

Texas Jewish Historical Society

P. O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

SEPTEMBER 1996

NEWSLITTER

SUGAR LAND



TJHS Fall Open Board Meeting

Sunday — OCTOBER 27 — 9:00 AM

SUGAR LAND — SHONEY'S INN OF SUGAR LAND

PLEASE COME!

NEWS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



BARBARA ROSENBERG

MEA CULPA:

These three names were omitted from our directory. We're REALLY sorry and hopefully this WILL NOT happen again!

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Dear Members,

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer and finding a way to keep cool. As I write this letter, the Atlanta Olympics have just closed, with a young Jewish woman from Texas as one of its prime stars — gymnast **Kerri Strug** made us all proud and certainly earned a place in our hearts as well as in the history books! See the reprint of the article about her on page 9 in this newsletter.

We had an educational and productive meeting in Austin with exceptional attendance for a Summer Quarterly meeting. Thanks to all who came and participated, and special thanks to **Binnie and David Hoffman** for leading our tour, to **Jan Hart** for arranging our hotel accommodations, **Sara Clark** for providing the exhibit at the Barker History Center at UT, **State Rep. Elliott Naishtat** for visiting with us at dinner at the Capitol, and to **Dr. Seth Wolitz** for his presentation on the UT Judaic Studies program.

We have completed several projects, are busy with others, and are always ready to consider new ones suggested by our members. Our Archival materials at the Barker History Center a UT are now fully catalogued, thanks to **Sarah Demb. Brian Cohen's** video project, *Home on the Range*, is completed and in distribution. **Dr. Seth Wolitz** recently took the video to South Africa for a presentation at an international meeting of Judaic Studies professors. It seems that the concepts expressed in this video, as well as in our computer project on Vanishing Synagogues, reflects a worldwide phenomenon, the shrinking presence of Jews in small communities as they move to larger cities. More communities have been studied and added to the Vanishing Synagogues project. The latest one at this time is Texarkana which includes sound clips of interviews which may be heard via RealAudio. The information and virtual reality models have been put on our own TJHS web site, which was donated to us by NeoSoft, Inc. of Houston. The new Worldwide Web address for the synagogues is: <http://www.neosoft.com/~tjhs/VRsyn.html>. TJHS has another site whose address is: <http://www.neosoft.com/tjhs>. We plan to put the index of archival materials on that site. Check us out on the WEB!

We are continuing to grow and attract new members, but we would really like more, especially from the Austin area. Please encourage your friends to join us. I welcome anyone who is interested to join a new committee to "brainstorm" and come up with new ideas to attract members.

We have many volunteer opportunities for members to get involved, and most are fun and educational. For example, we will be needing several people to help judge the Texas State History Contest for junior high and high school students in Austin next spring. *Please contact Marvin Rich if you are interested (no experience necessary!).* We also need a volunteer in Austin to help with new materials which are donated to the archives.

I look forward to seeing a big crowd at our fall meeting, October 25-27 in Fort Bend County, my own "stompin' grounds" (Sugar Land/Richmond/Rosenberg). We will have an interesting tour and hear from some individuals whose families were active in the economic and social development of this area which previously was home to many Jewish families who later achieved prominence. The Jewish population had diminished, but in recent years has seen a 're-Jew-vination' as the population is booming.

B'Shalom,

Barbara Rosenberg

Barbara Rosenberg
TJHS President



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RICHMOND/ ROSENBERG/ SUGAR LAND

FALL
OPEN
BOARD
MEETING
OCT. 25-27

During 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.

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.

VIRTUAL RESTORATION OF SMALL-TOWN SYNAGOGUES IN TEXAS

By *Robert P. Davis*
(Houston)

The project to document vanishing synagogues and their communities in Texas now includes 21 structures in 19 towns, representing most regions of the state. A wealth of documentary material in the form of models, photos and tapes has been collected, samples of which may be seen and heard on the newly-established TJHS web site: <http://www.neosoft.com/~tjhs/VRsyn.html>.

We are not a moment too soon. Synagogues in Gainesville, Orange, and Mercedes have disappeared entirely. Others such as Breckenridge and Kilgore have passed out of Jewish hands. Saddest

of all are those demolished in recent times such as Marshall. Most small-town communities are barely breathing, and the few people who remain cannot be expected to maintain their synagogues and cemeteries much longer. In ten years they too will be gone.

The buildings like anything we can see and touch are easy and popular objects of study. But they serve here as visual props, spurs to the memories of people and the stories they tell. Generic stories can be heard with little variation everywhere, in small towns and large cities. They tell us about Jewish communal development in our time, and provide important lessons for Jewish continuity in the future. Each town, however, contains its own unique dramas which are told with relish or regret. These stories are the towns.

Some are about the people whose energy and will held their towns and synagogues together. There are also other, darker examples of those whose contentious selfishness split them apart. There are stories about Jewish businesses, how they got into them and why they succeeded. There are stories of personal tragedy which infected communities with a larger sorrow. And there are many stories with

happy endings.

The stories can be distilled for the larger historical view. Jewish immigration and settlement in the state moved in clearly discernible flows, largely independent of each other. Jewish acculturation and assimilation (when it occurred) followed two distinct patterns based on country-of-origin. Small-town Jewish communities, like many Jewish businesses, were founded and (many) have disbursed within three generations. World War II was an important developmental and aesthetic watershed very clearly seen in synagogue architecture.

And finally, easy come – easy go! While it is easy to see why small towns attracted and fostered Jewish settlement, it is not clear why Jews did not bond to these places in a way that non-Jews seemed able to do.

As the project moves into its terminal phase, these and other questions will shape the way in which the material is presented. If the collected material has a purpose, it is to illuminate its subject in a manner appropriate and accessible to an intended audience. Identifying this audience is the work and responsibility of TJHS. I hope more members will see what has been done, and offer suggestions regarding future efforts.

FROM HOUSTON TO JACKSON AND BACK AGAIN!

By Merilee Weiner (Houston)
& Ima Joy Gandler (Waco)

Forty-two lucky individuals shared the experiences of the Texas Jewish Historical Society sponsored four-day Jackson Tour in mid-June under the guidance of **Don and Gertrude Teter** and **Ima Joy Gandler**.

Included enroute to its Jackson, Miss. destination to see the Russian Exhibit were visits to three vibrant, beautiful historic synagogues: Temple Emanuel in Beaumont; Temple Sinai in Lake Charles, LA.; Temple B'nai Israel in Natchez, Miss. and one handsome, modern sanctuary in its death throes, Temple Anshe Chesed in Vicksburg, Miss. Temple Gemiluth Chassed, *AveSholom*, died in Port Gibson, Miss. and was in the process of resurrection for historical reasons by its rescuers, a gentile family named **Lum**.

Before seeing Gemiluth Chassed we stopped to pick up **Mrs. Lum**, a soft-spoken lady who boarded the bus but decided we'd be more comfortable in her antebellum living room prior to the synagogue visit. This was an opportunity to visit briefly among beautiful antiques in a lived-in *Jewel of the South*. Unfortunately her tall ceilings and single room air-conditioner was no match for the cool comfort of the bus, but Mrs. Lum evidently felt intimidated by microphones.

