

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

P. O. Box 10193

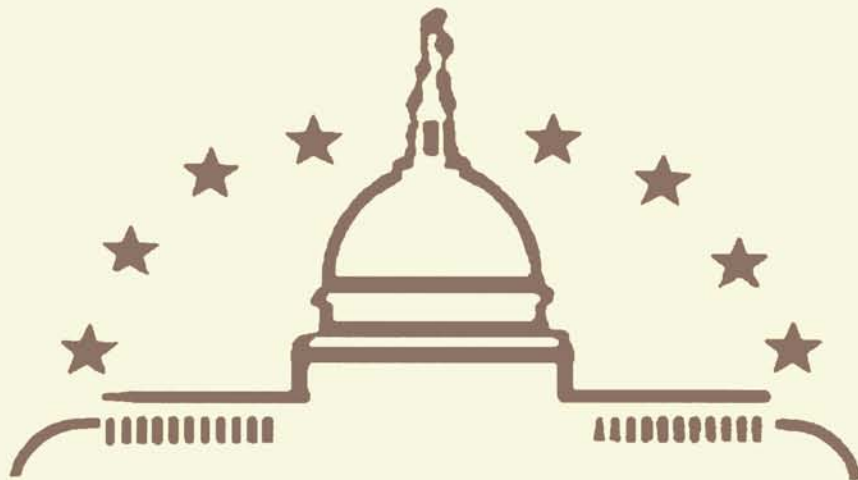
Austin, Texas 78766-0193

JUNE 1996

NEWSLETTER

# AUSTIN

Does it ever cross your mind?



## TJHS Summer Open Board Meeting

Sunday — June 30 — 9:00 AM

Austin's Four Points Hotel

**Visit the Barker Library & Dine at the Capitol!**

# NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



BARBARA ROSENBERG

Dear Members,

While we are looking forward to the next Quarterly Open Board Meeting in Austin, I am still "kvelling" over the wonderful meeting we had in East Texas. Thanks to **Naomi Friedman** for organizing all the local arrangements and all the folks from Longview who helped her. **Ima Joy Gandler** did a great job of organizing the presentations and tours, and it was wonderful to see **Louis Kariel** again and enjoy his description of his hometown of Marshall. We had an extremely interesting tour of the **Weisman-Hirsch-Biel** home with the hospitality of **Greg and Gail Biel**, the present owners of the home, who made us feel so welcome.

I want to thank all the officers, board members, and committee chairmen who worked so diligently this past year, and now it is time to welcome the newly elected officers and board members, many of whom are serving their second term in office. Vice-Presidents are **Dr. Howard Lackman** of Arlington, **Marvin Rich** of Houston, and **Helen Wilk** of Corpus Christi; **Naomi Friedman** of Longview is Recording Secretary, **Ben Rosenberg** of Sugar Land is Corresponding Secretary, **Dorothy Harelik** of Hamilton is Treasurer, **Dr. Barry Green** of Tyler is Parliamentarian, and **Blanche Sheiness** of Alice is our new Society Historian.

A highlight of the Annual Gathering was the acceptance of a large grant to document the vanishing Jewish communities around the state. The focus of the study will be the remaining architectural evidence, such as the synagogue, which reflects a time when there were larger Jewish populations in the area. **Bob Davis**, a Houston architect interested in Jewish history and architectural preservation, has found a way to preserve these buildings by reproducing them with computer imagery. He will then disseminate this information via a web site on the Internet, which can be reached at <http://www.scci.com/rpa611> and clicking on "Virtual Restoration".

TJHS has a new phone number: (713) 276-9693. Call anytime day or night and leave voice mail. You may also request membership information or get dates and times of the next scheduled meetings.

I am looking forward to telling you more about progress of this project and others as we meet in Austin on June 29 and 30 at the Four Points Hotel by ITT Sheraton (formerly Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel). We have added some interesting educational activities to make this quarterly Open Board Meeting one you should all enjoy. Hope to see you in Austin!

B'Shalom,

*Barbara Rosenberg*

Barbara Rosenberg  
TJHS President



## THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Neil Hall (Fort Worth) ----- Copy Chief



# AUSTIN SITE OF SUMMER OPEN BOARD MEETING

**T**he summer Open Board Meeting of TJHS will be held in Austin on June 29 and 30. Rooms have been reserved at the **Four Points Hotel by ITT**

**Sheraton** (formerly *Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel*). The group rate is \$60 per guest, with \$8 added for each additional person. A full buffet breakfast is included. Check-in time is 3:00 PM. The cutoff date for reservations is June 15. For reservations, phone (512) 836-8520 or fax (512) 837-0897.

If you come in early and wish to attend services, the schedule is as follows:

## **Congregation Agudas Achim**

(Conservative)

4300 Bull Creek Rd.

Fri: 8:15 PM, Sat: 10 AM

## **Congregation Beth El**

(Traditional)

3800 Greystone Dr. #418

(unable to contact for time)

## **Congregation Beth Israel**

(Reform)

3901 Shoal Creek Blvd.

Fri: 8:00 PM, Sat: 10:30 AM

The synagogues are being polled to see if they would like to have a TJHS representative speak in place of a sermon, or be given a brief presentation about our organization during their time set aside for announcements. If you would like to volunteer to speak to one of these congregations, please contact Barbara Rosenberg as soon as possible.

On Saturday afternoon, **David and Binnie Hoffman** have arranged an architectural tour of interesting buildings related to Jewish history, including one of the older homes of the city. One bus has been reserved with seating for 44 people.

The tour will leave the hotel on Saturday afternoon at 1:30 PM. After that we will view an exhibit of as yet unidentified photographs which the staff at the Barker History Center has selected from the TJHS archival material. We hope to have a productive session Saturday afternoon helping to identify the photos.

In the evening we will tour our Texas State Capitol and have dinner in the Capitol Dining Room with entertainment by Austin's Klezmer Band. We also hope to have some of our Jewish state legislators with us for the evening.

On Sunday morning we will have our business meeting at the hotel, starting at 9:00 AM. If you have business to add to the meeting's agenda, please notify **Barbara Rosenberg** at least one week prior.

If you wish to participate in the tour or dinner for this upcoming meeting in Austin, please send your check to **Bonnie Cohen**; 13422 Moscow Trail; Austin, Texas 78729 by June 14th.

### **Historic Architectural Tour ONLY:**

\$8 x \_\_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **BOTH Tour & Dinner at the Capitol:**

\$25 x \_\_\_\_\_ people = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total =** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## VISIT HISTORIC HAMILTON

### The Setting of the Play "The Immigrant"

**F**or those of you attending our June Open Board Meeting in Austin, you might want to extend your stay over Sunday night, then on Monday morning head north from Austin on U.S. Highway 87 to historic Hamilton, home of **Dorothy and Milton Harelik**.

On the steps of the Court House on the square in the middle of Hamilton, you will be able to sample authentic Texas barbecue, with side dishes at a bargain price of \$6 per plate. All proceeds will benefit the Hamilton Library which is supported entirely by donations.

As you may know, our TJHS Treasurer, **Dorothy Harelik** has worked

very hard to help rebuild the Hamilton Library after it was destroyed by a fire. (Dorothy is a true *Treasure* as well as an actual *Treasurer*.)

All the stores around the historic square in Hamilton will be open, and **Dorothy and Milton** will be on hand to point out the location of **Haskell Harelik's** store which was featured in their son's play "*The Immigrant*".

This sounds like something you won't want to miss — a real *mitzvah* in the making.

