



NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

WINTER 1993

OPEN BOARD MEETING

to be in

CORPUS CHRISTI

Sunday
January 9
9:30 AM

Our next Open Board Meeting will be held Sunday morning, January 9, 1994 in Corpus Christi at the Sandy Shores Beach Motel at Aquarium Village. Room rates are \$49 for one or two persons. Some activities are planned for Saturday afternoon and evening.

The meeting will start at 9:30 AM, and a buffet lunch will be served at a cost of around \$10.

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Please make a reservation by calling **Merilee Weiner** at 713/668-9191 or writing her at 4106 Leeshire, Houston, Texas 77025. We are hoping to have a good attendance, so please make plans now. ♦

1994 ANNUAL GATHERING IN EL PASO

Hotel Camino Real Paso del Norte — April 8-10

by *Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)*

The Texas Jewish Historical Society is headed West to El Paso! The 1994 Annual Gathering will be held at the beautifully restored Hotel Camino Real Paso del Norte, an architectural and historic landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Structures. This hotel, built in 1912, was hailed as the 'Showplace of the West' and is once again a showplace of El Paso with excellent food and facilities.

Members of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society have been invited to join the Texas group for a full program of speakers and tours, focusing on the history of the area. One of the featured speakers will be **Dr. Stan Hordes** from Santa Fe, an expert on the Sephardic Jews who came to Texas and the Southwest in the 1500's. Many other speakers are members of prominent El Paso Jewish families giving first-hand knowledge of the historical contributions of family ancestors. Topics include a wide gamut, from promi-

nent Jews in the judiciary, politics, and business, to Jewish entertainers such as the circus giant, **Jack Earl**. The Saturday evening schedule includes a visit to a hacienda documented to be at least 300 years old and still under the ownership of the original family, believed to have been Secret Jews arriving with the Conquistadores.

Convention attendees may also be enticed by a trolley excursion of sightseeing and shopping in Mexico on Friday afternoon. For registrants who wish to extend their stay in El Paso, the convention hotel has agreed to extend the convention rate two days prior to and two days after the convention.

Convention planners invite everyone to El Paso in April to learn about Texas Jewish history through an informative program in an exciting vacation atmosphere. For further information, please contact me at 219 Lombardy, Sugar Land, Texas 77478, or phone 713/494-2668. ♦

MEETING WITH TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Austin — March 3-5

by *Juliet George (Fort Worth)*

The Texas State Historical Association will host a joint session with TJHS during the association's 1994 annual meeting, to be held in Austin March 3-5. "Jewish History in Texas," with **Rabbi James L. Kessler** presiding, will begin at 10:30 AM Thursday, March 3, in the San Marcos Room of Austin's Stouffer Hotel. **Barbara Scharlack Malone**, doctoral candidate at Tulane University, will preside.

Papers to be presented and critiqued are: "A Cedar Bridge: The Jewish-Gentile Partnership of De Cordova and Frazier, 1851-56," by **Juliet George**, and "Anti-Semitism and McCarthyism

in North Texas, 1950-54" by **George T. Kellam**.

The time frame will be the mid-19th to the mid-20th-century. "Cedar Bridge" is the story of a friendship that outlived a five-year business venture and the legacy of that friendship as expressed in the memoirs of one partner's oldest son. "Anti-Semitism and McCarthyism" explores an episode involving an academic figure and his professional and political links to like-minded Texans and Americans.

Please write the Texas State Historical Association at 2/306 Richardson Hall, University Station, Austin Texas 78712, or phone 512/471-1525 for more information. ♦

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT...

by Don Teter (Baytown)

I recently acquired a tape of the Andrews Sisters singing some of their big hits of the 30's and 40's. One of the songs is titled, "I Can Dream, Can't I?". So I decided, "I can dream, too," and I did! Let me share my dream with you . . .

