



*Texas Jewish*  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

PRESERVING  
JEWISH  
HERITAGE  
IN TEXAS

ESTABLISHED 1980

MARCH 1997

NEWSLETTER

# CORPUS CHRISTI



*Come one - Come all!*  
*18th Annual Gathering*  
*Best Western Sandy Shores Hotel*

*April 4-6*

## News from our President



Barbara Rosenberg

Dear Members,

Since our previous newsletter, we had our Fall Mini-Gathering in Fort Bend County and our Winter Quarterly meeting in Midland/Odessa. The Fort Bend meeting brought us a record attendance for a fall meeting. Our speakers were terrific, and gave our members as well as residents of the area a good look back to a time when Jews contributed significantly to the life of the area. The 2<sup>o</sup> hour bus tour almost covered all the sites of previous Jewish businesses, homes, and even an "Old 300" land grant. After a dinner with Yiddish and Hebrew musical entertainment, we viewed a video on the way home about the role LBJ played to save many Jews from the Holocaust. We would like to hear from descendants of those rescued, if you know of anyone who is able to relate their experiences.

At our business meeting in Sugar Land, we approved an additional \$15,000 grant to renovate the Jewish Exhibit at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. I am happy to say that the complete renovation plan was presented to our committee and is well under way. Our grant covers the basic exhibit, but more funds are needed to make the exhibit "high-tech." We will be contacting other funding sources such as private foundations and endowment funds for assistance. Please let us know if you would like to help.

The "Vanishing Synagogues" project conducted by Bob Davis has yielded a great deal of information, much of which is on the web site, but much also remains to be transcribed from tape recordings. (Volunteers welcome!) Future use of the information, suggested at our meeting, might include a book publication, teaching materials with a curriculum guide for Jewish schools, distribution of a CD with the information contained on it, and/or a published set of fold-over stationery cards suitable for correspondence, with a brief description of each synagogue on the back of each card. Sherry Zander, who has long been interested in art and architecture of synagogues, is heading this project.

Our meeting in Midland gave us a new insight into the heart of the Permian Basin "oil patch." This is one of the few small town Jewish communities which is still growing. Where else could you eat at a Jewish restaurant named *Luigi's* which has the best corned beef sandwiches for miles around, with a sign over the cash register which reads *Se habla Yiddish?* It was especially heartwarming to have Havdallah services at the synagogue with a youth group (three years in existence) and to share a presentation of the history of the area with them.

At our board meeting in Midland we discussed our current projects as well as the upcoming student history contest (Volunteers needed to read essays, please!) and the publication of the cemetery project which lists Jewish burials in Texas. We hope to make this information available to libraries around the state and to selected libraries and museums outside the state.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Corpus Christi for our Annual Gathering in April. Each Gathering is unique, but this one really has something different. Our focus will be a reading of the play *The Immigrant* featuring the author Mark Harelik in the role of his grandfather. Mark has recently appeared on prime-time television in shows such as *Seinfeld* and *The Single Guy*. You never know whom you might meet at a TJHS meeting. See you in Corpus!

### TJHS Tribute Cards

If you wish to send a tribute card in memory of, or in honor of someone, please send your contributions to Bonnie Cohen, 13422 Moscow Trail, Austin Texas 78729.

TJHS Voice Mail Telephone Number — 281-276-9693.

*Barbara Rosenberg*

Barbara Rosenberg  
TJHS President



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# Come to Corpus Christi for our 18<sup>TH</sup> Annual Gathering!

by Helen Wilk & Davie Lou Solka  
(Gathering Co-Chairs)



## In Honor of Those Who Have Passed Away

Please send Helen Wilk the name and location of members of TJHS who have died since our last year's Annual Gathering in Longview.

We plan to honor their memories at Shabbat services during the next Annual Gathering in Corpus Christi, April 4-6, 1997.

Please send to *Helen Wilk, 260 Cape Aron, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412* or call Helen at (512) 991-1118 or fax her at (512) 851-9455. Thank you.

We are proud to announce that the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Texas Jewish Historical Society is almost here. Corpus Christi is preparing a warm South Texas welcome for each and every one of you who join us on April 4, 5 and 6 at the Best Western Sandy Shores Hotel on the beautiful shoreline of Corpus Christi Bay.