This proved to be an emotional

experience for Mrs. Lum whose husband died recently and for whom the synagogue restoration was his special project.

From there to the thrill of a lifetime, a visit to the Museum of Southern Jewish Experience in Utica, Miss. on the grounds of the Union of American Hebrew Congregation's Henry S. Jacobs Institute for Living Judaism. This is Mississippi's counterpart for the Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas.

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience is dedicated to exploring the rich history and experience of Jews in the South. Drawn by family and the Mississippi River trade, many Jews came South after arriving in New York, Galveston, New Orleans, Charleston and other ports. Jews became peddlers, merchants, planters, doctors, lawyers, educators and much more. Throughout the South, they built synagogues and established cemeteries to honor their dead. Times change, populations shift, and the story continues.

Generations of young Southerners—Jews among them—have left their small home towns for more promising careers in urban America. While Jewish culture thrives in metropolitan centers, Jewish community is dwindling in rural areas. In many small towns, the story of this Jewish experience survives only as a cherished memory. The Museum of Southern Jewish Experience was established in 1989 as a place to tell this story to all people, exploring not only the past, but the challenges of Jews that live in the South today."

It may well be the salvation for the handsome Jacobs-Tent themed Vicksburg synagogue, Amshe Chesed, whose cemetery houses more congregants than its current membership of 56 people spread among several small communities.

Macy B. Hart, Executive Director and guiding light of the Museum, showed a 17-minute film reminiscent of *West of Hester Street* that pinpointed Southern Jewry with

its similarities and differences. The Museum's sanctuary serves the Jacobs Camp for religious purposes and houses a magnificent collection of rescued synagogue memorabilia, artifacts, pictures, and furnishings. Mr. Hart's personable presentation was contagious—we hated to leave.

All along the route the Teters had located, through personal contact with locals in each community, the finest guides available. **Fran Gotthelf**, a Jackson native, filled us in with that city's history in the Old Tyme Deli whose proprietors, **Irving and Judy Feldman**, were second generation owners and who, in addition to the restaurant, import kosher meat for special customers.

Marty Nathanson, a musician-lawyer turned entrepreneur, now retired, proved to be a delightful mentor in Natchez, while **Mrs. Betty England**, a professional tour leader/archaeologist (whose great grandfather had been Jackson's first Rabbi), a native Mississippian, kept the group fascinated with her limitless knowledge of the Vicksburg National Military Park and its thousands of unusual monuments and hill and dale terrain.

Passenger **A. I. Schepps** later took the bus microphone to further educate us about the import of the particular battle fought here, one of the two most significant during the civil war—Gettysburg, Penn. being the other battle site—which the military still uses as a classic guide to warfare.

An impish **David Smith**, cousin to **Actor Patrick Swayze**, regaled us with his stories at the Woodville, Miss. Historical Museum. The magnificent 17-foot-ceilinged Stanton Hall in Natchez was still another indescribable trip highlight.

Our perfect journey included the \$8 million dollar Russian Exhibit recreated for the Jackson, Miss. community as a thank-you gesture for a crisis contribution in their time of need. The items, unbelievably beautiful, displayed far more effectively here than in the Hermitage, though certainly

nowhere nearly as abundantly, according to members of the group who had been to St. Petersburg.

Some of our riders were lucky at the casinos that dot the Mississippi River during the group's free evening time. The others simply had fun.

The near-perfect journey was marred only by a four hour snail-paced ride from Vidor, Texas to Houston on the return home because of a tank truck spill that rerouted traffic. By then everyone was too slap-happy to care. And if you have to be stranded, is there a better way than on an air-conditioned bus with comfortable seats, a movie, food and drink aboard and a comfort facility available?

Five hours later, just before midnight, the bus arrived at Temple Emanu El in Houston, only my car had been left for me at Temple Beth Israel, all the way across town. No matter, Society President **Barbara Rosenberg** and husband **Ben**, took me and roommate **Mabel Massin** home and everyone else had been accounted for before morning came.

The Teters, tour hosts beyond description, were most pleased that all the passengers, only nodding acquaintances to begin with, melded so beautifully, weathered the last five hours with good humor, and left as friends eager for the next jaunt, *no matter wherever it may be.*

Twelve new Society members were unanimous in their praise of the venture: **Elaine Altschuler, Renee Amdur, Helen Baernstein, Esther Engle, Charlotte Frucht, Sam Grunger, Selma Mantel, Helen Melinger, Ruth Rabson, George and Ruth Schnitzer, Lea Weiner, and Midge Wische.**

Four more new members: **Victor and Adrienne Layis, Abner Morris, and Miriam Schwartz** have been recruited simply on the basis of hearing about our wonderful journey. A hearty welcome to all.

Now, that's a successful trip!

PHOTOS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI TRIP



Photo by Ima Joy Gandler & Blanche Sheiness

Pictured above a group shot of half of the Mississippi bus tour members. The photo was shot outside Stanton Hall (a beautifully restored mansion) in Natchez, Mississippi.



Photo by Ima Joy Gandler & Blanche Sheiness

Pictured above a group shot of the second half of the Mississippi bus tour members. Thank you to Ima Joy Gandler & Blanche Sheiness for these photos.



Photo by Blanche Sheiness

*(L to R) **BLANCHE SHEINESS** (Alice) & **NORMA ALBERT** (McAllen) outside the Palaces of St. Petersburg exhibit in Mississippi.*

PHOTOS FROM THE JUNE OPEN BOARD MEETING IN AUSTIN



Photo by Marvin Rich

SARA CLARK, Archivist Extraordinaire for the Texas Jewish Historical Society at the Barker Center of the University of Texas at Austin. She put together a showing of mystery pictures that was really fascinating to behold.



Photo by Marvin Rich

DAVID HOFFMAN, Austin's premier restoration architect, proudly showing off the beautiful Hirshfeld-Moore House, which was built by a local Jewish family in the 1880s. David's firm brought the house back to life.



Photo by Marvin Rich

State Representative **ELLIOTT NAISHTAT** surprised a lot of us with his tale of how he got to Texas where it seems he'll stay. What's a nice Jewish guy from Brooklyn doing in the Texas Legislature?



Photo by Marvin Rich

BARBARA ROSENBERG (Sugar Land) & **SHIRLEY RICH** (Houston) on the steps of the State Capitol. We all enjoyed a beautiful dinner and lovely evening presentation in the Capitol Dining Room.