Call **Dorothy and Milton Harelik** at (817) 386-3538.



## RICHMOND/ ROSENBERG/ SUGAR LAND

### FALL OPEN BOARD MEETING

**D**uring the TJHS Fall Open Board Meeting and Mini-Gathering, scheduled for October 25-27 in Richmond/Rosenberg/Sugar Land, you may tour the Imperial-Holly Sugar Company, the oldest industry in Texas still operating on its original site, see its original building, and hear about the Jewish family that established it — the **Kempners**.

You may see one of the oldest buildings in the state on the land grant of **Samuel Isaacs**, one of Austin's Old 300 and perhaps the first Jewish person of record in Texas.

You may visit one of the oldest cemeteries in Texas with graves of heroes of the Republic of Texas and then have dinner around the corner at one of the Houston area's finest restaurants (which once housed a

Jewish business). You may also visit with the Jewish Mayor of Simonton who has served in that capacity since 1979.

After our business meeting on Sunday, if you have time, you may visit *Texian Market Days*, a living history festival which is held yearly on the grounds of the George Ranch just a few miles away. Activities include tours of an 1890's three-story mansion and 1930's ranch house, antique automobiles and carriages, historic re-enactments in period costumes, food, games, crafts, and exhibits of pioneer ranching skills.

The hotel for this Fall Mini-Gathering will be the new **Shoney's Inn of Sugar Land**, 14444 Southwest Freeway (Highway 59 South), Southwest of Houston. The phone number is (713) 565-6655. A group rate has been arranged.

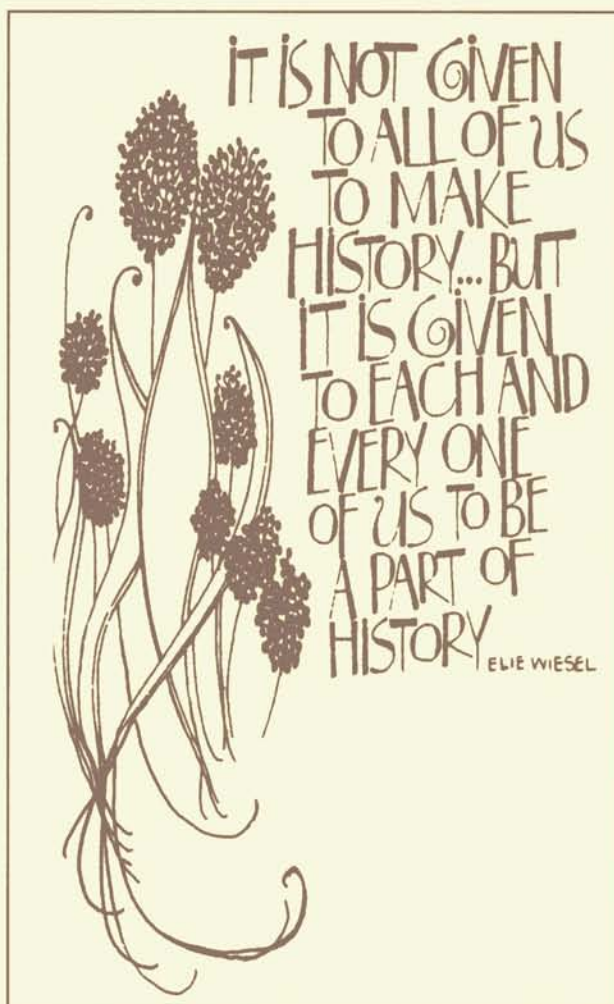
## LATE NEWS FLASH FROM WHARTON & BAY CITY

**T**he Annual Wharton Synagogue Barbecue is scheduled for Sunday, June 2. Hours are 11:00 AM—1:30 PM.

**Helen Kasman** is again in charge of making 250 pounds of slaw from her famous recipe. She asked us to extend an invitation to all members of the Society to join the Wharton Jewish community again this year!

Helen also wants everyone to know that **Henrietta Krumholz**, the wonderful lady who graciously hosted us when we visited Bay City last year, is being honored by the Matagorda County Museum on May 18 at 10:00 AM.

A portrait of her as "The Shell Lady" is being unveiled at the museum, commemorating her countless contributions to the community. Over the years Henrietta has donated many items made of shells to the museum. These items are sold as a fundraising project, with all proceeds benefiting the Matagorda County Museum. All are invited to the ceremony honoring Henrietta. We are mighty proud to know **Henrietta Krumholz**!



# Newly Elected TJHS Officers for 1996-97

PRESIDENT	BARBARA ROSENBERG	SUGAR LAND
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	MARVIN RICH	HOUSTON
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	HOWARD LACKMAN	ARLINGTON
3RD VICE PRESIDENT	HELEN WILK	CORPUS CHRISTI
RECORDING SECRETARY	NAOMI FRIEDMAN	LONGVIEW
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	BEN ROSENBERG	SUGAR LAND
TREASURER	DOROTHY HARELIK	HAMILTON
ARCHIVIST		
HISTORIAN	BLANCHE SHEINESS	ALICE
PARLIAMENTARIAN	BARRY GREEN	TYLER

## BOARD MEMBERS

NORMA ALBERT	McAllen	JAN HART	Tempe	BILL NAXON	Dallas
JAMES ALEXANDER	Dallas	WINSTON HEIDENHEIMER	CISCO	NANCY POLUNSKY	SAN ANGELO
GLENDAL ALTER	SAN ANTONIO	LEO HOFFMAN	Dallas	DEBBY RICE	FORT WORTH
*FAY BRACHMAN	FORT WORTH	ROSALIND HORWITZ	BEAUMONT	RABBI EDWARD ROSENTHAL	BROWNSVILLE
SUZANNE CAMPBELL	SAN ANGELO	*GINGER JACOBS	Dallas	JULIEN ROSENTHAL	HOUSTON
ALEX CORMAN	HOUSTON	MILTON JACOBS	SAN ANTONIO	*LIONEL SCHOOLER	HOUSTON
PEGGY SAMET FINE	HOUSTON	*MRS. FRANCES KALLISON	SAN ANTONIO	NORMA SKIBELL	Lubbock
IMA JOY GANDLER	WACO	FRANK KASMAN	Midland	*MILTON SMITH	Austin
JACK GERRICK	FORT WORTH	EDWIN KATTEN	WACO	DAVIE LOU SOLKA	CORPUS CHRISTI
HERBERT GIVEN	EL PASO	*RABBI JAMES KESSLER	GALVESTON	MAX STOOL	DEL RIO
IDARENE GLICK	Dallas	EILEEN KESSNER	PLANO	*DON TETER	BAYTOWN
ANN GOODMAN	EL PASO	MITZI MILSTEIN	LONGVIEW	RUTH WINEGARTEN	Austin
MICKEY GRAUBART	HOUSTON	ALLEN MONDELL	Dallas	EDWARD WINKLER	FORT STOCKTON
EDNA GREENBERG	TYLER	HERMAN MORRIS	FORT WORTH	FLORENCE YELLEN	HOUSTON
NELL HALL	FORT WORTH	R.D. MOSES	FORT WORTH	SHERRY ZANDER	Dallas
SAM HARELIK	WACO	CHARLES NATHAN	HOUSTON		

\* denotes Past President

## PHOTOS FROM OUR JANUARY BOARD MEETING IN BEAUMONT



TJHS members who came to the January Open Board Meeting in Beaumont on Super Bowl Sunday. We thank MARVIN RICH of Houston for these photos.



