple. The board met last July at the facility and was impressed with what it had to offer. Please make your plans to attend now. Registration forms will be sent out in January.

TJHS Newsletter Editor Named

The Texas Jewish Historical Society would like to welcome Elisa Kaplan Miller as the new editor of its quarterly newsletter. Ms. Miller is the daughter of Fort Worth TJHS board member Karen Kaplan.

Ms. Miller has a bachelors degree in journalism from the University of Arizona and a masters degree in instructional technology from the University of Texas. She was recently

named Coordinator of Student Publications at Kennesaw State College in Georgia.

Ms. Miller has written for publications such as Ladies Home Journal and the Dallas/Fort Worth Business Quarterly. She is very interested in the work of the society and is looking forward to writing about Texas Jewish history and the work of the organization

News and Notes

Recent Donations

Recent donations to the TJHS Collections at the Barker Texas History Center, located at the University of Texas at Austin include:

- **Photographs and negatives.**

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has recently donated 750 photographs and 470 negatives into the Society's Collection at the Barker Texas History Center. The photos and images were part of the research materials accumulated by Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schecter for *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*.

- "The Weil Family Reunion" program, March 24, 1978, Corpus Christi, including a list of the descendants of Charles and Sarah Hymans Weil. (Donated by Beverly Scarbrough of Austin).

- "You Can't Live All of Your Life," the biography of Fanny Lack. (Donated by David Lack of Victoria).

- Ledger book (1950's) of the Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority in Austin, plus historical photos of members, (Donated by Irene Kanter of Austin).

- "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (Toby Summer, Editor, January 1990), volume 2 of the Greater Houston Section, National Council of Jewish Women, senior adult writings.

- 1970 Interview of Julian Lauterstein by Beady Bexler (donated by Glenda Alter of San Antonio) and a biographical sketch of Max Lauterstein written by his daughter, Ida Lauterstein Copeland.

"Max was a cousin of the Finklesteins of Luling. Mr. Finklestein was killed by a negro while traveling in a covered wagon. The widow was left with several small children. Her last child, William, was born after his father was killed. She (the widow) sold food to Jesse James.

Another child was Mrs. Josey, the mother of Mrs. M.M. Harris whose husband was the editor of the *San Antonio Express* for many years."

LOCAL DONATIONS

- Morris Riskind's Dry Goods Store was the major department store in Eagle Pass for many years. At its peak, the Jewish congregation consisted of 20 - 30 families in the area, owning a Torah, prayer and school books and a Ner Tamid. Morris Riskind's brother was the spiritual leader. As the congregation aged, the children moved away, older congregants died and gradually the congregation disappeared. Morris Riskind has donated the memorabilia to Temple Beth Am in San Antonio.

Today's News is...

Political News: In the November 6th election, seven Jewish Texans won their races to represent their communities in the State House of Representatives: Reps Al Granoff (District 108) and Steven Wolens (District 103) both ran unopposed for reelection in the Dallas area.

In Houston: veterans Paul Colbert (District 132) and Debra Danburg (District 137 - unopposed) were both reelected. Newcomer Sue Schecter (District 134) won her very tight race to replace the retiring Brad Wright.

In Austin, newcomers: Elliot Naishtat (District 49) defeated incumbent Bob Richardson and Sherri Greenberg (District 48) beat a Republican challenger in the race to replace the retiring Terral Smith.

Congressman Martin Frost (D, Dallas County) was also reelected.

First Texas Jewish Feminist Conference Held in Houston

The first Texas Jewish Feminist conference, sponsored by the Houston Chapter, American Jewish Committee's Women's issues Committee, met in Houston October 19 - 21. The conference, attended by over 125 women (and interested men), primarily from the Houston area, featured outstanding speakers from around the country including: Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, spiritual leader and feminist storyteller; Henrietta Yurchenko, NYC, ethnomusicologist, whose specialty is Sephardic women's music; Dr. Irene Klepfisz, Yiddish scholar and lesbian/feminist poet; Dr. Susannah Heschel, professor of Judaic Studies at SMU; and Cantor Isabelle Ganz, a teacher at the Texas Institute of the Arts. Cathy Schecter and Ruthe Winegarten presented papers on the history and literature of Texas Jewish Women from their book *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*.

...Tomorrow's History

Excerpts From Reviews of ***Deep in the Heart***

Mike Cox - Texana book Editor for the Austin American Statesman

Will the world's image of Texas as a flat-cactus-covered range ridden by towering Anglo cowboys ever go away? Are we always to be known through the popular and long-standing stereotype as a people given to boastful, colorful provincialism-- the infamous "Texas Brags?"