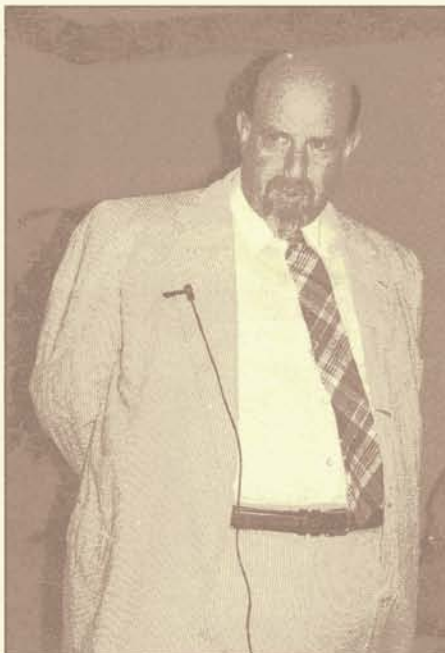


Photo by Marvin Rich

DR. SETH WOLITZ of Austin, Director of the UT Judaic Studies Program, giving an informative talk at the Open Board Meeting. He explained the workings of a college based Judaic Studies Program.



Photo by Marvin Rich

ROBERT DAVIS of Houston is the architect who is rebuilding synagogues of small Texas Jewish communities by putting them into a virtual reality image on the World Wide Web.



Photo by Marvin Rich

IMA JOY GANDLER (Waco) examining a town plat of Waco at the Barker Center. The town plat is from the late 1800s and was fascinating.



Photo by James Alexander

The Texas Historical Marker from the Hirshfeld-Moore House.



Photo by Marvin Rich

SHIRLEY & MARVIN RICH of Houston at the beautiful Hirshfeld-Moore House in Austin. We have **MARVIN** to thank for providing these wonderful pictures for us. He is always so generous with his photos, and this is much appreciated!



Photo by Marvin Rich

A group of TJHS hams onstage at the historic Paramount Theatre in Austin. **DAVID HOFFMAN**'s restoration architecture firm renovated this theater, and we were privileged to have David and his wife, **BINNIE**, show us around.



Photo by James Alexander

Look at the beauty of the inside of the historic Paramount Theater in Austin, Texas.



Photo by Marvin Rich

(L to R) **HELEN WILK** of Corpus Christi, **BARBARA ROSENBERG** of Sugar Land, **SHIRLEY RICH** of Houston & **LARRY WILK** of Corpus Christi. They are standing on the steps of the Texas State Capitol Building.



Photo by James Alexander

TJHS Austin Board Meeting participants touring the State Capitol.



Photo by Marvin Rich

TJHS Austin Board Meeting participants touring the State Capitol. This photo taken in the State Senate.



Photo by Marvin Rich

TJHS Austin Board Meeting participants touring the State Capitol. Pictured is the House of Representatives for the State of Texas.



Photo by James Alexander

The wonderful Austin Klezmer Band provided music for us at the Saturday night dinner in the Capitol.



Photo by Marvin Rich

This is a photo of the Open Board Meeting on Sunday morning. This was one of our largest turnouts for a summer board meeting — ever!



Photo by Marvin Rich

Open Board Meeting participants who stayed late to catch **BRIAN COHEN**'s video presentation about growing up in small Texas communities. They gave the video a "two-thumbs-up" rating.

KERRI STRUG VAULTS INTO HISTORY

by Jeanne F. Samuels of The Jewish Herald-Voice (Houston)

Houston resident **Kerri Strug's** resounding and dramatic contribution to her team's triumphant gold in gymnastics was the vault heard 'round the world.

It was the first ever for the U.S. women's gymnastics team, ending the Russian's longtime hold on the sport. For the normally shy athlete, it appeared that the shock of the resulting pain from her landing signaled another, stronger impact — that of unexpected adulation. Kerri had suffered two torn ligaments and a sprain in her left ankle.

Her feat was quick to touch Kerri's Houston cousins with a certain notoriety of their own. There have been an endless number of telephone calls, mostly fielded by **Michael Strug**, and his twin, **Mark**, and his own field day on three Houston radio talk shows. Their older brother, **Paul**, was interviewed on the nightly news in Austin, where he is studying for the Texas Bar. Commented Paul, "At least now people will pronounce my name correctly." Their mother, **Marian**, was on hand to see Kerri's

monumental display of a champion's heart as were her Houston aunt and uncle, **Ann and Don Mangold**. "The stadium absolutely came apart," Marian recounted.

Needless to say, the Jewish communities of Houston, New Orleans and Tucson are a thrill over the compact 18-year-old with the heart of a champion. Kerri's father, heart surgeon **Dr. Burt Strug**, had been chief of staff at Touro Infirmary in New Orleans, where their family originated, and worked under **Dr. Michael DeBakey** in Houston before moving the family to Tucson, Ariz. It was there that Kerri was born.

The youngest of three children, little Kerri returned from watching her big sister **Lisa** practice her gymnastics and announced that she could do that. Her real climb upward began in 1989, competing in both the national and international arenas, and she earned her first silver medal in the World Championships of 1991 in Indianapolis.

In 1992, Kerri was an event finalist in the World Championships in Paris, France and won the bronze medal in the Barcelona Olympic Games. An event finalist at the 1993

World Championships in Birmingham, England, she went on to score a silver medal at the 1994 Team World Championships in Dortmund, Germany.

Last year, Kerri earned a bronze medal at the World Championships in Sabae, Japan, and this year . . . well, that is history.

The Centennial Olympics in Atlanta will be remembered with cheers as well as heartaches. It's the glory of top athletes from around the world competing side-by-side, their pride of accomplishment and their tears in disappointment. It's the story of a world suddenly recoiling in disbelief when a pipe bomb blast shattered Centennial Park. And it's a resurgence of the spirit of the Olympics which would not be intimidated.

Both this article and the one below appeared in the July 31, 1996 edition of Houston's The Jewish Herald-Voice.

Barbara Rosenberg sent us these articles in order to share this bit of news with all our membership.

SPORTS REEL

by Jerry Ribnick of The Jewish Herald-Voice

Reel One — Strug Steals the Show

Kerri Strug, the 18-year-old Jewish girl from Tucson, Ariz., who has lived in Houston the past five years under the guidance of coach **Bela Karolyi**, stole the show in the 1996 Olympics.

She performed a last-ditch vault in gritty fashion to lock up the gold for the U.S. women's gymnast team.

It was the first time the U.S. had won a gymnastic team title, and Kerri, who fell on her previous vault, raised her hands as she made a fine jump, but then she faltered and fell to the ground with a badly sprained ankle and tendon problem. Her leg was so badly sprained that Bela had to carry her to the podium, where she and her teammates received their Gold Medals.

The injuries kept her from the all-around competition but gave the seven golden girls from the USA the Gold Medals.

It was a courageous final vault, as everyone knew she had been injured on the previous try, but she did it anyway! The U.S. team barely beat out the Russians for gold.

Reel Two — Kerri in the Spotlight

Kerri, as earlier written here, was due to attend UCLA on a gymnastic scholarship in September, but now she has been besieged with endorsements, etc., and has become the new **Mary Lou Retton** of gymnastics.

Kerri has many relatives in the Houston area, including **Marian Strug**, daughter of **Irving Wadler**.