(L to R) BARRY GREEN (TJHS Parliamentarian from Tyler), BARBARA ROSENBERG (TJHS President) & FLORENCE YELLEN (Ad Hoc Committee Chair from Houston).



## PHOTOS FROM THE GATHERING IN LONGVIEW



*Participants of the 1996 TJHS Gathering in Longview.*



*(L to R) ALLEN MONDELL of Dallas interviewing TJHS President BARBARA ROSENBERG of SugarLand on videotape. They are inside the Historical Museum of Marshall, Texas.*



*GERTRUDE & DON TETER of Baytown at The Stillwater Inn in Jefferson, Texas.*



*DIANA SMITH, Director of the Sterne-Hoya Museum for the city of Nacogdoches, giving a presentation on Adolphus Sterne for the TJHS Gathering participants in Longview.*



*TJHS 3rd Vice President HELEN WILK & husband LARRY WILK of Corpus Christi at The Stillwater Inn in Jefferson.*



During the Oral History session at the Gathering, **HELEN WILK** (Corpus Christi) interviewed the **FRENKEL FAMILY**, immigrants from Russia who are currently residing in Longview.



(L to R) **JAN STATMAN** of Longview was introduced to the crowd by **NATALIE RABICOFF** of Longview. Jan told about Jewish community life in East Texas during the "oil boom years."



(L to R) **BESSIE ZOBLITSKY** of Waco, her daughter **MARGIE GLAZER** of Fort Worth, and **ROZA & LEV FRENKEL** of Dallas.



**TJHS Treasurer DOROTHY HARELIK** of Hamilton, Texas relaxing on the porch of The Stillwater Inn in Jefferson.



**TJHS 1st Vice President MARVIN RICH** & wife **SHIRLEY** of Houston.



(L to R) This is a photo of the three musketeers, **MILTON HARELIK** of Hamilton, **NATHAN SIEGAL** of Dallas, & **SAM HARELIK** (Milton's brother) of Waco.





(L to R) Russian immigrant **LEV FRENKEL** & Klezmer Band member **DR. MAAS**. Mr. Frenkel is singing a touching tribute to his wife.



**GLORIA HOFFMAN** (Dallas) cutting a birthday cake at the party during the Gathering. Gloria has always been great in the kitchen!



(L to R) Longview Country Club Chef talking to **SUSAN KEENER** of Longview & TJHS Treasurer **DOROTHY HARELIK** of Hamilton. The Chef really enjoyed himself dancing to the music of the Klezmer Band.



**LOU REMER** of Longview on the dance floor. He's 97-years-young and dancing solo to the Klezmer music. We can all learn a thing or two from Mr. Remer.



(L to R) **LEV & ROZA FRENKEL** who immigrated from Russia about four years ago and now reside in Dallas. Their children and grandchildren live in Longview. They can still cut a rug pretty well, don't you think!



(L to R) Holocaust survivor and Longview resident **COEN ROOD** & the Longview Temple's **RABBI BERNARD HONAN**.





ELENA & PETER FRENKEL with children ANNA & SASHA, and parents LEV & ROZA FRENKEL who immigrated from Russia. Their family and their stories touched the hearts of all Gathering participants.



(L to R) BARBARA ROSENBERG of Sugar Land (TJHS President) & NAOMI FRIEDMAN of Longview. Naomi did a wonderful job putting the Longview Gathering together.



Members of the EAST TEXAS KLEZMER SOCIETY BAND doing their thing.



Participants of the Longview Gathering having a good time.



(Standing at Left) SUSAN KEENER of Longview.  
(Seated L to R) DOROTHY HARELIK, WINSTON HEIDENHEIMER, MILTON HARELIK, RUTH HEIDENHEIMER, SAM & MARGARET HARELIK.



Part of the enthusiastic audience attending the Longview Gathering festivities.



# Shirley Jacobs Reiser



SHIRLEY JACOBS REISER

**S**HIRLEY JACOBS REISER was born May 27, 1920, in Raleigh, North Carolina. After an uneventful childhood and high school education she attended Meredith College in Raleigh, leaving in 1939 to marry **Dr. Raymond Reiser**. At that time Dr. Reiser was a Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the Duke University College of Medicine.

In 1940 the Reisers moved to College Station, Texas where he joined the faculty of the then Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, later Texas A&M University. Dr. Reiser now holds the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry. The college in 1940 had an enrollment of only a few thousand students and the city of College Station just a few hundred residents. The population of all Brazos County at that time was only about 25,000.

As the college grew and Brazos County grew with it, Shirley began making her contributions to the civic, religious, educational, and cultural growth of the area. Starting with what was to become her hallmark — food and its preparation and presentation — she founded and served as president of The Foods Group, a gastronomic and social club formed to enrich a college community with no restaurant off campus nor even a good grocery store. It was the beginning of her legendary reputation as a food connoisseur in all its facets.

In this developing period, Shirley co-founded and was the initial president of the Texas A&M Study Club which brought speakers on a variety of subjects to the community and supported local artists.

In 1957 Shirley was asked to become Student Advisor, and later Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel

Foundation at Texas A&M University, after serving as a volunteer for ten years with its founder and former director, the popular and revered **Ester Taubenhau**s. Together they worked with many pre-war Aggies such as **Jack Forman**, and even some former University of Texas students, such as **Billy Goldberg**, to collect the funds to build a mortgage-free Hillel building. For twenty-two years she made the Hillel Foundation a *home-away-from-home* for hundreds of Jewish Aggies.

A letter from a former student exemplifies her success with the students who were all male at that time: "Words cannot express how close I felt to Mrs. Reiser . . . Through all of my adult life I have held a great deal of thanks for what she meant to me. The world is definitely a better place for me because of her."

Shirley's role as a surrogate parent was a secondary level of responsibility for her as a Hillel Director. A more official one was that of advisor to the university on Jewish religious activities and needs. There was no rabbi in Brazos County and she, consequently, served as representative of Jewish students. As such she was a member, and one-time president, of the Ministerial Alliance, a committee of representative ordained ministers of various faiths on the campus who kept the university administration advised on their particular needs. In this capacity she influenced the scheduling of examinations so that they should not conflict with Jewish holidays, and worked with the Alliance to reduce the practice of denominational prayers in the dormitories and elsewhere, such as at athletic events. Her continuing cultural and civic activities gave her special rapport with the university authorities.

Wednesday night was church night at A&M in those days.



Through her broad acquaintanceship with rabbis around the state, she was able to obtain their services for lectures and special events. It must be noted that a local resident, **Mr. Sol Klein**, officiated at many Bar Mitzvahs and holiday ceremonies.

Special Friday night and holiday dinners, including seders, were the sole result of this mother of two Aggies using her unique culinary skills — thus making Hillel truly a *home-away-from-home*. Her knowledge of Jewish cooking, plus her love for native North Carolina and adopted Texas foods enabled her to make *even grits* taste delicious. This can be attested to by the Hillel boards of her day for which she fixed breakfast for early morning meetings.

During and after her work with Texas A&M Hillel, Shirley continued with her civic and cultural activities. She served as a co-founding director on both the Texas A&M Visual Arts Commission and the OPUS Music Program. She continued on the former until her death. More significantly she played a seminal behind-the-scenes role in the formation of OPUS (the Opera and Performing Arts Society). Avoiding the limelight, Shirley asked that her name not be submitted for an office in either OPUS or OPUS Guild. However, she worked closely behind the scenes with **Mr. J. Wayne Stark**, now deceased, then Director of the Memorial Student Center, who conceived and supervised the development of those programs.