It is hard to believe that eighteen years have passed since that first meeting in 1980. Our Historical Society has grown so much from those early days. This growth will be evident at our special "Chai" Gathering in Corpus Christi.

The centerpiece of the weekend activities will be the staged reading of Mark Harelik's play, *The Immigrant*, performed by the Live Oak Theater Company of Austin.

The most exciting news is that actor/playwright Mark Harelik will come in from California to play the part of his grandfather, Haskell, as he did when the play opened in Denver in 1986. You will not want to miss this opportunity to see the play that has touched the hearts of so many people around the country, and meet the man who wrote this story of his grandfather's immigration from Russia to Hamilton, Texas.

Those of you who wish to arrive early will find the special hotel rate at Corpus Christi's Best Western Sandy Shores Hotel will be available both before and after our meeting.

You may want to give yourself time to visit the Texas State Aquarium, the aircraft carrier Lexington, which is now a World War II museum, or the Museum of Science & History that houses the Smithsonian exhibit, *Seeds of*

*Change*, telling the story of Christopher Columbus' voyage to the New World, where you can view and board the replicas of his ships. These are just a few of the attractions that you may want to add to your stay in Corpus Christi.

Our morning sessions on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, will include a presentation by Dr. Seth Wolitz, head of the Judaic Studies Program at The University of Texas at Austin, an overview of the history of the Jewish citizens of the Coastal Bend Area by Elizabeth Susser and an update on the renovation of the Jewish exhibit at San Antonio's Institute of Texan Cultures by Laurie Gudzikowski, Assistant Director of Programs of the Institute.

You will be receiving your registration brochure very soon. We hope you will make every effort to attend the TJHS Chai Annual Gathering in Corpus Christi and will respond promptly with your registration form and your room reservations at the Best Western Sandy Shores Hotel. To reach the hotel, call (800) 242-3166 or (512) 883-7456.

There is no hotel airport shuttle service. Taxis are available at the airport or call 813-1291. The cost is \$15 airport to hotel.

If you need more information about the Gathering, please don't hesitate to call Co-Chairs Helen Wilk at (512) 991-1118 or Davie Lou Solka at (512) 852-5815, or TJHS President Barbara Rosenberg at (281) 494-2668.

Shalom Y'all . . . See you in Corpus Christi!

# Gathering Program Schedule

## Friday, April 4

- 1-5 PM **Registration**
- 5:15 PM **Meet in Lobby of Hotel** for transportation to Temple Beth El for Shabbat Dinner and Services.
- Oneg Shabbat** hosted by Helen and Larry Wilk & Davie Lou and Jack Solka.

## Saturday, April 5

### — MORNING —

**BREAKFAST** on your own!

- 8:30 AM **Shabbat Morning Services** at the Hotel

- 9:00 AM TJHS Sessions at Hotel:

**Dr. Seth Wolitz**, Head of Judaic Studies Program - Univ. of Texas at Austin, discussing how the play *The Immigrant* is used in his American Jewish Experience classes.

**Elizabeth Susser** presenting a Jewish Coastal Bend Time Line with histories of local families.

**Laurie Gudzikowski**, Assistant Director of Programs of the Institute of Texan Cultures, will discuss plans that are in progress to renovate the Jewish exhibit at the Institute. This is a project encouraged and sponsored by the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

## Saturday, April 5

### — AFTERNOON & EVENING —

- 12:15 PM Bus will load for **LUNCH** at **Sonja's**.

Lunch is followed by **Tour of Places of Jewish Interest in Corpus Christi** — B'nai Israel Synagogue, Jewish Community Council, Hebrew Rest Cemetery, Craig Street location of Temple Beth El and Heritage Park.

Bus will return to hotel in time for change for dinner.

- 5:30 PM **Havdalah Service**

**Cocktail Reception with Cash Bar**

### DINNER

- \* Staged reading of *The Immigrant* by Live Oak Theater of Austin starring **Mark Harelilik**, the author/actor/playwright playing the part of Haskell, his grandfather.

## Sunday, April 6

- 8:30 AM **BUFFET BREAKFAST** at Hotel

- 9:15 AM **TJHS OPEN BUSINESS MEETING**  
Open to Everyone!  
Election and Installation of new officers and board members.

- 12 NOON Adjournment





## What to do in Corpus Christi

You may want to visit the following while you are in Corpus Christi. Come early and/or stay late!