Her father is a heart specialist who trained in Houston under **Dr. Michael DeBakey**. She had an uncle who was an orthopedic surgeon, but he died four years ago. Also, her grandfather was a doctor in New Orleans, where he taught at the Tulane School of Medicine.

Her final vault thrilled the nation as she raised her hands in triumph and then landed on the floor mat in extreme pain! Thank goodness she's OK, but she's out of action.

I don't know where **Kerri Strug** will be in the year 2000 for the Olympics, but she stole the show in 1996 in Atlanta!

Jerry Ribnick writes a weekly sports column for Houston's Jewish Herald-Voice.

"HI, I'M HAROLD. I DRESS 70, TALK 80 & SHOOT 90 – WHEN MY PUTTER'S HOT"

By Laura Elizabeth Eider
of The Houston Business Journal

*Harold M. Wiesenthal,
longtime clothier to the rich
and famous, has made his
humble Heights boutique
a Houston monument.*

It's 10 a.m. on a Friday, and **Harold Wiesenthal** is fired up for work. Dressed for a round of golf rather than for business, the 67-year-old owner of Harold's Mens Wear greets shoppers with the affection and intimacy of an old friend, stopping to chat with each customer about families, jobs or mutual acquaintances.

Although Wiesenthal no longer handles much of the day-to-day operations, his presence at the store and his personal attention are what customers have come to expect. And while he's left much of the running of Harold's to his sons **Michael**, 36, and **Darryl**, 34, Wiesenthal isn't ready to retire.

Instead, he continues to do what he does best — garner publicity and good will for the 45-year-old store.

With an uncanny talent for public relations, a free-tuned sales pitch and an established reputation for quality and service, Wiesenthal



(L to R) Brothers **MILTON** (now deceased) & **HAROLD WIESENTHAL** with their father **EMMANUEL WIESENTHAL** in days of yore.

has made his Heights store a Houston monument.

Annual sales at Harold's exceed \$4 million, making it one of the nation's leading men's stores based on sales per square foot. And Harold's boasts a client list that reads like a Who's Who of Houston.

Wiesenthal has managed to survive the oil bust, the creeping competition of department stores and the onslaught of big-box chain retailers. His store is one of the few remaining longtime family-owned boutiques in the city, despite the fact that its location at 350 W. 19th St. isn't the most promising of retail sites.

Sandwiched between discount outlets, Harold's is actually hard to find. But customers will drive far out of their way to buy clothing there.

Harold's clientele include former Houstonians who now live in California and Alaska. Wiesenthal's family and longtime customers say service is the main reason for the store's success, but they also concede that if clothes make the man, Wiesenthal makes the store.

There is no doubt that my father's personality has made this store what it is," says **Darryl**, who

is a co-owner and buyer for the big and tall men's line.

Not everyone has shopped at Harold's, but almost everybody knows Wiesenthal from his quirky commercials, especially the line executed with the familiar drawl:

"Hi, I'm Harold. I dress 70, talk 80 and shoot 90 - if my putter's hot." Stealing the spotlight comes naturally for the entrepreneur. When he cofounded the store with his brother **Milton** in 1950, it was Harold who managed to get the attention.

He's a haberdasher who never turns off the shtick and never misses a chance to introduce himself and promote his stores at public events. While he has a plush office in the 15,000-square-foot store, he prefers to be out on the floor where the customers are. **Michael Wiesenthal**, also a buyer, says the Harold on television is the Harold at the store. He's the real thing.

"He's like that when he wakes up in the morning," Michael says. "It's not an act." Harold Wiesenthal was born in Galveston but moved to Houston when he was 4-years-old. His Austrian immigrant father met his Polish mother on the ship that brought them to the island. **Emmanuel Wiesenthal** operated a

dry goods store downtown, and Wiesenthal worked in the shop as a teenager.

Wiesenthal graduated from San Jacinto High School and attended the University of Houston and South Texas Junior College with the intention of becoming an optometrist.

"My father wanted something better for us. He wanted me to be a professional. But I wasn't a good student and I loved retail," he says.

Wiesenthal never got his degree. After leaving college, he joined the maritime service and was a Merchant Marine for two years.

Still aspiring to be a clothier, in 1950 Wiesenthal and his brother **Milton** opened a 1,200-square-foot clothing store. Their father helped them build the store with \$300 start-up capital. **Emmanuel Wiesenthal** arranged the credit with Texas Commerce Bank-Reagan.

The Heights was a booming community at the time, and the brothers sold sportswear, work clothes and shoes to high school boys. Sales the first year were \$57,000.

Over the years, Harold and his late brother mixed the inventory of their stores to meet changing times. In 1955, they started making tailored clothes for professional men and golfers.

The turning point for the store came when Harold's sold a pair of colorful slacks with no back pockets to pro golfers **Tommy Bolt** and **Howie Johnson**. The pants started a fashion revolution and put the small Heights store on the map. Professional golfers on tour — including **Arnold Palmer**, **Lee Trevino** and **Sam Snead** — began to shop at Harold's.

"That got our name out," says Wiesenthal. "People started to find out about us."

Not long after that, other sports celebrities like Houston Oilers player **Earl Campbell** and coach **Bum Phillips** began buying clothes at Harold's. The store even sold a pair of golf slacks to **President Dwight**

D. Eisenhower. But Harold's was also dressing some of Houston's renowned businessmen.

"I think Harold was the first person who ever gave me credit," says **Richard "Racehorse" Haynes**, the noted Houston attorney who still shops at the store and remains a good friend of Wiesenthal.

Wiesenthal spends a lot of time socializing with stars and revels in dropping names. But he's a celebrity in his own right. In an upstairs conference room, the wall is covered with autographed photos from **Bob Hope**, **Flip Wilson**, **Bill Yeoman**, **Jim Nabors** and **Willie Nelson**, just to name a few.

He appeared on the "**Merv Griffin Show**" after winning a golf wager with **Flip Wilson**, who was a guest host. (If Wilson had won the bet, he would have gotten an interest in the store.) It seemed Wiesenthal was a natural for the camera. Still, when he began his famous TV commercials years ago, he wasn't originally supposed to star in them.

Golfer **Doug Sanders**, who created the line about dressing 70, talking 80 and shooting 90, was going to do the commercial but backed out when he was asked to sign a release. Wiesenthal stepped in for Sanders and has appeared in his own commercials since, along with other celebrities and his sons.

But Wiesenthal says the store has had to balance catering to celebrities with selling to the average customer. A misconception is that Harold's only carries big men's clothes, an idea that came about from using athletes in promotions. And, for a time, the store earned a reputation for being flashy — mainly because Wiesenthal attended public events in a rainbow of bright colors in the 1970s. He's replaced his stripes and plaids for solids now and dresses more conservatively. He credits his sons for keeping Harold's up with the times and bringing in European fashions.

"If it weren't for them, I would have still been buying polyester and I would be out of business. My sons

have the best taste in the industry," says Wiesenthal.