According to his wife, **Jean**, Mr. Stark was in almost daily consultation with Shirley for her “guidance and inspiration” for the selection of other persons to consult with, as well as for her advice on other basic aspects of the development of these now dominant cultural campus activities. Important planning and organization meetings, and a key

social event for the development of the Guild were held in her home. The University of Texas attempted to develop an OPUS-type series but failed. According to **Mrs. Stark**, her husband gave credit to Shirley for the difference.

Shirley's social and civic activities included participation in The Woman's Club, a 100-year-old social and philanthropic organization, started by Brazos County's pioneer women. She served one term as president. She designed and aided in supervision of the construction of the current Club building.

The capability to do so was derived from her experience in designing and overseeing the construction of approximately 40 beautiful homes, including a 34-unit planned development. Her homes were selected for home tours for their design and interior decoration but were noted as well for their homeyness.

Somehow, she found the time to continue playing with a 1940's newcomer's bridge group from 1940 to 1993. All of these activities did not interfere with her family obligations. She raised two wonderful boys who gave her and Raymond great pleasure both as children and as adults.

Shirley was often referred to by her friends as *special*. In a letter to her husband Raymond after she died, she was described by an Israeli couple as “the embodiment of loveliness, intelligence, kindness and dignity.” Another wrote “She was a beautiful lady — very regal, charming and talented. In spite of her regal poise, she always had a beautiful warm smile.” A close friend in the Woman's Club wrote “Shirley was the epitome of the term *lady*. She never lost her poise, her cool, her composure, her humor, and there was no job, however difficult and unpleasant, beneath her skills.” A fellow professor wrote to Raymond, “No other woman in my twenty-seven

years in College Station impressed me so much as a gracious lady, wonderful hostess, and sensitive woman with an abundance of talent.”

While always a gentle force, she touched and influenced the lives of many people of all religious faiths and social status. In 1989, she was named “a local hero” by *Insite Magazine* for her contributions to Brazos County.

Shirley showed symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease in 1986, slowly losing her normal capabilities over a period of ten years. Contrary to the common conception of Alzheimer's, she never failed to recognize friends and family. Just a few days before she died, she repeated the *Shema* with **Rabbi Robert Kahan** in Hebrew and in English. She died Sunday morning, July 23, 1995.

**Shirley Reiser** was special.

*Dr. Reiser now lives in Houston and may be reached at 777 North Post Oak Lane #508, Houston, Texas 77024-3805. His telephone number is (713) 688-0233.*

*Dr. Raymond Reiser is also special!*



# MEMORIES OF MY PAPA

by Nanette Brener  
(Shreveport)

**M**y memories of my dear Papa, **Nate Freeman**, were perceived through the heart and mind of a child, since I was only thirteen when he died. Still, thirteen is a sort of in-between age, so maybe I acquired some impression of how he appeared to other adults. I saw him as a warm, friendly person, unassuming, outgoing, responsive and natural with everyone. He was not a laughing, boisterous type, but more of a soft-spoken, understanding, kind, and helpful person.

He related warmly with people from all stations in life, from the social leaders of the community to wealthy or middle class customers in his store, to his employees, family, and personal friends, on down to the simple country people and uneducated blacks who came into the store. He was a devoted family member. For example, he showed continuing concern for the welfare of his four sisters, even though three were married and the fourth one also eventually left home.

One of my personal ideals is to be a democratic, friendly individual like he was. I try to honor his memory by following his example.

Papa had red hair, or rather a sort of subdued orange color. On his arms there were lots of freckles under the hair, but his face was not freckled. He had a special kind of walk in which his feet pointed slightly inward; we called it "pigeon-toed." He always wore high-top lace-up shoes that came just above his ankles.

His shirts, even on workdays, had collars that fastened at the neck with a collar-button under his tie, and long sleeves with which he wore rubber armbands. Underneath his neat outer clothing he wore in cold weather long-leg long-sleeve one-piece "union suits," or long-handle underwear. He kept them on at night, and I know they were cozy and warm, because we children wore similar winter undies in those days before central heating.

We lived in the Freeman compound, which was one block wide and half a block deep. There were three pretty houses side by side, where **Uncle Harry**, we, and our grandparents lived. On one corner stood the handsome big red brick store, with a sign painted on the side wall saying: "J.M. Freeman and Sons — Fine Groceries, Meats, and Shoes — Wood, Coal, and Feed". This building is still standing today, and is used by its present owners for storage. Each of the houses was surrounded by a low wooden white picket fence, and in the yards there were daisies, roses, cannas, and other flowers. Behind the houses was a big open lot where we kept our horses, a couple of cows, lots of chickens, and some delivery wagons.

When I was a small child Papa spent all day in the big red brick store, where he, **Uncle Harry**, their sister, **Aunt Ella**, and several employees handled the trade. After financial reverses in the early 1920's they lost the red brick store and opened a smaller wooden one, built on half of our front yard. He would rise at 5 AM, go to the city square and buy fresh vegetables off the farmers' wagons. Back at the store, he would phone his customers to ask what food they needed for the day, fill their orders, and send the black man out to deliver with a horse and wagon. He could close the store about 9:30 or 10:00 in the morning and go downtown to the real estate and brokerage office he shared with his older brother, **Uncle Harry**. After a day at the office he would

come home for an early supper, then open the store for the evening until about 9 o'clock.

Papa was a hard worker, and I've always wondered how he and **Uncle Harry** lost their fortune. A few years ago one of his old friends told me he thought it was because they were too generous in extending credit and too reticent in collecting what people owed them.

**Nate Freeman** was an observant Jew. His store was closed on Shabbat and holidays, and he always went to Shul. At home he dovened with tefillin each morning. To this day whenever I see a Jewish man put on tefillin I sense stirrings of that secure feeling a child gets from a responsible father.

In the late mornings on Saturday we children would go out to play in the front yard so we could watch for him as he came walking home from Shul. As soon as we caught sight of him we would run out the gate and streak down the sidewalk towards him. He would stoop down with arms extended, pick us up and carry us back home. We were delighted with this little welcoming ceremony. "How is Papa's little *dollin* (darling)?" he would ask us.

Here are some of the other things I remember him saying: When we would forget and pick up our crayons or scissors on Saturday he would say, "You *dassent* (dares not) do that on Shabbos." When people would remark on the fact that he had five daughters and no sons, he would say, "All my boys are girls."

I remember with a sort of glee the bedtime snacks we had with him when he came into the house after closing the store. We would sit around the dining room table shelling and eating pecans or roasted peanuts. Sometimes he would bring salami and crackers or cheese and crackers. Mama expected us to wake up with stomach aches during the night, and frequently said so, but to us these things were a delicious feast.



Sometimes the whole family would take a rest period together. We would lie across the bed and Papa would tickle us. We had a hilarious, happy time.

Papa eventually acquired a Model T Ford, in which we had some wonderful outings. On some warm summer evenings we drove out to Cameron Park, where we spread blankets on the grass, enjoyed the night air, and looked at the stars. On holidays we sometimes drove over to nearby towns and visited some of Papa's customers who had become his friends. Frequently in the evenings we just went for a ride. Tragically, it was on our return from one of these evening rides that my oldest sister Toby met her death at the age of nine. She jumped out of the car and started across the street to join in a yard game with the neighborhood children. She was struck by a passing car and died within a few hours.

My memories of Papa are spotted with occasional sad moments, but for the most part they are made up of secure, happy times which are my own personal treasure.