- **Art Center of Corpus Christi** – Features working artists-in-residence, along with changing exhibits.
- **Art Museum of South Texas** – Changing exhibits of fine arts in what is considered one of Philip Johnson's major achievements.
- **Columbus Shipyard** – Located near the **Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History** – See replicas of the *Pinta* and *Santa Maria*, along with wonderful exhibits of anthropology, marine science and local history including a Spanish galleon *Shipwreck*. The *Niña* is berthed in the **Corpus Christi Marina**.
- **Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens**
- **Corpus Christi Greyhound Racetrack**
- **Texas State Aquarium**
- See **Endangered Species** common to the Gulf of Mexico within walking distance of the Sandy Shores Hotel.
- **Port of Corpus Christi** – The nation's sixth busiest port in action, with ships from nearly every country in the world arriving regularly.
- **USS Lexington** is within walking distance of the Sandy Shores. The 980-foot aircraft carrier has an entire fleet of vintage aircraft aboard, along with exhibits of Naval history in South Texas.

And in the surrounding area . . .

- **Aransas Wildlife Refuge** – Home of more than 143 cranes during the winter months, the Refuge is also home to many animals. A year-round Birders' Paradise – over 400 species have been documented!
- **Fulton Mansion**, Fulton, Texas – Built in 1870s, this wonderful Mansion is remarkable for its then-unheard-of indoor plumbing and cooling system.
- **King Ranch**, Kingsville, Texas – One of the largest ranches in the world, the King Ranch is a Historical landmark.
- **Padre Island** – The barrier island that separates Texas from the Gulf of Mexico.
- **Texas Maritime Museum**, Rockport, Texas – Houses Texas' marine history.

## Registration

Must be postmarked by March 17, 1997

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE PRINT

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Gathering Registration Fee for MEMBERS:  
\$30 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_

Gathering Registration Fee for NON-MEMBERS:  
\$55 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Night Shabbat Dinner:  
\$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Bus Tour (includes Lunch):  
\$20 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Dinner and Theater:  
\$36 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Morning Breakfast Buffet:  
\$10 x \_\_\_\_\_ persons = \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: "TJHS"

Mail to: TJHS  
c/o Millie Zalim  
4101 Brett #1-01  
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Will you need transportation in Corpus Christi:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Will you have a car with you and be able to provide transportation?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Don't forget to call  
THE BEST WESTERN  
SANDY SHORES HOTEL  
to make your room reservations!  
(512) 883-7456

# 1997/98 SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR ELECTION

## Officers

PRESIDENT		
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Marvin Rich</b>	<i>Houston</i>
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Helen Wilk</b>	<i>Corpus Christi</i>
3RD VICE PRESIDENT	<b>Winston Heidenheimer</b>	<i>Cisco</i>
RECORDING SECRETARY	<b>Hannah Meyer</b>	<i>Fort Worth</i>
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY		
TREASURER	<b>Dorothy Harelik</b>	<i>Hamilton</i>
ARCHIVIST	<b>Howard Lackman</b>	<i>Arlington</i>
HISTORIAN	<b>Blanche Sheiness</b>	<i>Alice</i>
PARLIAMENTARIAN	<b>Barry Green</b>	<i>Tyler</i>

## Members of the Board

### *The following are nominated for election:*

Suzanne Campbell	<i>San Angelo</i>
Mickey Graubart	<i>Houston</i>
Edna Greenberg	<i>Tyler</i>
Sam Harelik	<i>Waco</i>
Charles Hart	<i>Temple</i>
Leo Hoffman	<i>Dallas</i>
Rosalind Horwitz	<i>Beaumont</i>
Milton Jacobs	<i>San Antonio</i>
Eileen Kessner	<i>Plano</i>
Annette Lackman	<i>Arlington</i>
Dean Milkes	<i>Corsicana</i>
R.D. Moses	<i>Fort Worth</i>
Bill Naxon	<i>Dallas</i>
Debby Rice	<i>Fort Worth</i>
Rabbi Edward Rosenthal	<i>Brownsville</i>
Julien Rosenthal	<i>Houston</i>
Davie Lou Solka	<i>Corpus Christi</i>
Max Stool	<i>Del Rio</i>
Ruthe Weingarten	<i>Austin</i>
Sherry Zander	<i>Dallas</i>