In my dream I saw an office in some Texas city, most likely Austin, with 'Texas Jewish Historical Society' lettered on the door. There was a small reception room where I was greeted by the Receptionist/Secretary. I was then introduced to the Director/Archivist/Historian, who had recently completed writing the three volume, *The History of Texas Jewry*, and was working on the upcoming quarterly Journal of the Society, *The Chronicle*. Next was a tour of the offices where four volunteer members of the Society were working on various projects such as the newsletter, transcriptions of oral histories, membership services and recruitment, historical research, cemetery records, fund raising and publicity. There was also a small library, containing publications of significance to Texas Jewish History. In another area were the necessary word processors, computers and copiers to maintain an efficient office.

Upon inquiry, I was told that the funds necessary to maintain this office came not only from membership income, but also from generous grants from members, friends and foundations who desired a continuing Jewish historical presence in the state.

So that's my dream. It worked for Tevya! Why can't it work for the Texas Jewish Historical Society?

Getting back to reality, there is a lot going on in the TJHS. We will have our quarterly board meeting in Corpus Christi on January 9. **ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.** Call me for details.

Then there is our Annual Gathering in El Paso, April 8-10. **Barbara Rosenberg** (Sugar Land) and the El Pasoans are working to make this an outstanding event and well worth the trip. Please plan on attending.

The National Genealogical Society will be holding their annual convention in Houston, June 1-4. The Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, in conjunction with the TJHS, is going to sponsor four lectures during this meeting: Fundamentals of Researching Jewish Families, Recent Advances in Jewish Genealogy, Holocaust Research: Documenting Victims, Locating Survivors, and Immigrant Research in New York City. They also plan to hold a session on How to Organize a Jewish Genealogical Society. If you are interested in genealogy, this is an event you should not miss! Please contact our liaison person, **Florence Blum**, 2601 Bellafontaine #B-106, Houston, Texas 77025, phone 713/667-7742 if you have any questions and/or wish to attend.

I urge you to send family stories and other items of interest to our newsletter editor, **Charles Nathan**, 7530 Brompton #740, Houston, Texas 77025. Also let him know what type of articles and stories you would like to see, or whatever else you think the newsletter should cover.

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler has been appointed Chairperson of our Nominating Committee. If you want to serve as an officer or trustee, contact him at 1609 Driftwood, Galveston, Texas 77551, phone 409/744-7011.

Doris Lascher (Houston), a long time member of the TJHS, has resigned from the board due to health problems. We offer Doris our best wishes for a speedy recovery. **Charles C. Nathan** (Houston), our newsletter editor, has been appointed to complete her term as a trustee.

Please check your mailing label and report any changes or errors to **Fay Brachman**, 3720 Autumn Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76109, phone 817/924-9207.

We received a request from a person in France who is looking for information about **Channa Starominsky**. He entered the U.S. through Galveston in November 1907, at the age of 30. It was believed he was destined to go to Corpus Christi. His name could have been changed to **Minsky** but we have been informed that **Morris Minsky** of Corpus Christi is not a relative. Anyone who has knowledge of this person or his descendants, please call me at 713/424-5829. ♦

Here's wishing you all the very
happiest and healthiest New Year ever!



THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

is a publication of The Texas Jewish Historical Society
P. O. Box 10193, Austin Texas 78766-0193.

Donald Teter (Baytown) ----- President
Dr. Charles C. Nathan (Houston) ----- Managing Editor
Debbie Brachman Rice (Houston) ----- Designer
Nell Hall (Fort Worth) ----- Copy Editor
Fay Brachman (Fort Worth) ----- Distribution

"EL PASO — THEN AND NOW"

*written by Cleofas Calleros, and excerpted from the book of the same title, Volume III, 1954.
Our excerpt contains the society write-up from the EL PASO TIMES in its March 11, 1846 edition.
Submitted by Herb Given (El Paso)*

THE MOST BRILLIANT MATRIMONIAL event ever celebrated in El Paso was the double wedding at the Vendome Hotel last evening. During the day a force of decorators under the artistic supervision of Miss Alice Ullman and Mrs. A. Solomon transformed the handsome hall into a magnificently and artistically draped palace of pleasure. The decorations consisted of some pure white, clinging material stretching across the hall overhead and caught up in graceful loops with ribbon and garlands of pretty imitation flowers. Garlands of flowers also entwined the large, supporting columns scattered throughout the hall, and the west side of the hall was covered by a large canopy, constructed from pure white muslin and resembling a huge bell hanging mouth down. Under this bell was a platform raised about one foot above the floor, and banked all around with choice, hot-house plants in bloom and wild flowers. And within the big bell was a smaller bell, one made of imortelles and delicate artificial flowers. In the mouth of the smaller bell glowed a twenty candle power incandescent electric light, giving the effect of flowers in flames that did not scorch or wither.