*Nanette Brener lives in Shreveport. You may reach her at 8601 Millicent Way #118, Shreveport, LA 71115; tel. (318) 797-4409.*

*One of Nanette's sisters, Hannah Meyer of Fort Worth, is a TJHS member and gave us this delightful article to share with our members.*

# BLESSED BY HER SEASONING

by Hagit Ron Hoffman (Waco)

My "Safta" died just six weeks ago. She was 96. No, she was not a modern grandmother who played bridge or mah-jongg every Wednesday, took water aerobics every Thursday and was at the beauty parlor on Friday. She was a Grandma from the "old country."

I can count on one hand how many times I saw her hair without a cover. I remember how often I saw her holding a prayer book. She never wore makeup or took a vacation. And, boy, did she know how to cook!

When I got the news of her death, I was wondering if the love that she gave her family would leave any mark on me. After all, I am living in a modern country that has its impact all over the world. And, yes, a lot of this culture has influenced my life.

At first I was sad to think that everything that she has given to me will disappear with time, that my kids didn't have the chance to really get to know her and be exposed to a nearly forgotten generation.

Tears began to fall down my face onto the pot of meat balls and pumpkin stew that I was cooking on the stove.

Just as I was reaching up to the spice rack to add that special ingredient to my dish, I realized that this recipe was one that I got from my mother. And she had received the recipe from my grandmother.

After dinner, my kids were sleepy and we sat together on the rocking chair. As I looked at my children, I began to wonder how they will turn out. These children were born in their father's hometown with a mother from Israel and paternal grandparents who speak a "bissel" (a little bit) of Yiddish and maternal grandparents who speak Persian.

Will they understand the message my mother always told me, "Don't forget where you came from!" No matter where my children end up on their paths of life, I hope

to give them memorable experiences. And that through me they will be linked to a rich and colorful past.

As I sang my lullaby that my mother sang once to me, I sat there proudly hoping that I

was raising special multi-generational, open-minded children. And I gave thanks to my Grandma for passing on to me the "spice of life."

*Hagit Ron Hoffman lives in Waco with her husband, David, and their children. Her husband's parents, Evelyn and Nathan Hoffman, are active TJHS members. If you so desire, you may write Hagit at 2900 Maple Hill Circle, Waco, TX 76708 or call her at (817) 757-2017.*

*This article was published in the February 12, 1996 edition of The Waco Tribune-Herald.*



Give yourself a present!  
Pay your 1996  
TJHS dues  
now!  
Thank you.



# THERE IS NO TEACHING WITHOUT A TEACHER

by Paul Greenberg  
(Editorial Page Editor  
of the Pine Bluff Commercial  
in Pine Bluff, Arkansas)

My sister told me the other night that Rabbi had died. That's what we always called him when we were growing up in Shreveport — not even The Rabbi but just Rabbi. As in "Rabbi said this" or "Rabbi said that" or "I've got a note from Rabbi for you to sign." I must have been halfway grown before I realized he had a name.

Four afternoons a week, I would leave Creswell Elementary School and walk through Columbia Park to take the trolley down Line Avenue to Congregation Agudath Achim. Fall, winter, spring, I saw the seasons coming through the park. In the summer, Hebrew school was in the mornings, but always it was in the same basement room with large, gray, translucent windows that let the light in but nothing else — the bright yellow of hot Southern mornings, the fading orange of late afternoon. In winter, when the sun would have set by the time Hebrew school was over, the streetlights had come on, and the dimpled glass would magnify the white light until it looked like some giant nova just outside the synagogue.

Sometimes, hating to stop the

ball game and come in for class, we older boys would exchange knowing glances. We had all agreed that we weren't learning anything important in Hebrew school — not anything significant, useful, relevant, not anything that was going to help us in later life. I mean we weren't even studying Jewish history or philosophy or ideas or anything exciting. All we did was recite prayers and translate the Bible. We boys had some pretty intellectual discussions, **Darryl Goldberg** and **Joel Spira** and **Leon Brainis** and **Nathan Fox** and I, and that Hebrew school was a waste of time seemed a perfectly reasonable conclusion to us. Though we knew better than to try it on our parents.

Year by year, everything else I learned in those years, valuable and not so, dwindles a little more in comparison with what I learned in that little room. We called it Hebrew school only formally, or when other kids asked us where we went every afternoon. The traditional name for such a school, the real name, is *cheder* — Hebrew for little room.

I thought of Rabbi not long ago (I often do) when I read about the computerized connection being established between Yeshiva University in New York and Bar-Ilan University in Israel. According to the press release: "Twelve centuries of Rabbinic *responsa* (authoritative replies to questions on Jewish law and social problems) stored in a computer facility will be beamed via satellite to Yeshiva University in a new \$1 million project." A student in New York's Washington Heights can now punch a button at a "Responsa computer terminus" and, via a space satellite, have the memory bank at Bar-Ilan "search its database" for all relevant information contained in "24,000 Responsa — a total of 24 million words in Hebrew and Aramaic — and utilize the satellite to transmit its information to the Yeshiva University computer for an analysis and printout".

At last report, there were only some 476,000 *responsa* left to program into the Yeshiva Bar Ilan network, or an estimated 476 million words. And I wondered if, once the programming was complete and up-to-date, someone sitting at a screen in New York could extract anything like what was available to a grimy kid with no technological expertise at all sitting in a little room in Shreveport, La., circa 1950.

When I was 5, Rabbi taught me *Aleph Bet*, the Hebrew alphabet. When I was 13, he taught me the chant for the *Haftarah*, the Prophetic reading expected of the Bar Mitzvah boy, and even part of that week's Torah portion, the part of the Bible read directly from the Scroll. In between, he taught his students to sound each word, each syllable; never to pray hurriedly but to pray with *intention*; to be careful and deliberate in judgment, and greet all with a cheerful countenance.

I cannot say I learned these things, but I will witness that Rabbi taught them, year after year. He taught them without an ounce of flash, the same way he sermonized, taking great care to delete nothing from the Teaching nor to add anything to it. He never delivered any explicit sermon against the goods of the outside world — success, power, upward mobility — for he cleaved to the text and the commentaries. That those deities were of a lesser order was implicit in everything he did, even in the purposeful way he walked to and from the synagogue on Sabbaths and holidays. He moved with intention. He had somewhere to go.

Asked even a simple question about Jewish law or ritual, Rabbi would always pause before answering. This was important. And on hearing his answer — clear, careful, considered, usually with authority cited — one realized that no question is simple. He conversed with children as seriously as he did with adults, perhaps more so. He had a formal manner and a weakness



for corny jokes. I don't think any database, however elaborate, would be the same.

Newspapers and magazines now are full of terribly concerned articles about the need for educational reform, the function of role models, the concept of authority in society, and more or less clever approaches to all such topics — that is, more or less stupid approaches. I haven't seen any that say there is no substitute for time, years of it. I haven't seen any that speak of a sense of community and how it reinforces, challenges and thereby shapes inner values. I haven't seen any that say there is no teaching without a teacher. That is what *rabbi* means: my teacher.

I was grieved to learn of the death of **Rabbi Leo Brener**. But I realized on hearing the news that I was far, far more grateful — for his presence, for his presence even now. Almost 50 years have passed since the day I clambered onto a chair and Rabbi first pointed out the black squiggly letters on the white page. And they still resemble nothing so much as a Tree of Life.