Deep in the Heart ...is a well-done look at Texas' Jewish history...a collection of people stories ... interesting stories of individuals who helped build Texas and people who are still working to make it a better place...an impressive work ...the book also offers insight into Judaism in general...

...a well-researched, badly needed look at an important part of Texas' cultural mixture, a wonderful patchwork quilt of different people and ideas that made Texas the special place it is. Authors (Ruthe) Winegarten and (Cathy) Schechter have shown that in Texas, a yarmulke can be worn as proudly as a cowboy hat."

by **Lynn Buhlman, Waco Tribune Herald** (this story was also picked up by the Associated Press.)

"...The authors wanted to include more than the 'WASP cowboy types,' " she said, and were especially interested in documenting the contributions of minorities and women. (Ruthe) Winegarten and (Cathy) Schechter began making a "modest survey" of the state, tracking down Jewish contributions...They found they had many more Jewish documents than they could use for the handbook project and decided to do a book of their own.

"Anecdotes abound in the book. So do photographs of some colorful people. There's the Cohns, garment

manufacturers in New Braunfels and Dallas, who were said to have given their daughter's prejudiced teacher a dress every month so she would call on the daughter in class. There's Galveston journalist Rosella Horowitz Werlin, whose 50 year career spanned covering the red light district and working as a travel editor...and the Goldstein family's role in founding Waco's library."

Gazette, Texarkana, Texas

"This beautiful book profiles figures in the Lone Star State's history who are often overlooked. ...Of local



Ruthe Winegarten, TJHS President Milton Smith and Cathy Shechter (l-r) at the Austin Jewish Book Fair in November.

interst, Ann Kusin and her husband David are given space for their long-time leadership in Mount Sinai Congregation...In 1919, (David) caught the train from Monroe, La. and stopped in Texarkana for a lunch break. He was so impressed with the bustling community that he decided to stay...

Beady Berler, Jewish Journal of San Antonio

"This is a massive book both in size and the amount of information the author (sic) has compiled. The bibliography is quite valuable...The photographs are interesting and

placing them in one volume that is easily consulted will be useful.

Ellen Rosenbush Methner, Houston Jewish Herald Voice

"Filled with fascinating history and plenteous details...juicy tidbits about the developing society of Jewish Texans...The beginnings of Jewish history was one of individual personalities. ...and excerpts from diaries, journals and careful research. They lend a personal charm and flavor to the history of developing Lone Star Jewish communities."

Mary G. Crawford, Dallas Morning News

"Jews have been a part of Texas from the earliest days of the state's recorded history. The first Jews arrived in Texas with the Spanish explorers in the 16th century, and Jews have influenced the development of the state ever since..."

"The exhaustive presentation leaves the reader feeling that Texas would have been a duller, cruder, less benevolent place without its Jewish citizens...(the large format volume)...is thoroughly indexed... is also lavishly illustrated and has extensive endnotes."

ARCHIVES, DOCUMENTS AND SUCH...

Excerpt from "Memiors of Minnie (Raye Novit Siegel)" as told to her daughter Jan Seigel Hart (Temple), 1990.

Minnie grew up in Dublin, Texas, where her best friend was a little Irish girl, Mary Gallagher.

"On Jewish holidays, I told my class about my religion. On high holidays we closed the store...When I was little we had services in our home. My father had the Torah...All the relatives from Hamilton would come to our home, the Hareliks, Hoffmans, Ellis' and Comers. They spent two nights at Rosh Hashona...and again on Yom Kippur. We made pallets on the floor and we slept all over the place. It was a lot of fun. Morris (her brother)...would have a comic book stuck on top of his prayer book...Mama would be busy for days, baking. Haskell (hero of the play *The Immigrant* and Minnie's uncle) would blow the shofar.

Lillie took violin lessons. We always left the house when she practiced, such a screeching! ...One of my

best friend was Mildred Barrett, the Baptist preacher's daughter...I enjoyed attending the revivals with Mildred. When the preacher called everyone to come down and shake hands with him, that meant you wanted to be saved...I just went right along with Mildred and shook hands with the preacher.

One time after a revival, Preacher Barrett came to the store. He and Papa were good friends...Barrett told Papa about me coming down and shaking hands with him. "Brother Novit,...why don't you just let (your children) come to my church?"

Dad told him, "Brother Barrett, you say I have fine children. Why don't you go out and find some children that really need help? Get them to join your church. Don't bother my children."