But to the weddings. By 8 o'clock the large hall was thronged with the friends of the four contracting parties. A splendid orchestra stationed in an alcove struck up an inspiring wedding march, and Mr. Julius Wetzler of Holbrook, Arizona, with Miss Eva Solomon of Solomonville Arizona, on his arm, passed up the hall, taking their position under the bell of flowers. Then Judge Hunter, in his most graceful and best "go-to-meeting" style, pronounced the legal marriage ceremony. S. H. Drachman, of Tucson, Arizona, then conducted the beautiful and impressive Jewish ceremony, in which the bride and groom pledged each other with a wine toast. The bride, a dark-eyed brunette, looked lovely in a stylish and costly gown of white satin, point lace and orange

blossoms. The gown was so fashioned as to show off to admirable effect the graceful and queenly figure of the wearer.

At 9 o'clock the strains of another wedding march swelled through the hall and another couple fair to look upon stood beneath the flaming bell. The same marriage ceremony was repeated, and another happy, youthful pair had been made husband and wife. Miss Rosa Solomon of Solomonville was the second bride, and David Goldberg of Phoenix, Arizona, the fortunate groom. The second bride was a sister of the first and possessed the same brilliant style of beauty. She looked bewitchingly sweet and lovely in a companion costume to that worn by her sister—white satin, point lace and orange blossoms. Both grooms were attired in full evening regulation dress, and their faces beamed with the happiness that filled their hearts.

After the wedding ceremony came congratulations from hearts constant and true. Again the music from the orchestra flooded the hall. Graceful couples were whirling over the floor, keeping time with the rhythmical measures of the intoxicating waltz. It was indeed a brilliant scene; the pretty decorations, beautiful and handsomely costumed women, gallant men and seductive music. The flowers banked around the wedding bell laden the atmosphere with their subtle perfume. There was a witchery in the very lights themselves that cast a spirit of enchantment o'er the scene and caused eyes to look love to eyes that spoke again.

At 11:35 PM Magician E. B. Hawley waved his mystic hand. A curtain instantly disappeared and the merry makers were looking upon three beautifully decorated tables loaded with the wedding feast. It was a royal one. Before leaving the table the health, happiness and prosperity of the newly wedded couples were toasted with shining crystal goblets of sparkling wine. After supper the dance went on.

Some of the handsomest costumes

worn on this occasion were as follows: Mrs. I. E. Solomon, black brocade, white chiffon and spangles; Mrs. H. Goldberg, black silk; Mrs. A. Goldberg, pink chiffon and diamonds; Mrs. P. Freudenthal, green silk and lace; Mrs. J. Freudenthal, black and lavender brocade, bead trimmings; Mrs. Jacoby, lavender silk, jewels; Mrs. Drachman, yellow faille and pearl trimmings; Mrs. A. Solomon, green chiffon, diamonds; Mrs. M. Weil, lavender brocade, velvet chiffon, diamonds; Mrs. I. Blumenthal, pink chiffon and jet; Mrs. S. Goodman, black silk and jet; Mrs. A. A. Kline, pink velvet; Mrs. J. Calisher, black satin; Mrs. L. N. Heil, black chiffon and jet; Mrs. E. B. Fatman, black chiffon, spangled jet, diamonds; Mrs. E. Kohlberg, black silk and forget-me-nots; Mrs. Sol Shutz, black silk; Mrs. Albert Schultz, black silk, ostrich tips; Mrs. A. Kaplan, white net and lace; Mrs. H. Kayser, gray silk; Mrs. F. E. Hinter, black net over gray; Mrs. Albert Krakauer, white satin, lace and pearls; Miss Blanche Solomon, Dresden ribbon; Mrs. R. Sprinz, tan silk, jet; Miss Lillie Solomon, pink silk and chiffon, pearls; Miss Alice Ullman, yellow crepe lace and ribbon; Miss Clara Jacoby, white silk and chiffon; Miss Clotilde Ullman, white satin Swiss, ender brocade, bead trimming; Miss Emma Ullman, cream crepe; Miss Alma Newman, pink silk chiffon, diamonds; Miss Nabel Drachman, white silk; and Miss Blanche Solomon, white accordion, Dresden ribbon.