*Paul Greenberg is editorial page editor of the Pine Bluff Commercial in Pine Bluff, Ark. This syndicated column appeared in the Fort Worth Star Telegram on September 12, 1989.*

*Nanette Freeman Brener was born and grew up in Waco and also lived for several years in Fort Worth. She is sister to Hannah Meyer of Fort Worth. This article is about Nanette's husband, **Rabbi Leo Brener**.*

## THE NEW HANDBOOK OF TEXAS IS "HOT OFF THE PRESS"

by *Helen K. Wilk*  
(TJHS Vice President)

**T**he New Handbook of Texas, published by the Texas State Historical Association, is a definitive encyclopedia about Texas history. This revision of the 1953 Handbook has been thirteen years in the making and contains the work of more than 2,500 contributors. I am proud to be among those contributors, having written the biographical sketch about **Rabbi Sidney A. Wolf** of Corpus Christi.

It is my understanding that the formation of the Texas Jewish Historical Society was motivated by the desire to collect information about the contributions of the Jewish residents of Texas for inclusion in the Handbook revision. So much information was gathered that our Society sponsored publication of the book "Deep in the Heart, The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews," co-authored by **Ruthe Winegarten** and **Cathy Schechter**. And from those early days we have continued to develop and grow and preserve and disseminate information about all the remarkable Jews of Texas.

My presentation about **Rabbi Wolf**, given to the TJHS at our Annual Gathering at Greene Family Camp, led **Ruthe Winegarten** to suggest to the Handbook committee that **Rabbi Wolf** be included in the new edition. I was asked to provide that article. It has been interesting and exciting to be part of this project.

I suspect there are many other society members who are also contributors to the Handbook.

The Handbook's six volumes contain illustrations, maps, and information about the development of the State of Texas. There will be numerous articles about Jewish roles in this history. These volumes will appear in every University and Public Library in our state. **Larry** and I are presenting a set as a gift to the library of our Temple Beth El in Corpus Christi. We feel these volumes will provide a valuable reference for the Jewish students as they study Texas history in public school.

The publication of the revised Handbook of Texas after thirteen years of gathering, sorting, editing and correcting is a monumental accomplishment. The Texas State Historical Association is due our compliments and gratitude. We should also express our compliments and gratitude to **Rabbi Jimmy Kessler** and the small group of dedicated people who used this project to launch the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

### Editor's Note:

*For more than forty years the Handbook of Texas has been the most comprehensive and authoritative source on Texas history. Now, the Texas State Historical Association is proud to announce the **New Handbook of Texas** — a stunning six-volume encyclopedia and biographical dictionary covering every aspect of Texas history. It contains 23,500 articles; 7,000 biographical entries; 7,500 community histories; interpretive essays by leading authorities; 11,000 bibliographic references; 600 illustrations and 6,000 pages.*

*If you wish to purchase this book, please call **Helen Wilk** at (512) 851-9455 and she will guide you in the right direction.*



# Are you in these pictures?



*This photo was taken at the December 1947 Regional AZA Convention held in Houston, Texas.*

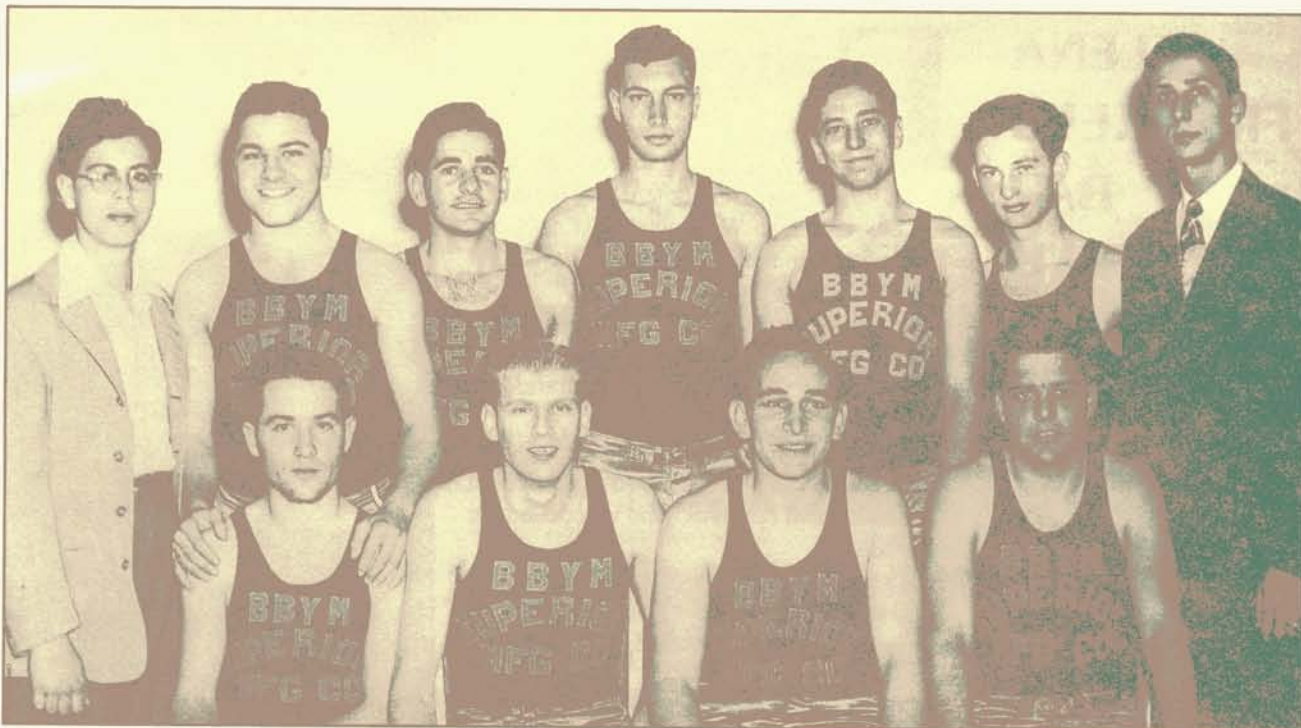
*Pictured above are: Top Row (L to R): Irwin Rosen, Moe Lewis. Third Row (L to R): Seymour Pomerantz, Sheldon (Buddy) Gerson, Jack Rosen. Second Row (L to R): Bernard Wishnow, Shirley Pomerantz Cooper, Unknown, Barbara Walkow. First Row (L to R): Henry Wertheimer, Joyce Catchman Meisler, Melvin Dow.*

**Editor's note:**

*Thank you, Sharla and Henry Wertheimer of Houston, for these wonderful pictures!*

*Maybe other members have some photos to share with us? Please send them on — to Debby Rice, 2108 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76102. Thanks. We promise you'll get your pictures back!*





*This photo of the Houston B'nai B'rith Young Men's Basketball Team was taken in November 1947.*

*Pictured above are: Standing (L to R): Jerry Hamovit, Seymour Pomerantz, Louis Rubin, Don Lasof, Melvin Dow, R.J. (Buddy) Silberman, & Earl Selzer. Seated (L to R): Ed (Buddy) Brooks, Ralph Davis, Henry Wertheimer, & Harold Wisenthal.*

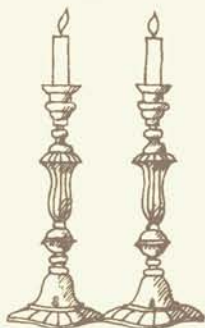


*This photo of the Houston Sons of Israel B'nai B'rith Young Men's Softball Team was taken in April 1948.*

*Pictured above are: Standing (L to R): Jerry Hamovit, Ed (Buddy) Brooks, Harold Wisenthal, Earl Selzer, Melvin Dow, Seymour Pomerantz, & L.G. (Larry) Katz. Kneeling (L to R): Louis Rubin, Arthur Caplan, Bat Boy Billy Laufman, Bat Boy Bernie Dow, R.J. (Buddy) Silberman, & Henry Wertheimer.*



# ELENA FRENKEL'S BAT MITZVAH SPEECH



**F**our years ago we came to this country with no language, without any money, with three kids in our luggage and with lots of hopes. We were hoping to leave our fears behind, to find peaceful home where we could raise our children. We hoped to find place where with our hands we would build that "wonderful future" of our family.