The store can be expensive. A high-end suit can cost more than \$2,500. But Harold's also caters to junior executives, who can purchase a suit for as little as \$300. The store's sizes range from 36 short to 60 extra long, and Harold's now carries a line of suits for young boys. Harold's has even begun selling a women's line.

An average customer spends in excess of \$500 a visit. The store had its biggest day when a customer made \$22,000 in purchases. To combat the misconception that Harold's is a store just for celebrities, Wiesenthal and his 35 employees ensure that all customers are treated the same.

From the beginning, Harold's carved a niche by focusing on service. Wiesenthal and his sales staff call customers by their first names, remember their sizes and tastes and buy merchandise with loyal shoppers in mind. They send letters thanking customers for their purchases and often telephone to make sure the customer is satisfied with the clothes.

When feasible, the sales staff and even Wiesenthal have delivered clothes personally to shoppers. If customers have to wait for alterations, they might be treated to lunch by Wiesenthal at the cafe across the street. One of Harold's salesman once boarded a plane to hand-deliver clothes to a customer in Miami.

And the list goes on: Harold's employees will arrange transportation for regular customers who don't have a way to the store. A team of tailors is always on hand to make sure clothes are promptly stitched.

Many of Harold's customers have shopped there since the store opened.

The store was written up in **Leonard L. Berry's** book, *On Great Service: A Framework For Action*. This year, Harold's won an award for quality from the Better Business Bureau and the University of

Houston College of Business Administration. Along with service and aggressive promotions, Wiesenthal is famous for his charitable contributions. He's been known to attend two dinners in a single night. Each year, he raises money for Jerry's Kids, and his charity golf tournaments always draw a huge crowd.

"He's the most generous man I know," says attorney Haynes. Wiesenthal also is heavily involved in the Heights community, where he owns 10 properties. In 1983, a federal grant that provided funds to open a city community center across from Harold's dried up. Because Wiesenthal owns the property, he decided to fund the project himself and provide the Police Department with the building, maintenance and utilities for \$1 a year.

When other retailers abandoned the Heights as the area began suffering from crime and deterioration, Wiesenthal stuck it out, and he believes his perseverance has paid off.

"I drive around at night and I see how the area is being revitalized," says Wiesenthal. "The Heights is making a comeback."

Harold's has expanded many times since it opened. And many times the Wiesenthals have considered opening a second store, or relocating altogether.

The family got a chance several years ago to open Harold's in the River Oaks Shopping Center on West Gray. It stayed open in the high-profile retail location for about five months while the Heights store was being renovated.

"We thought the store was beautiful," says Wiesenthal. "Twice, we almost called and put a stop to the renovations. But we decided it would be too expensive to pay the rent."

The retailers also noted that the spot didn't increase sales and brought in a different type of shopper than they were accustomed to. "We got more people that just come in to browse," says Michael. "Our customers usually come in to buy."

Because the Wiesenthals don't pay rent at their store, they devote a large percentage of money to advertising, but Wiesenthal won't elaborate on how much.

The family continues to be cautious about expansion. They don't want to sacrifice personal attention to the customers, says Michael.

Darryl and Michael Wiesenthal say the store will continue to keep up with the times, and they're suiting up a younger generation these days. They are also focusing on "corporate casual" clothes.

Harold Wiesenthal will continue promoting the store and staying in the public eye.

"He's very intense," says Michael. "He never burns out."

By Laura Elizabeth Eider of The Houston Business Journal. This article appeared in the November 10-16, 1995 edition of that paper.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS NAMES SOUGHT FOR HISTORICAL PROJECT

STEPHENSPIELBERG has funded The Shoah Visual History Foundation to capture and preserve the stories of Holocaust survivors. This is the most important comprehensive such program.

Their request for Survivors, particularly in small American communities, and for people interested in recording these stories, was made in the recent Summer 1996 issue of *Network*.

Interested participants should contact **The Shoah Foundation, P.O. Box 3168, Los Angeles, CA 90078-3168.**

The Foundation has recorded more than 14,000 video tape interviews in thirty countries, half the interviews anticipated at completion in three years.

TJHS member and videographer Brian Cohen of New York has been working for The Shoah Foundation conducting interviews all over the country. We are very proud of him to know that he is a part of such a worthwhile endeavor.

FLORENCE & HOWARD SHAPIRO

by Linda Greene
of Dallas Jewish Life

*This couple makes marriage
and politics compatible.*

Take two people from very different backgrounds and with very different viewpoints, both very opinionated, both politically active, put them together in a marriage, and what do you get? **Florence and Howard Shapiro** of Plano.

Howard Shapiro describes the political discussions he and his wife have in one word: "heated," prefacing his answer with a big "Whew."

"We're different," he says. She is a Republican state senator for District 8, which includes Plano, Richardson and much of North Dallas and the Park Cities. He grew up in the heavily Democratic Texas Hill Country. His politically active father was friendly with **John Connally** (then a Democrat) and **Lyndon Johnson**.

"We have some pretty differing opinions," says Mr. Shapiro, a lawyer and former president of the Plano school board. He jokes that he prefers to keep his political leanings a mystery. "I would consider myself a conservative when it comes to fiscal matters, but when it comes to social issues, I'm much more liberal."



(L to R) FLORENCE, HOWARD, STACI, LISA & TODD SHAPIRO

Beyond individual issues, however, Mr. Shapiro says he and his wife ultimately want the same things. "We both want a safe society. We both want our country to be fiscally responsible. We both want quality education for our children. We both want our children to have the opportunity to graduate from school and seek out employment and lead productive lives. We want the same things. We just kind of differ a little bit philosophically on what that means."

Time together is at a premium for the Shapiro family. So the couple tries to leave politics at the office. "The truth of the matter is, if he and I talked about politics all the time," Mrs. Shapiro says, "we would have no time to talk about anything else. There are so many issues in my life and so many issues in his life, that there would be no time for the kids and really important issues. And we try very hard not to talk about politics as best we can."

FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS

Howard Shapiro says he and his wife "probably come from as culturally diverse a background as you can get. She is a child of Holocaust Survivors, born in New York City. I'm from a small West Texas Hill Country town. I'm probably one of the few Jewish cowboys."

Florence Shapiro was born in New York City on May 2, 1948. Her parents had immigrated to the United States from London only

months before her birth. **Ann and Martin Donald** of Berlin had met and married in London after World War II. Mr. Donald lost both parents and a sister in death camps but was saved when sent to London on a children's transport at age 15. At 16 he joined the English army and served in the intelligence corps during the war. Mrs. Donald, an only child, escaped with her parents to London.

Mrs. Shapiro's family moved to Dallas when she was in the fifth grade. Her father was a furrier, a trade he had learned as an apprentice in Germany. He stayed in the fur business when first in Dallas, then started a picture-framing company. Mrs. Shapiro went to Hillcrest High School, where she was a cheerleader. "I think I was the first Jewish cheerleader," she says.