This account shows how different society reporting in the mid 1800's was from that of today, almost 150 years later.

Mr. Drachman, who conducted the Jewish services, was not a Rabbi. Therefore, they had to use a Justice of the Peace. Also, why the families to be united came from Arizona to El Paso for the wedding ceremonies is a question unanswered to this day. We would love to know the reason. ♦



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Convention to Include New Format — 'Poster Sessions'

by *Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)*



Our yearly convention in April, fondly known as our 'Annual Gathering', will include a new format called Poster Sessions, thanks to a suggestion offered by **Dr. Barry Green** of Tyler.

Members are invited to prepare exhibits of photos, documents, and/or artifacts to fit on or within an area framed by three standard poster boards. The pieces of poster board can be taped together to form a standing exhibit on a table. If this reminds you of a student's science project, it is because there is a striking resemblance.

At designated times during the registration on Friday, convention attendees will be directed to the exhibit area where they may view the exhibits and ask questions of the

exhibitor. A formal, prepared verbal presentation is not necessary.

If you would like to present one of these poster sessions, please notify me at 219 Lombardy, Sugar Land, Texas 77478. Please include a one sentence summary of the topic of your exhibit. You may call me at 713/494-2668 for more detailed information on how to make up your presentation.

We hope that this new format will be so successful that we can make it an ongoing part of our Gatherings. It should be a great way to share wonderful old pictures and documents that are such treasures!

Barbara Rosenberg is Program Chairperson for the 1994 Annual Gathering. ♦

Looking for information on Jewish immigrants who came to Texas from 1939–1941 and were housed in NYA (National Youth Administration) Training Camps across Texas . . .

Please contact Barbara Rosenberg at 713/494-2668.

TJHS — FOR THE RECORD

by *Ruth Ginsburg (Austin)*

1993 has been a very good year for the Archives of the TJHS. Many new items have been added to the collection, and all of these acquisitions are primary documents. This means that they are not photocopies of published works, but original material. Five new family histories were added to the one hundred and twenty-four family histories already catalogued, as well as nine additional biographies. Two histories of organizations were donated to the collection: that of the Hebrew Free Loan Association and a scrapbook of the Houston Zionist Organization dating from 1954. Histories of the Jewish community of five cities have been added along with new material from Abilene, Fort Worth, Longview, Stephenville, Tyler and Waco.

All the transcriptions from the Fort Worth Sesquicentennial Oral History Project have been completed as well as a tape from the Bryan Ladies' Club.

There are also new taped interviews of individuals. The transcriptions are filed in the Society's boxes at the Barker Texas History Center, but the tapes themselves are preserved in a specially controlled environment there. Additional stories, memoirs, anecdotes, letters, and pictures have been acquired and catalogued.

While the archives are growing—and this is an almost unique feature of the TJHS Archives—the collection reveals some large gaps. Comparing Donald Teter's list of Jewish cemeteries to the list of Jewish communities we have catalogued, it is easy to see that we have no information about Denison, Ennis, Greenville, Mexia, Mount Pleasant, Odessa, Orange, Port Arthur, Rockdale or Weis Bluff. We are eagerly seeking information about these communities.