We found much more than we could hope for. We found something what we couldn't expect to find in our lives being raised in atheistic country.

We found God. We feel God's help and God's care about us. We see God's presence in every moment of our lives. And we opened our hearts to God.

As it was said: *Pitehu li shaarei tsedek avo vam ade Yah*. Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

And today on this great occasion we want to remember generations of Jewish people in Russia and other communistic countries who didn't have an opportunity to know God, to study Torah, to raise their kids in Jewish tradition. Who never had a chance to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah. We dedicate this ceremony to all of them.

I want to thank my parents for understanding me and supporting all big decisions I had to make in my life. I know they would be thrilled to be here today.

I want to thank my boys, all three of them, for being patient with my studying even so dinner was always late on Wednesdays.

I want to thank all my daughter's friends for accepting her as different as she is, for understanding how hard it is to be different. It is very important for her to see you all here today.

I would love to thank all important people in our life — our relatives, Rabbi, all of you — friends — who are here and those who would like to be here but couldn't make it today.



**ELENA FRENKEL** dancing up a storm with the Chef from the Longview Country Club during the recent TJHS Gathering in Longview.

I want to thank each one of you, who invested in us a tremendous amount of time, patience and love.

Looking at us today you all can be proud of yourself. Thank you all. And may God bless you all with peace.

*Elena Frenkel lives in Longview after emigrating from Russia with her family four years ago. She was Bat Mitzvahed last year in Longview. Naomi Friedman, a special friend of the Frenkel family, thought our members might want to read Elena's moving Bat Mitzvah speech. Thank you, Naomi.*

***"We were hoping to leave our fears behind, to find peaceful home where we could raise our children. We hoped to find place where with our hands we would build that 'wonderful future' of our family."***

***— Elena Frenkel***



# TJHS SPEAKERS BUREAU BEING FORMED

by Barbara Rosenberg  
(TJHS President)

**F**requently TJHS is called upon to speak to various organizations and school classes in several cities, but up to now there has been no official way to coordinate the requests with an available speaker. Consequently, as we grow and mature, the time has come for a Speakers Bureau to be formed for the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

**Eileen Kessner** of Plano, an experienced board member for a number of years, has consented to chair this project. She is familiar with the expertise of many of our members, and will be able to match the requests with the right person to speak.

Requests for speakers have come from elementary schools, junior high and high schools, synagogue study groups, Jewish organizations, and seniors groups as well. If you have been called upon to speak and

would consent to do so again, please let Eileen know. Her address is listed at the end of this article.

If there is a particular subject, person, institution, event, or geographical area that you are particularly familiar with, please let us know. Hopefully, we can get enough volunteers so that we do not have to "beat the bushes".

It is a Jewish tradition that when one has acquired knowledge, it is one's duty to teach that knowledge to others. TJHS certainly can provide you with the opportunity to do so.

The first opportunity will be coming up in Austin — speaking to synagogues prior to our Summer Open Board Meeting.

Please let us hear from you!

Write to **Eileen Kessner** at 3925 Davis Circle, Plano, Texas 75023 or call her at (214) 867-3132.

## TJHS SPEAKERS BUREAU FORM

Please fill in this form and mail to **Eileen Kessner, 3925 Davis Circle, Plano, TX 75023.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Night Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I would be happy to be part of the TJHS Speaker's Bureau.

I am comfortable speaking to the following age groups: (Check any that apply)

☐ Elementary School

☐ Junior High (Middle School)

☐ High School

☐ Women's Groups

☐ Men's Groups

☐ Seniors

☐ General Adult Groups

☐ Other

My favorite subject areas are:

People \_\_\_\_\_

Places \_\_\_\_\_

Organizations \_\_\_\_\_

Events \_\_\_\_\_

Communities \_\_\_\_\_

Galveston Plan \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbi Henry Cohen \_\_\_\_\_

Vanishing Communities \_\_\_\_\_

Small Towns \_\_\_\_\_

Early Pioneers \_\_\_\_\_

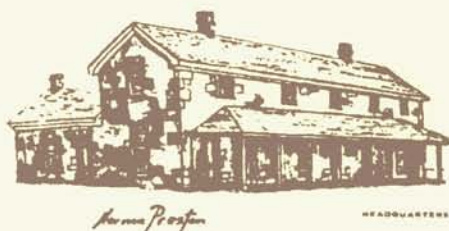
Jewish Texans in Arts, Commerce, Medicine, Entertainment, Politics, Sports, Etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_



# JEWISH WOMEN AND A BROWN BAG LUNCH IN SAN ANGELO

by Suzanne Campbell (San Angelo)



The Fort Concho National Historic  
Landmark in San Angelo

Each year during the month of April, the Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo, Texas has a speakers series. Each Wednesday during the noon hour, individuals can bring or purchase a sack lunch at the Fort and listen to a bit of history. This year the topics included Buffalo Soldiers, 1880 baseball, a story concerning an early family and Jewish Women of the Concho Valley given by **Suzanne Campbell**.

Publicity for the event was very good. Each speaker appeared on the local early morning television program the morning prior to the presentation. Most weeks saw a full house.

Some of the Jewish women discussed were **Mrs. Jacob Lapowski, Mrs. Joseph Raas, Mrs. Jette Steiner Mayer, Mrs. Pauline Winkler, Mrs. Anna Fisher, Mrs. Charles Winkler, Mrs. Bertha Rossenwasser Passur, Mrs. Dave Goldman, Mrs. Bessie Landau, Mrs. Esther Stool** and others who came to the Concho Valley of West Texas.

In essence the German and French Jewish women who came brought with them a touch of European culture to this rather desolate area of West Texas. The Eastern European women, while perhaps not as secularly educated and "cultured" as their Western European sisters, these ladies brought with them more religious education and a strong commitment to the perpetuation of Judaism.

A descendant of a Jewish family in Runnels County was at the meeting and was thrilled to find additional information on her background. Also, there was so much interest that Suzanne was asked to prepare another program for next year on some form of Jewish history and/or culture.

# HEBREW ACADEMY CLASS CONDUCTS HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

by Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

Can a third grader conduct history research? Absolutely! Recently **Laurie Dreyfuss**, a teacher at the **Hebrew Academy in Houston** proved it as she gave an assignment to her class.

The students were to choose a subject in Jewish history as a project. The work included personal interviews, collecting data from original documents and news articles, photographing historic sites, and building

models.

The students' response was remarkable, and certainly worthy of attention by our Society. The project gathered information that was not yet included in our archives or previously published anywhere to our knowledge.

We hope to print some of the work in future newsletters. If you know of similar projects, please let us know. We certainly wish to encourage teachers and students alike to pursue these projects.



# TJHS MAILBOX

March 9, 1996

Dear Fay Brachman,

I was very pleased to read your very kind letter of February, and noticed you had already mailed me a letter with TJHS documents a year ago. I'm sorry I was not able to reply at once. But I shall try to answer some of your questions.