The family belonged to Congregation Shearith Israel, and, being a child of Survivors, Mrs. Shapiro says she was raised with a very strong sense of Judaism. "In high school, I had a non-Jewish boyfriend. But I always knew that when I went off to college and had any intention of marrying, I would never marry outside of my faith. And I think that came from a sense of who I was as a result of my parents and my upbringing."

Howard Shapiro was born on July 12, 1948, in San Saba, Texas, a small Hill Country town with a population of 2,500 located 100 miles northwest of Austin. His

parents, **Harry and Beedie Shapiro**, were the only Jews in the community. There, Beedie Shapiro tried to raise her three children as Jewishly as she could. Howard Shapiro has an older sister who's a teacher in Houston and a younger brother who is a dentist in Frisco, Colorado. Their father was a merchant, rancher and investor, Mr. Shapiro says. The family belonged to Congregation Agudas Achim, a conservative synagogue in Austin where the brothers were bar mitzvahed. Their mother would drive them the 200 miles round trip to the synagogue every other week to pick up two weeks of lessons.

"I didn't really have a formal Jewish education, and now I know that's what I really missed," Mr. Shapiro says. "My mother always tried to have *Shabbes* dinner on Friday night, but that was hard to do. My brother and I were both athletes, playing all sports. And most athletics were on Friday nights. So we were always on the run with athletics, but she tried very hard to keep a Jewish house. We didn't keep kosher, but we didn't eat any *treif* in our house."

Mr. Shapiro says he experienced less anti-Semitism in San Saba than he has experienced in Plano. "My dad was the most respected man in town. When there was a project that needed to be done in our community, my father was the man people came to."

A politically active person, Mr. Shapiro's father at one time or another held virtually every post in the town, his son says. "I bear the distinction that I bet you can't find anywhere else, and that is my spouse and my parent were both mayors of cities in Texas. My father was the mayor of San Saba. My wife was the mayor of Plano," Mr. Shapiro says.

In addition to local activism, Mr. Shapiro says his father was also a big supporter of Israel and very involved with State of Israel Bonds. The senior Mr. Shapiro died unexpectedly in 1982, on his 60th birthday. His wife lived in San Saba another five years, then sold the family store and moved to Dallas. Mr. Shapiro says she has since remarried (she is **Beedie Teitelbaum**) and loves Dallas and the Jewish community there. The family still owns their Hill Country ranch.

COLLEGE SWEETHEARTS

Howard Shapiro and Florence Donald met at the University of Texas at

Austin, where they both attended college. According to Mr. Shapiro, he had a date with Florence his first week at UT and stood her up. "I stood her up because I wanted to go watch my old high school football team play football. She wouldn't speak to me for the next two years," he says.

He was a member of the Jewish fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu, and she was a member of the Jewish sorority Alpha Epsilon Phi, but Mrs. Shapiro says they didn't see each other much — until their junior year. "Somehow, I think one asked the other out," he says, and from then on, they were together. They married in December 1969, their senior year of college.

Within two years, the couple's first child, daughter **Lisa**, now 22, was born. Mrs. Shapiro retired from teaching to raise her family, which would also include **Todd**, now 19, and **Staci**, 16, and began a new career as a volunteer.

In 1971, the Shapiros moved to Plano, then a small town of 17,500 people. Mrs. Shapiro says her friends asked her, "Why would you move all the way out there?" But Mr. Shapiro had a growing family and needed some income while studying law at SMU. So he started clerking for a lawyer in Plano. "And he fell in love with Plano," Mrs. Shapiro says. "It was a wonderful little community. The school system was excellent. He was used to a small town. We were close to my family in Dallas. So it was really the best of both worlds for us. And we loved it."

After law school, Mr. Shapiro says it was important to him to be near his growing family. "I wanted to be involved with my kids. So I chose to be a suburban lawyer. I wasn't going to go the downtown-law-firm route." So he went to work full-time for the lawyer for whom he had clerked. About a year later, he left the firm to work for the district attorney's office. Two years after that, he opened his own law office.

Mr. Shapiro is a trial lawyer and says about 70 percent of his casework involves criminal or domestic relations.

FROM ACTIVISM TO POLITICS

Mrs. Shapiro didn't begin her married life with political aspiration. She started the women's division of the Plano Chamber of Commerce and was its president in 1975. In 1976, she founded the Plano Service League, which became the Plano

Junior League, with 13 other women. She helped start a volunteer center and Plano's information and Referral Center.

Mr. Shapiro was the first of the two to enter Plano politics. In 1976, at age 28, he ran for justice of the peace against an 82-year-old incumbent. "I nearly won," he says. "I was an attorney with some experience. This guy was a high-school graduate, but he was a big-time Republican. Plano votes about 75 percent Republican. And I knew at the time it just didn't make any difference what you were or who you were. My only claim to fame that year was that I got more votes in Plano than **Jimmy Carter** did."

In 1979, the only woman on the Plano City Council decided not to run again. Several people came to Mrs. Shapiro and asked if she would run.

She ran against two male opponents, made the runoff and won by 35 votes. "They called me 'Landslide Shapiro,'" she says, laughing. Mrs. Shapiro served on the city council until 1990, running unopposed in most of her re-election efforts.

In 1990, Mrs. Shapiro decided to run for mayor of Plano. Within a week of announcing her intentions, her only opponent, **Jack Harvard**, Plano's mayor at the time, withdrew from the race. Again, she ran unopposed.

After one term as mayor, Mrs. Shapiro decided to run for the state Senate. "A group of people came to me and said, 'This is yours if you just want it. You are going to have to work for it, but timing is everything in politics. And this might be just the right time for you to do this.' And I decided to go for it," she continues.

It wasn't an easy decision, however. "The senate seat was a lot different, because it would take me away from Plano and put me in Austin for a period of time." Every other year, the Texas legislature is in session for 140 days from January to May.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shapiro wasn't sitting idly on the sidelines. "From the time we've lived here (in Plano), I've been on virtually every board and commission you can be in," he says. He was on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Rotary Club. He was president of the Rotary Club, Plano Bar Association and Collin County Bar Association. And he coached children's athletics.

In 1988, Mr. Shapiro was elected to the Plano school board. He served on the

board, the last two years as its president, until May 7, 1994, when he was defeated.

Both Shapiros served their community and watched their once small town grow to a city of approximately 167,000. And both played an important role in that growth.

RELIGION AND POLITICS

Raising their children with a strong sense of Judaism has been important to the Shapiros, who are members of Dallas's Temple Shalom. Mrs. Shapiro's father was a founding member of the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies. And Mrs. Shapiro was the first president of the Second Generation of Holocaust Survivors organization.

Mr. Shapiro is on the regional board of the Anti-Defamation League. And Mr. and Mrs. Shapiro have led Jewish Federation of Dallas missions to Israel. Mr. Shapiro also has become involved with the Chabad House of Richardson/Plano, studying Torah with **Rabbi Mendel Block**.