Also, as the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II approaches, we

realize how little material we have about Jewish Texans (both men and women) who have served in the armed forces during World War I and II, the Korean and Vietnamese Wars, and Desert Storm. It is important to gather first-hand accounts of the experiences of the people in the armed services, especially as they relate to being Jewish. Also stories of USO's and similar community projects would be interesting. Insignia, memorabilia, pictures and/or citations would all be welcome.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. said, "Historic continuity with the past is not only a duty, it is a necessity." The mission of the TJHS is to contribute to the record.

Please, send us information at the following address: Texas Jewish Historical Society, c/o The Barker Texas History Center, Sid Richardson Hall, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78713. ♦

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF 'THE BURK STORE BOY'

1889 – 1914

By Bernhard C. Moses (Houston)

By J. B. Moses (Dallas—1907)

By J. B. Moses (Dallas—1907)

My Father, J.B. Moses

My father, J.B. Moses, was the only son of native Baltimorean Bernhard Moses, a pioneer manufacturer of fine men's clothing, Burk & Company. Whereas manufacturing was maintained in Baltimore, Burk & Company operated family retail menswear stores in Norfolk and Richmond, Virginia, and Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee. Upon graduation from Baltimore City College, my father headed to Texas in 1889 to establish a Burk & Company store in Dallas.

During the turn of the century, retail newspaper advertising was almost nonexistent—certainly a far cry from today. So my father, who was quite innovative in many ways, instituted his own original newspaper advertising for Burk's. He developed a daily column titled "Side Talks by the Store Boy" which appeared in the old afternoon *The Dallas Daily Times Herald*. His format was brand new, novel, and quite unique. He created a thirteen year old character known as 'The Burk's Store Boy'. My father wrote as the store boy would write. The Burk's 'Store Boy' remained age thirteen for the twenty-five years of the life of the column.

Years ago my aunt, Hortense Pandres Levi, told me that "Side Talks by The Store Boy" was the very first thing she read in her afternoon paper. She said the column was exceedingly popular and widely read.

Aunt Hortie related how Daddy actually wrote a fresh piece every day except Saturday, since *The Dallas Daily Times Herald* was an afternoon paper with limited circulation. She told me that he would read *The Dallas Morning News* early in the morning to select a topic: a news item, timely or historical event, or an anecdote of interest. Many of his features were so humorous that he deserved to qualify as a humorist. The column was almost all editorial; however, 'The Store Boy' would take it upon himself to do a bit of advertising for Burk's. The vertically printed feature was simply signed in small type "Burk's Store Boy, care of Burk & Co., 233,235,237 Main, 236 Elm."

After hurriedly composing that day's column (a new one everyday), he would hurry to *The Dallas Morning News* to have the paper's prize winning cartoonist, John Knott, sketch a suitable cartoon for that particular story. In later years only a single cartoon of 'The Store Boy' was employed. Then my father would rush over to *The Dallas Daily Times Herald* to meet that afternoon's 11 o'clock AM deadline.

There was a vast amount of Dallas and Texas history covered over the twenty-five years that the column appeared in the old *The Dallas Daily Times Herald* from 1889 until 1914. My father, J. B. Moses, became a true Texan, and he remained in Dallas until his death in 1943. ♦

Side Talks By Burk's Store Boy

A day or so before Christmas, three years ago, Sally Jones and me got our heads turned away from study to fun, and we played a trick on our teacher. I don't exactly remember how we played it, but I do remember that we was kept in after school and we couldn't get turned loose until we knew a piece called "Christmas Night" by heart. The teacher went home and turned the whole matter over to the janitor. Sally knew hers alright in about half an hour, and was discharged. It got to be four, it got to be five, and I couldn't remember some of them lines to save my life. And so instead of trying any more, I laid down on the bench and went to sleep. The janitor woke me up just a little before six, and asked whether I knew the piece. I told him I didn't, and never expected to. But I did tell him in my own lingo what it was all about. He turned me loose—I reckon because it was near his supper time. I don't think it does you any particular good to remember things word-for-word. Suppose Sergeant Antony Connelly had remembered every word just as it was printed in the St. Louis Police Manual. What extra benefit would it have been as long as he knew all about it anyhow? But the Police Board ordered him to remember every word of it within 30 days, and so he had to get busy. It was a hard job for him. He set up nights struggling to cram the stuff into his noodle. He worked so hard and worried so much about it that it give him the brain fever, and that's what killed him yesterday. What's easy for one to remember ain't always no snap for the other fellow. We had a man working around here last spring what could remember the lot numbers of every kind of clothing in the house but his head wasn't no good for nothing else. He didn't know how to fit a fellow up right and didn't seem to care. And so the boss let him slide. I understand he's turned out to be a professional whist player. That's what he's cut out for 'cause he can remember what's played, from aces down to deuces. That fellow proved to me that it ain't memory, it's good horse sense what counts. That and courtesy is all a clothing man needs, if he's got a stock of goods like this to back him up. We've got everything, almost, that a man could ask for, and at any price he wants to pay. For tomorrow we are showing some crack suits and overcoats for \$14; some dandy underwear at 50¢ and \$1; and the prettiest line of ties you ever saw at 25¢ and 50¢. It ain't none too early to do your Christmas shopping, do you think it is? ♦