My parents always told us that we had to be a little better than everybody else, since we were the only Jews



Temple Beth-El, San Antontio, laid the cornerstone for its new building in 1926 at the corner of Belknap and Ashby. The building is still the home of the conegagation, led by spiritual leader Rabbi Samuel Stahl. Photo credit: Ruth Caroline Friedman, copy for the UT Institute of Texan Cultures.



in town, besides the Hoffman family. We had to be better and smarter, so they couldn't talk bad about us. We couldn't go out with gentile boys. We had to marry within our own faith. We knew that and we accepted it. We didn't argue about it.

One time Nathan (Seigel, the young man she was courting and would marry) brought his mother to Dublin. When he went to the rest room and took down his pants, a bee flew out. It had ridden all the way from Dallas with him...We had a six week engagement."

She bought her wedding dress from Sanger Bros. for \$39.95 and took a honeymoon cruise from Galveston to Miami in 1938 and the coule settled in Dublin. They took their children to Sunday School in Fort Worth. The Seigels moved to Dallas in the 1960's where they still live.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Texas Jewish Historical Society (having joined since September 1990).

Dr. Floyd R. Keen, Fort Worth
Gladys Rosenwater Schaeffer,
Corpus Christi
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kaufman, Austin
Judge David Hittner, Houston
Susan Susser, Corpus Christi
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Birnberg,
Corpus Christi
Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Hecht,
Corpus Christi
Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Jessel, Robertson
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hoffman, Dallas

Mr. and Mrs. Harris Marcus, Austin
Rabbi and Mrs. Sylvin Wolf,
Corpus Christi
Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Seidel, Dallas
Hazel Lissner Maxwell, Austin
Patricia B. Sanditen, Laredo
Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Anton, Abilene
Milton H. Waghalter, Houston
Dr. and Mrs. Irving Lewis Samuels,
Houston
Dr, and Mrs. Philip Sheinberg,
Fort Worth



THE SABBATH CANDLES

From M.H. Marwill, *A Collection of Poems*, published by her children. 1971.

Upon the table gleaming white -
Set by a monthers' busy hand.
Three candles flamed with radiant light.
Lit ere the Sabbath day began -
That children here and unborn yet
Would keep an ancient faith held dear.
And nevern in a Life forget
That Israel's God is one and near.

The candles flared and purified
With incense every mortal there -
As though God's presence was inside
To hear each softly spoken prayer -
And sanctify the Sabbath day
And bid life's noisy clamor cease.
To banish every wordly care -
And bring a sweet and restdul peace.

So long the Sabbath candles burn
To usher in the holy day -
So long as faithful souls will turn
From evil and Gods of clay.
The Ancient faith will live - revealed
When life's long pilgrimage is done.
When every painful would is healed.
For Israel's God is Just and One.

July 6, 1956

RED BOOK OF DALLAS 1895-96

Social Ethics Club 145 Browder Street

This club was organized and duly incorporated under the laws of the state, with a capital stock of \$1,050.

In the constitution and by-laws adopted, the objects of the club are stated to be to promote the social, musical and dramatic culture of its members. Any unmarried gentleman over the age of 21 may become a member. The initiation fee is \$25, for which each member shall receive one share of stock in the club at the value of \$15, limited to seventy shares.

MEMBERS.

Ike Lorch, President
D.F. Blockm Vice-Pres't
Isidore K. Kahn, Treas.
Jake Frenkel, Secretary
Abbe Strauss.
Will Block.
J.J. Koppel.
S. Koenigsberg.
Wm. M. Fechheimer.
Z.M. Lehman.
A.L. Lehman.
Jacob Kahn.
D.D. Cahn.
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J. L. Wolf.
D.F. Block
Jules Dreyfus.
Henry Kahn.
Sol Jacobs.
Jacob Shroeder.
A.W. Rosenfield.
Joe Aronson.
L.H. Feitlebaum.
Nathan Wertheimer.
Lee Swope.
N. Goldberg
V.H. Seidenbittle.

NON-RESIDENT MEMBERS.

Sam Jolesch, Ennis, Texas.
S. Watelsky, Farmersville, Texas.
Manny Weirpel, Denison, Texas.
H. Lederman, Fort Worth, Texas.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

M. Ortlieb.
C.K. Wolf.
Rube Pollack.
A. Kaiser.
A. Lowenstein
J. Cohen
A. Sanger.

P. Sanger.
Charles Wenar.
Leo. Wenar.
Simon Linz.
Joe Linz.
Dr. E.M. Chapman.
E.M. Kahn.

Society Book News

• Dave Hoff advises us that the B'nai B'rith Permian Basin Lodge #2409 is donating five copies of *Deep in the Heart of Texas: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*, a pictorial history sponsored by the "Texas Jewish Historical Society, to public libraries in Midland and Odessa, as well as to area colleges, including the University of Texas at Permian Basin.