In all the years the Shapiros have been involved in politics, religion only recently became an issue. "Religion should never be an issue in a campaign — period," Mrs. Shapiro says. "No one can tell me today what religion **Kay Bailey Hutchinson** is or what religion **Ann Richards** is. Why should people be concerned about what my religion is?" But in her campaign for state senator, someone was concerned.

When she served on the City Council, Mrs. Shapiro had fought to make the prayer recited at city council meetings all inclusive, eliminating references to Jesus Christ. One of the two men she was running against in the senatorial primary brought up that issue in his campaign. After he lost the primary, Mrs. Shapiro's runoff opponent from Tyler "took the ball and ran with it," she says.

"He began a really nasty underpinning anti-semitic campaign in my opinion. The issue was not a relevant issue," she adds, until someone defaced her billboards and campaign posters with swastikas and wrote "Jew" across them.

Mrs. Shapiro says the experience was "devastating. It was probably one of the most difficult things I've ever had happen to me in my adult life." In fact, the subject is still so painful, it brings tears to her eyes when she talks about it.

"The only thing I could think about was how devastating this was going to be to my parents," she says in a voice choked

with emotion. "They had escaped Nazi Germany, and for them to see a billboard with my name on it with swastikas and 'Jew' written across it, I knew was going to be devastating to them. It was a very difficult time for me.

"But I believe the environment that was created by my opponent encouraged this. And even after it happened, he was never apologetic or remorseful. He had no empathy for the situation at all."

But Mrs. Shapiro says her community was wonderful. "The victory I felt after the election was over was that much sweeter."

Then, during Mr. Shapiro's losing battle for the school board in May, religion again became an issue. "I got beat by the religious right. There's no question about it," he says. "I don't think there was anti-Semitism. But at every forum, it was quickly pointed out who was the Christian and who wasn't. The guy who beat me is a 31-year-old programmer at TI who didn't even attend college. And he's making decisions about our education and kids in our school. And he ran on a Christian-based platform.

"You have to understand the religious right has a cause," Mr. Shapiro continues. "They truly believe that what is wrong with this country can be traced directly to the classroom and that the only way to retake and recapture the moral fiber of this country is to start at the most basic level, and that is the school board level."

A CLOSE FAMILY

All of the Shapiro's children have shown an interest in politics. "Can you believe it? In their own way, I think all three of them really enjoy it," Mrs. Shapiro says.

Lisa is a first-year law student at SMU. **Todd** is a sophomore at UT at Austin. And **Staci** is a junior at Plano Senior High School.

The family has been supportive of Mrs. Shapiro as she rose to each new political challenge, although Mr. Shapiro says it wasn't always without their share of k'vetching. However, he will be the first to tell you that Mrs. Shapiro makes an outstanding public official for several reasons: "First off, she is very smart. Secondly, she studies the issues incessantly. Thirdly, she never gets tired," he says. "And she's a good listener. She's doing what she wants to do, and she's outstanding at what she does."

"I love people, and I think that's the reason I got started in this," Mrs. Shapiro says. "I'm a problem solver. People come to me with their problems and I try to find a solution."

Mr. Shapiro says he believes there's great mistrust of government officials among Americans today. But "if everybody served because of the same reasons Florence did, then we wouldn't have that problem. Because she truly has no motive for serving other than she loves public service and loves to help be a part of the process."

Mrs. Shapiro confirms that she has no specific future political aspirations at this time. At 46, both Howard and Florence Shapiro are soon to become empty nesters. But they are not about to hang up their hats. "I don't ever want to retire," Mr. Shapiro says. "I don't want to go sit in a rocking chair somewhere. I love the action and I love to be involved."

"My only regret was that we didn't have one more child," he adds. "I should have about a 10-year-old at home right now. I really enjoy the children that much and being a part of what they do. In the end, all that really makes any difference is your family."

*This article is excerpted from one that appeared in the January 1995 edition of Dallas Jewish Life. The author, **Linda Greene**, is coeditor of that publication.*

*We thank **Christy Engle**, **Matt Matthews**, and **Connie** from Senator Shapiro's District Office in Plano for their help in securing this article and sending us the photo. Thank you so much.*



**If you liked Austin in June,
you'll LOVE Sugar Land
in October!
See ya' there
for the next
Open Board Meeting.**

ARE YOU IN THESE PICTURES?



VIRGINIA KALINA

DELTA PHI EPSILON

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Rabinowitz, Rosenthal, Westerman,
Scherotter, Ackerman.



Fleishman, Levinson, Beilin,
Goldberg, Jacobs.



This is a page from The UT Cactus (the annual yearbook of the Univ. of Texas) showing the Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority for the year 1941-42. We thank Norma Albert of McAllen for reproducing these pages and making them available to us.



MARIE HANNA HOLLAND

ALPHA EPSILON PHI

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Victor, Frank, Rauch, Myers,
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Simpkins, Pollock, J. Levis, Rosner,
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Kariel, Parkans, Levin, Joseph,
Kaufman, Meyer.



Edelstein, Jarett, Weinblatt, Ostrow,
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Levinthal, Daiches, Zuzak, Nussbaum,
Kroll, Rieger, Block.



Friend, J. Levy, E. Levis, Handelman,
Grossman, Given, Goldberg.



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IRIS HELENE BENNETT

SIGMA DELTA TAU

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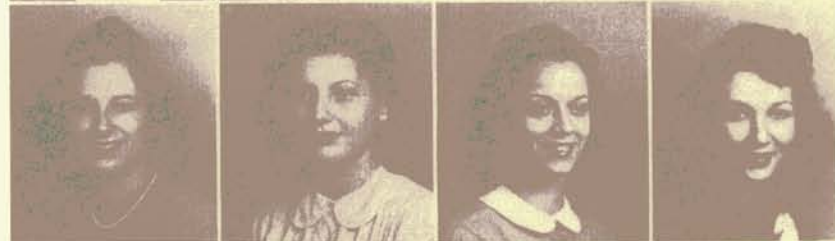
Burg, Rosenthal, Stiff, Golden.



Landman, I. Bennett, Gordon, Lack.



Browne, Epstein, Goldstein, Tallal.



Fagadau, Mandell, Siegel.



Schwartz, Gilbert, Mell.



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JAMES MORRIS KALLISON

PHI SIGMA DELTA

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<i>Vice-Master Frater</i>	THEODORE NUSSBAUM MARKS
<i>Secretary</i>	BEN HANDELMAN
<i>Treasurer</i>	LOUIS CHARLES LECHENGER

Tallal, Spitzer, A. Marks, Lipper, Goldman.



M. Levy, M. Marks, Susholtz, Mayers, Weiss.



Handelman, Ripps, Nast, Galewsky, Plettman.



Joseph, Kallison, Garfinkle, Freundlich, Witz.



Mogelson, L. Levy, Dover, Vexler, Friedman.



Golding, T. Marks, Hirsch, H. Levy, Blum.



Lechenger, Weingarten, Block, Hoffman, Weil, Klar.