♦

Burk's Store Boy,

Care Burk & Co., 233, 235, 237. Main. 236 Elm

Side Talks By the Store Boy

I remember when the President's message come out just a year ago. I took the paper home, what had it in it. I said I was going to read it the next Sunday. My intentions that day was good. And so for fear that Mother might throw the paper away, or use it to start a fire with, I put it under my underwear. And there's where I found it last night, as neatly folded as when I put it there a year ago. When I took yesterday's Times Herald home, I wondered whether I would ever get in the humor, or take time, to read the message what was handed to Congress yesterday. I hope that there will come along some cold rainy night when I can find nothing else to do. I did read the head lines and one or two paragraphs, but I don't want no more. I wonder if there is anything in the whole wide world that the President didn't say something about. He talked about politics and money, the army and navy, farming, mining, railroading, steamboating, waterways, labor, work, war, peace, rest, and heaven knows what else. One of the things he talked about looked new, and that's why I read it. I wondered all the time while I was reading it, and a whole lot since, whether he was joking, or really meant what he said, about the government making appropriation to the principal political parties to pay campaign expenses. Why shouldn't the little ones get a bunch of money too, so that they can go out and tell the people the benefits what would come if their part went in? Why shouldn't the Woman's Right, the Populist, the Prohibition or the Labor parties have just as much right to the people's money as the Democrats or Republicans? Just because them two is big and powerful, ain't no reason that they are so good as to deserve special favors. No sir, I like this Burk policy what treats the little fellow and the big fellow alike. Just because a man is got a big bank account or a good job ain't no reason that he should be treated any better than anybody else. We've got so much, that we can give for a dollar, and every man's dollar looks the same size to us. But we do make it a rule to give more for that dollar than any other house in town. Today we are showing two great clothing values. One of 'em is a line of men's suits and overcoats at \$14; the other is a line of boys' double breasted suits at \$5. If you ain't got the money, we'll take your check on any National, State or Savings bank in Dallas. We want to sell; that's one of the things we are here for. ♦

Dec. 4, 1907



♦

Burk's Store Boy,

Care Burk & Co., 233, 235, 237. Main. 236 Elm

Please come to our next TJHS Open Board Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 9 • 9:30 AM • Sandy Shores Beach Motel at Aquarium Village • Corpus Christi

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

TJHS needs your presence at the meetings—as well as your support!



— PHILANTHROPY PROFILE —



The Scharlack-Vexler Fund of San Antonio

excerpted from *THE JEWISH JOURNAL OF SAN ANTONIO's* June/July 1993 edition.

At the recent 71st Annual Meeting of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio, the coveted President's Award was presented to Mrs. Esther Vexler in recognition of her lifetime service and commitment to the Jewish community, and in honor of the special devotion and leadership she gave to the San Antonio community throughout the years. Mrs. Vexler is a member of the Scharlack-Vexler family, a family holding a long term love affair with the San Antonio Jewish community.