In the first place, I heard of your Society through a cousin who lives in New York, **Jeremy Newman**. He must have met some of your members. He is unfortunately in a wheel chair, but has been for years active in establishing a family tree of our family.

My interest in the Texas Jewish community relates to the fact that my grandfather **Leon Bloch** was probably one of the first Galveston immigrants, as he landed there with his family in the early 1890s. He came from Alsace, which had become part of Germany. They all moved from Galveston to Cincinnati after the hurricane of 1900. Brothers of my grandfather also immigrated to Texas at the same period. I suppose that many descendants of these families remained in Texas, but we know nothing.

My father was born in the Vosges, in eastern France. He arrived in Galveston (from Ciudad Juarez) in 1899; he left in 1900, but for Mexico. I myself was born in Cincinnati, grew up in France, and have lived in Mexico now for over 50 years. My wife is French, our five children are Mexican born. They now reside with their families either in Mexico or in France.

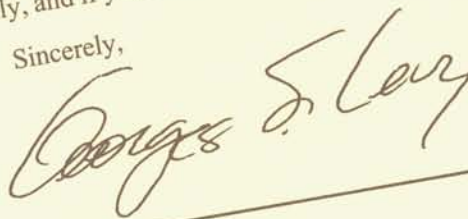
Three of my cousins live in Texas: **Philip Bloch** and **Marion Oppenheimer** in San Antonio, **Ann Boutte**, born **Reisfeld**, in Houston.

A curious event related to our family: When **Camille Bloch**, a distant cousin passed away, childless, a few years ago in Rio Grande, she left a small inheritance to be distributed among her remaining cousins. A lawyer in San Antonio took at heart to draw a family tree in order to fairly distribute this money. I know of a number of descendants, particularly in France, who were astonished to receive a letter from this lawyer advising them they could collect some money (sometimes as little as \$100) from this Texas estate, as they had no idea they ever had any relative in the U.S.!

I regret not to join you at your Annual Gathering next weekend. It would have been pleasant meeting members of the TJHS. I look forward however to your next Gathering. Quite possibly, the readers of your Newsletter would be interested in learning more about the history of my family. Give me a little time to try and put something together.

In the meantime, I would love knowing more about you. How long has your family been in Texas? Where did your ancestors come from? Tell me about the girls, and the balance of your family, and if you have ever visited Mexico.

Sincerely,



## Editor's Note:

*This letter came from  
**Georges S. Levy**,  
a TJHS member  
who lives in  
Mexico City.*

*Next time you are  
there, look him up!*

*His address is  
Plinio 319,  
Chapultepec - Morales,  
Mexico DF 11510.*

*His phone number is  
(525) 280-0270.*

*Tell him "HOLA"  
for us!*



# CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

by Don Teter (Baytown)



*Volunteers working in the Old Gonzales Cemetery.*  
Front Row (L to R): Nicole Neuman, Blair Fields, Dara Cohen, Linda Eiland, Shira Bass, Yosef Fuller, Darin Roodman, & Shoshana Fuller. Back Row (L to R): Rabbi Sheftel Skaist, Eliyahu Fuller, Jimmy Vishnevesky, Mrs. Mona Roodman, & Rosty Treyger.



*At the Oakwood Cemetery in Denison, Akiba Academy Headmaster Rabbi David Jacobson and students observing a fallen marker after digging it up and turning it over to be read.*

**T**HE CEMETERY PROJECT is nearing completion. As soon as we receive data from a few more cemeteries, we will be able to publish the approximately 34,000 Texas Jewish burials of which we are aware. There are many Jewish people buried in non-Jewish cemeteries. We cannot include them unless someone informs us. If you know of any of these, please contact us.

Here are some projects that are ongoing and for which we should be most thankful:

## OLD GONZALES CEMETERY

Much has been written about this unusual cemetery on a ranch three miles north of the city. For the past three years in March the Akiba Academy of Dallas, led by Headmaster Rabbi David Jacobson and teacher Kay Heise has been bringing sixth grade students on a history trip to Waco, Austin, San Antonio and Gonzales. They visit this cemetery and have maintained it by mowing, weeding, cleaning and straightening. Last year they were joined by students of the Jonathon Netanyahu School in San Antonio. This past March the Akiba Academy was unable to make this trip, but Headmaster Rabbi Sheftel Skaist and two parents from the Netanyahu School brought their students to do the job.

We have been contacted by the second 25th Judicial District Intermediate Sanctions Facility in Gonzales. This is a facility where parole offenders are sent for a period of at least six

months and, as part of the training, they must perform community service. The facility has agreed to maintain the cemetery and repair markers, etc. Visits from school groups must still be encouraged for their historical value.

## LA GRANGE CEMETERY

This unusual cemetery located on a residential property, 50 feet from a beautiful home, has been maintained for the past three years under the direction of our members, David and Vicki Vogel, who reside in La Grange. BIFTY groups from Temple Beth Israel in Houston and Temple Beth Israel in Austin have met in years past to work in the cemetery and enjoy a social and recreational afternoon. This year only the group from Houston could be there on March 17, but the Austin group may come later. The Vogels, along with the youths, have gotten the fence repaired and painted, planted grass and flowers and placed a concrete bench under a large pecan tree. We should all be truly grateful for such wonderful volunteer activities.

## DENISON — OAKWOOD SECTION

The students of the Akiba Academy in Dallas, under the direction of Rabbi Jacobson and Mrs. Heise made a day trip to Denison to clean the old Jewish cemetery located within Oakwood Cemetery. They discovered two graves hidden in high brush that were not found by us when we visited that cemetery and lifted one marker so it could be read. They raked, cleaned and reassembled some broken markers, and planted flowers and trees. It is hoped that they or some group will continue to maintain this old and historical cemetery.







## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Miriam & Mitchell Barnett ..... *Dallas*  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Bessman ..... *Galveston*  
 Dr. & Mrs. Ralph Brookner ..... *Beaumont*  
 Rachel & Robert Davis ..... *Houston*  
 Mrs. Sylvia M. Gilman ..... *Galveston*  
 Mr. Richard M. Golden ..... *Denton*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Himelhoch ..... *Houston*  
 Larry Holtzman ..... *Brownsville*  
 Jewish Federation of Waco & Central Texas  
 Miriam & Harold S. Joachim ..... *Houston*  
 Sarah & Isaac Kleinman ..... *Richmond*  
 Doreen & Benjamin Mosier ..... *Houston*  
 Alyce Silver Ney ..... *Beaumont*  
 Bitsy & Jackie Proler ..... *Houston*  
 Iris Kleban Schwartz ..... *Morristown, NJ*  
 Dolly & David Seligman ..... *Edna*  
 Sylvia & Bernard Shelan ..... *Longview*  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael T. Wolf ..... *Beaumont*  
 Fred Zeidman ..... *Houston*  
 Marjorie & Morris Zeidman ..... *Wharton*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sunday, June 30**

### SUMMER OPEN BOARD MEETING

9:00 AM

Austin, Texas

Four Points Hotel by ITT Sheraton

(formerly Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel)

Call (512) 836-8520 for reservations.

Come for the whole weekend if you can!

**SEPT. 14-15 — ROSH HASHONAH**

**SEPT. 23 — YOM KIPPUR**

**Sunday, October 13**

### FALL OPEN BOARD MEETING

Sugar Land, Texas

Shoney's Inn of Sugar Land

14444 Southwest Freeway (Hwy. 50 South)

Call (713) 565-6655 for reservations.

**April 4-6, 1997**

### 1997 ANNUAL GATHERING

Corpus Christi

### TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

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