• A copy of *Deep in the Heart* was presented in October by Alan Mesh, President of Brownsville's Temple

Beth-El, to the Polish Jewish Historical Society in Warsaw.

• Many individuals and organizations are giving welcome gifts to their local public, junior and senior high libraries as well as to religious school libraries and libraries at institutions of higher education.

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

Support our special projects: join the campaign to boost the 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.

Deep in the Heart:

The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews - A Photographic History

The Perfect Chankuah Gift!

3 Books for \$90

(includes sales tax, shipping)

_____	Number of copies @ \$29.95 each	_____
	Texas residents add 8% sales tax	
	(\$2.40 each copy)	
	Shipping	\$3.00

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WORDS OF PRAISE

"Couldn't put it down."

-Merilee Weiner, Houston

"What a lovely book for my library and coffee table."

Liz Carpenter, Austin

"Thank you very much for this gorgeous book...It is a fine piece of work and I know that it will teach me a great deal."

-Dr. Jacob R. Marcus,
American Jewish Archives,
Cincinnati

"Your handsome new publication is a fine addition to our collections ...You are to be congratulated!"

-Robert Maloy, Bridwell Library,
SMU, Dallas

"A great addition to the B'nai B'rith Archives. There is so much to read, to see, to learn."

-Hannah R. Sinauer,
Archivist

Society Update

Mondell's to Write Script

The TJHS Board, at its last meeting, voted to retain Allen and Cynthia Mondell, award-winning producers of "West of Hester Street," to write a script about Texas Jewish History. The script will be the basis for a documentary about the history of the Jews in Texas, according to Milton Smith, president. Lonnie Schooler is chairman of the committee.

New File Cabinet Acquired

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has recently acquired a fire-proof file cabinet for all of the society's collections. These file cabinets are virtually indestructible and should ensure that our children and their children will have access to our collections.

Remembering the Sangers

Cordye Hall of Dallas (young at 91) and a graduate of Ursaline Academy, writes: "When a dormitory at the Baptist orphanage was burning, one of the Sangers phoned to say he would replace the building. I thought that was wonderful. One of the older nuns at Ursaline told "her girls" that when the Ursaline which I attended was built, it was so far out (Bryan and Live Oak at St. Joseph Street) they were out in the country. The Sangers - one of them - would come with a pack on his back to take care of their needs for linens."

Information Exchange

This portion of the "mailbag" is reserved for those folks who are looking for information about their families or responding to those requests. If you have information on any of the enclosed inquiries, please send a copy of the letter you write to the inquirer to the Texas Jewish Historical Society at P.O.Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193.

Inquiry about Jews in Big Spring

Barbara Israel, 21130 E. Knox Rd., Tempe, Arizona, is inquiring if anyone has information about her family who lived in Big Spring or about the Jewish Temple there which met at the Settles Hotel. Family names were Bessie (Mrs. Julian) Eckhaus; Jaye and Rhea Fisher; William and Nettie Fisher (J and W Fisher retail store) - the Sisterhood was named for Nettie Fisher; Joseph and Anna Fisher (Nettie and

Anna were sisters). These members came to Big Spring in 1884. Rabbi David Lefkowitz is said by Mrs. Israel to have served the community.

Information requested about Ben Wilbush of Houston.

Mrs. Judy Rothman, 10775 Wilkins Ave., Los Angeles, California, 90024, is trying to trace the family of Ben Wilbush as well as receive more information about him. For several years we

have been told about a relative who settled in Texas (exact location unknown) sometime between 1850 - early 1900's, but surviving members of my father's family recall little information.

Our search has yielded this information from census data and old City directories:

- Ben Wilbush was listed in the 1900 census as the proprietor of Wilbush Drug Co. at 8113 1/2 Congress Avenue, Houston. Acutally, he is listed as the druggist.

- Ben Wilbush was again listed in the Houston City Directory (1902-1903) at the same address (minus the 1/2).

- Ben Wilbush was not listed in the 1903 Directory, but the Drug Store is with another individual named as proprietor.

- However, Wilbush, Emma, Miss, r.1808 Lyle and Wilbush, Laura A (wid. Ben), r. 1310 Hutchins 2 are both listed in the 1903 Directory and were also listed in the 1905-1906 Directory.

I would appreciate your assistance in helping me further establish the identity of Mr. Ben Wilbush and his possible relationship to my family. In addition, I would like to trace Mr. Wilbush's descendants, deceased, or more hopefully, living.

1990-91 Officers and Board Members

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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*

Please Clip Application and Send To:
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