"The Scharlack-Vexler Fund was established in 1971, originally as a memorial to Lou Scharlack. This fund was the first endowment of the Jewish Federation of San Antonio. The fund is also a memorial to Abraham and Rose Vexler, and to the memory of their oldest son, Sheldon, who gave his life in the Pacific during World War II.

The purpose of the fund is to support any worthy philanthropic cause in the Jewish community. We have intentionally kept the potential uses of this fund as broad as possible, both to avoid its use for only narrow purposes, and to reflect our families' wide range of activities in the life of San Antonio. Our hope is that the Jewish community of San Antonio will continue to prosper not only in a material sense, but also in a spiritual sense and in its ability to help bring about social justice. We have worked toward this end throughout our lives by our involvement in a number of community organizations. This is the spirit of *tzedakah*, a spirit that permeated our parents' homes, and a spirit

that we have sought to pass on to our children and grandchildren."

—related by Esther and Harold Vexler

History of the Scharlack Family

Meyer and Mary Scharlack came to San Antonio from St. Louis in 1909 with five of their children. Meyer founded the Sunset Jewelry Store on Commerce Street, and with his brother-in-law, Isadore Arbetter, operated Alamo Jewelry Company and eventually a number of other businesses in San Antonio.

Mary and Meyer raised nine children in San Antonio, including Louis Scharlack (the oldest brother) and Esther Scharlack Vexler (the youngest sister). Meyer was extremely active as a community volunteer. He helped establish Congregation Agudas Achim. He was a member of the Jewish Literary Society, a writer, poet and intellectual. He died at age 49, and Mary was left to raise the family alone. She did so with a deep commitment to *tzedakah*.

The blue *tzedakah* box was a permanent fixture in her home, and she served as a volunteer throughout the community. Over the years, Mary and Meyer shared their home with many Jewish families new to San Antonio, both from across the United States as well as new immigrants from Europe.

Lou Scharlack followed in the path of his parents in his community involvement, charity and philanthropy. He took over the Southern Jewelry Company after the death of his father in 1923. He was a pillar of many commu-

nity organizations, serving on the boards of Jewish institutions for decades, including Temple Beth-El and Federation. He was also active in the Lion's Club, and was a thirty-second degree Mason.

Lou was strongly committed to athletics and physical well being. As a youth, he was the pitcher for the Jewish baseball team in spite of a physical disability. He was also an avid swimmer, and as an adult he became an international table tennis champion, competing in the Maccabean Games. Throughout their lives, Lou and Mamie Scharlack hosted Jewish soldiers who were training in San Antonio, and were supporters of the USO.

History of the Vexler Family

Abraham and Rose Vexler arrived in San Antonio in 1916 from Canada. Abraham was in the scrap metal business during the period when Pancho Villa was fighting for power in Mexico. He founded Monterrey Iron and Metal Company in San Antonio because it was the closest town to the Mexican border with kosher meat.

Abraham helped organize and remained active throughout his life with the Hebrew Free Loan Association and the Zionist Organization of America. He was also vice president of Congregation Agudas Achim for many years.

Rose was a longtime member of Hadassah, and is well remembered for her reading and story telling to children and adults alike. ♦

**'TRAVELING TRUNKS'
DEPICT JEWISH HISTORY**

by Walter Fein (San Antonio)

**MEMOIRS OF
DR. JACOB MARCUS**

by Don Teter (Baytown)

**MUSEUM PROJECT
IN SAN ANTONIO**

by Walter Fein (San Antonio)

Jewish religious schools, clubs and civic organizations across the state may not be able to teach much history about Jewish Texans because of limited availability of material on the subject. The TJHS could alleviate this problem by making up 'Traveling Trunks'.

Trunks containing artifacts, pictures and scripts covering different aspects of Jewish life in Texas could be assembled. Kits could be made available to schools or organizations on a loan basis, free or for a nominal rental fee, and shipped around the state as requested.

Ideas come to mind such as depicting the very early Jews in the area—famous Jews such as Rabbi Henry Cohen, the Zale family, etc.

Details and plans have not yet been made. So far this idea is only a 'glimmer' in **Fay Brachman's** eye (she originated the idea). Suggestions are needed.