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ALFRED SCHULMAN

TAU DELTA PHI

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<i>Custos</i>	SOL LEVIN
<i>Scribe</i>	MAX GOLDFIELD
<i>Quaestor</i>	BEN RUTTENBERG
<i>Quaestor</i>	MILTON KESSEL

Schulman, Snyder, Weiner,
Mincher, Zindler, Singer.



Cersonsky, Wiener, M. Stool,
Garonzik, Sam, Jacobs.



Goldfield, Glass, Kalish,
Freedman, Cohen, W. Roosth.



H. Greenberg, Gold, S. Greenberg,
Rottenberg, Caplovitz, S. Roosth.



Ladin, Levit, Sandgarten, Palmer,
Kress.



J. Stool, Eicoff, Kolodny, Kessel,
Juran.



Blum, Levin, Rubenstein, Lerner,
Hoffman.



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LOUIS MARTIN BLOOM

ALPHA EPSILON PI

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<i>Lt. Master</i>	DAVID FARB
<i>Scribe</i>	STANLEY EDWARD GOLDSTEIN
<i>Exchequer</i>	JACK MILLER

Bloom, Miller, Stoller, Zinn.



Levin, Reichstein, Ford, Night.



Stillman, Waldman, Kalb, Lasky.



Truman, Sheftall, Crasilneck, Briskin.



Harris, Winetroub, Goldstein, Klaber.



Golf, Forman, Bodzin, Greenberg.



This is a page from The UT Cactus (the annual yearbook of the Univ. of Texas) showing the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity for the year 1941-42. We thank Norma Albert of McAllen for reproducing these pages and making them available to us.

TJHS MAILBOX

Dear TJHS Member:

**You May Never Know What You're Missing If You Forget
To Pay Your Dues . . .**

Like many of you, I received a reminder to pay my Texas Jewish Historical Society dues. It went into the ASAP folder on my desk. At the time, I was turning in final grades, retiring from the University of Texas at El Paso English department, cleaning out my office, and needed to take care of a few hundred items before I tackled the ASAP folder.

The folder sat, unopened, on my desk.

Then, one day, I received a phone call from a Fort Worth attorney — surely the most diligent, caring lawyer in Texas, maybe in the entire United States — informing me of an inheritance. We had moved about ten years ago from a small city on the high plains. Although my husband lived in Texas for over fifty-eight years, there is no one else now left who shares my name, and I have since learned that forwarding addresses are kept for one year only.

Question: How did this attorney find me?

Answer: My name was listed in the Texas Jewish Historical Society Membership Directory, and you can bet it will be in the new one, too!

Enough said. Be sure you're on-line, and send in your dues today to:

**Texas Jewish Historical Society
P.O. Box 10193
Austin, Texas 78766-0193**

**From,
A loyal TJHS member**

Editor's Note:

This letter is anonymous, but it is authentic, I can assure you that!

So you never know what membership can truly bring you!

Wonders never cease.

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TOUR



THE CITY BY THE BAY

Since TJHS began offering yearly tours, there has been enthusiastic response. Our recent trip through the South was a prime example. **Don and Gertrude Teter** arranged a full itinerary of interesting, educational, and entertaining moments across three states.

Because we obviously have members who love to travel, we want to let you know about an upcoming trip organized by the American Jewish Historical Society to the California wine country and areas of the Gold Rush.

This trip to Northern California begins with San Francisco's Jewish landmarks including the Cliff House once owned by Jewish mining tycoon **Adolph Sutro**, The Jewish Museum, Levi Strauss Corporate Headquarters and Art Collection, and a lecture by author **Harriet Rochlin** at the headquarters of the California Historical Association.

Then the tour goes to the Gold Rush country with a tour of the **Judah L. Magnes** Museum and on to the Sierra foothills, Jamestown and Sonora, visiting the Sonora Jewish Cemetery and the Tuolumne Museum, rich in pioneer Jewish history.

The tour continues to Jackson, Sutter Creek, Placerville, Nevada City, and Sacramento, visiting a synagogue built in the Mother Lode, mining towns with historic districts, pioneer Jewish merchant's businesses and mansions.

The tour continues on to the beautiful wine country of the Napa and Sonoma Valleys and over to the Petaluma riverfront, staying at country inns, dining at gourmet restaurants, and visiting wineries, including the kosher Hagafen winery and other wineries with special attractions, art and sculpture gardens.

Tour dates are Oct. 12-19, 1996. The cost is \$1,985 per person based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$450.

Arrangements can be made to add Friday night, Oct. 11 and Saturday Oct. 19 for those who do not wish to travel on Shabbat.

Tour leaders are **Sue and Felix Warburg**. Reservations are due by August 30, 1996. For applications and further details, contact **Libby Finkelstein**, 2 Thornton Road, Waltham, MA 02154, Telephone: 617-891-8110.

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I am enclosing my dues payment of: **\$25** **\$50** **\$100** **\$250** **\$500** **\$1,000**
to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for the 1996/97 membership year.

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

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Tel #: _____ Office Tel #: _____ Fax #: _____

Contributions to TJHS are tax deductible within the limits of the law.
Please clip and send to TJHS, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Elaine (Jaffe) Altschuler	Houston
Renee (Reich) Amdur	Houston
Helen (Rockoff) Baerenstein	Houston
Esther (Kam) & Melvin Engel	Houston
Betty Jean (Edelstein) Farb	McAllen
Sam Feldt	Houston
Charlotte (Fine) & Paul Frucht	Houston
Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Gerson	Houston
Mr. & Mrs. J.S. Ginsburg	Bellaire
Carol Ginsburg	Shreveport, LA
Lynn (Spielberg) Greenberg	Richmond
Sam B. Grunger	San Antonio
Dr. Emmett Heiligman	Austin
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Maislin	Austin
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Maltz	Corpus Christi
Selma (Perlstein) Mantel	Houston
Helen (Blum) Melinger	Baytown
Elaine & Sam Merwin	Houston
Dr. & Mrs. William Moskovitz	Austin
State Rep. Elliott Naishtat	Austin
Mina Parven	Austin
Ruth (Berler) & George Rabson	Houston
Ruth (Schlamme) & George Schnitzer	Houston
Miriam F. Schwartz	Houston
Mr. & Mrs. George Skala	Corpus Christi
Elaine & Sam Spain	Houston
Dorothy H. Susman	Houston
Isobel Tashnek	Houston
Lea (Seibel) & Stanford Weiner	San Antonio
Emily Weingarten	Houston
Barbara & Stanley Weinstein	Houston
Harold Wiesenthal	Houston

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPT. 14-15
ROSH HASHONAH

SEPT. 22 - KOL NIDRE
SEPT. 23 - YOM KIPPUR

OCTOBER 25-27
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.
Call 713/494-2668 for more information.

JANUARY 18-19
WINTER OPEN BOARD MEETING
Midland, Texas
Hilton Hotel of Midland
Details to be announced later

April 4-6, 1997
1997 ANNUAL GATHERING
Corpus Christi
Sandy Shores Hotel
Come One, Come All!

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