Please write me at 12022 Mission Trace, San Antonio, Texas 78230, or phone 210/691-2323 if you have any ideas and would like to participate in the development of this project. ♦

Rabbi Randall M. Falk has written a book, *Bright Eminence, Memoirs of Jacob Rader Marcus, Scholar, Mentor, Counselor for Three Generations of Rabbis and Lay Leaders of American Jewry*.

Dr. Marcus has refused to write his memoirs and has continually refused to allow his biography to be written in his lifetime. He agreed to this book with the proviso that he be allowed to personally edit the manuscript and that it reflect the commitment to our Jewish heritage which he so strongly cherishes.

An advance order, which will help to insure publication, may be made by sending \$25 (includes shipping) to Pangloss Press, P.O. Box 4071, Malibu, California 90264, or call 800/333-8122 with your credit card number. There is a 10% discount for three or more copies ordered at the same time or for Temple and Synagogue libraries. ♦

The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio is a museum displaying the many cultures populating Texas, their customs, histories, achievements, etc. The Jewish exhibit occupies a prominent position among the twenty-eight exhibits.

The Institute of Texan Cultures opened in 1968 during Hemisfair. Many of the exhibits are showing their age and need to be updated.

It has been suggested that the TJHS undertake the rejuvenation and updating of the Jewish exhibit. The museum's director, **Dr. Rex Ball**, is looking forward to working with TJHS and will be a consultant in the planning stages.

We're forming a committee for this purpose under my chairmanship and are looking for society members who could help with this worthwhile project. Write me at 12022 Mission Trace, San Antonio, Texas 78230, or phone 210/691-2323.

Walter Fein is a tenured docent at the Institute. ♦

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I am enclosing my contribution of: **\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000**
to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for the 1993-1994 membership year.

Membership Classification: **\$25-Annual Member;** **\$50-Supporting Member;** **\$100-Sponsor;**
\$250-Sustaining Member; **\$500-Benefactor;** **\$1,000-Patron.**

Name: _____
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My areas of interest are: _____

***Contributions to TJHS are tax deductible within the limits of the law.**

***Clip and send to address on reverse side.**

OPEN BOARD MEETING

Sunday — January 9, 1994 — 9:30 AM

Sandy Shores Beach Motel at Aquarium Village
Corpus Christi, Texas

Call: 713/668-9191 for RSVP

ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

Issue Date	Deadline
March 1994	February 1, 1994
Gathering Edition	March 1, 1994
July 1994	June 1, 1994

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. Robert M. Alterman	San Antonio
Ms. Joy Blumenreich	Houston
Dr. and Dr. Lazard S. Brener	Houston
Ms. Fran Brochstein	Bellaire
Dr. and Mrs. Gary Bronfman	Victoria
Mr. Sam Eneman	Charlotte, NC
Judge and Mrs. Sheldon Gardner	Chicago
Mrs. Martha C. Goldberg	El Paso
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hamermesh	Austin
Mrs. Esther Jacobs	Dallas
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Karotkin	Fort Worth
Dr. Andras G. Lacko and Terri Mann	Fort Worth
Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Milstein	Longview
Colonel and Mrs. Bernard Pusin	Austin
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Ratner	El Paso
Ms. Beatrice Shapiro	Dallas
Mrs. Muriel Shaw	Houston
Mrs. Lillie Siegel	Dallas
Mr. Jay Silverman	Houston
Mr. Gerald H. Smith	Dallas
Mrs. Zella Sobel	Dallas

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday, January 9 — 9:30 AM
OPEN BOARD MEETING
Corpus Christi
Sandy Shores Beach Motel
at Aquarium Village
RSVP: 713/668-9191

Thursday, March 3 — 10:30 AM
thru Saturday, March 5
JOINT SESSION WITH TEXAS
STATE HISTORICAL ASSOC.
Austin
Stouffer Hotel — San Marcos Room
RSVP: 512/471-1525

Friday, April 8
thru Sunday, April 10
1994 ANNUAL GATHERING
El Paso
Hotel Camino Real Paso del Norte
INFO: 713/494-2668

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

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