### *The following have 1 more year of service:*

Norma Albert	<i>McAllen</i>
James Alexander	<i>Dallas</i>
Glenda Alter	<i>San Antonio</i>
Alex Corman	<i>Houston</i>
Peggy Samet Fine	<i>Houston</i>
Ima Joy Gandler	<i>Waco</i>
Jack Gerrick	<i>Fort Worth</i>
Herbert Given	<i>El Paso</i>
Idarene Glick	<i>Dallas</i>
Ann Goodman	<i>El Paso</i>
Nell Hall	<i>Fort Worth</i>
David Hoff	<i>Midland</i>
Frank Kasman	<i>Midland</i>
Edwin Katten	<i>Waco</i>
Mitzi Milstein	<i>Longview</i>
Allen Mondell	<i>Dallas</i>
Herman Morris	<i>Fort Worth</i>
Charles Nathan	<i>Houston</i>
Norma Skibell	<i>Lubbock</i>
Edward Winkler	<i>Fort Stockton</i>

## Past Presidents

Rabbi James Kessler	<i>Galveston</i>	Ginger Jacobs	<i>Dallas</i>
Mrs. Frances Kallison	<i>San Antonio</i>	Milton Smith	<i>Austin</i>
Lionel Schooler	<i>Houston</i>	Fay Brachman	<i>Fort Worth</i>
Ed Lax (deceased)	<i>Dallas</i>	Don Teter	<i>Baytown</i>



## The Federal Government's New Unabridged Medical Dictionary

- Barium** ----- What you do when the patient dies
- Urine** ----- The opposite of "You're out!"
- Cauterize** ---- Made eye contact with her
- Ova** ----- Finished; done with
- Sperm** ----- To reject, look away from
- Dilate** ----- To live a long time
- Enema** ----- Opposite of a friend
- Node** ----- Was aware of
- White Count** - The number of Caucasians
- Hernia** ----- Pertaining to a female's knee
- Fibrillate**----- To tell a small lie
- D & C** ----- Where Washington is
- Bunion** ----- Paul's surname
- Rectum** ----- Dang near killed him
- Paradox** ----- Two doctors
- Coronary** ---- Domesticated Yellow Bird
- Constipation** - Endangered feces
- Penis** ----- Someone who plays the piano
- Humerus**----- To tell us what we want to hear
- Intestine** ---- Currently taking an exam
- Outpatient** ---- A person who has fainted
- Genital** ----- Non-Jew
- Sacrum**----- Holy
- Pap Smear**---- To slander your father
- Pelvis** ----- The evil twin of Elvis
- Seizure** ----- Roman Emperor
- Cat Scan** ---- When the Secret Service looks for "Socks"

A big "Thank You" to Merilee Weiner of Houston for giving us all a big laugh! Thanks, Merilee!

## NEOSOFT INC. to the Rescue: Our New World- Wide Web Page Provider

By Barbara Rosenberg  
(Sugar Land)

NeoSoft, Inc. has come to the rescue just as Bob Davis was running out of room in his lane of the information superhighway! Bob is the amazing Houstonian architect who is rebuilding synagogues of small Texas Jewish communities by putting them into a virtual reality image on the World Wide Web. He has even been able to "reconstruct" the Marshall synagogue where not even one brick was left standing!

Working on the Vanishing Synagogues project of TJHS was very exciting, but Bob needed more "megs" than his allotted space provided. At our recent Austin TJHS board meeting he had suggested that TJHS purchase our own space for the displays.

One of the companies we approached for a bid was NeoSoft, Inc. of Sugar Land. They gave us an offer we could not refuse. Not only does NeoSoft give *free service* to qualifying non-profit organizations, they did it in one day! Actually in about an hour.

Then when Bob requested an extra 3 "megs" of space, over and above the 2-3 megs that they ordinarily donate, they readily complied. Bob went to work immediately and had the project transferred to the new site.

For all you computer nerds, the new address on the World Wide Web is <http://www.neosoft.com/~tjhs/VRsyn.html> for the synagogue project. For the TJHS home page the address will be <http://www.neosoft.com/~tjhs>.

It is no wonder that NeoSoft, Inc., which was founded in 1989 as a bulletin board service (BBS) quickly grew and is now the oldest and largest commercial Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Houston and New Orleans. According to the company, it is also three times faster than any other in those cities.

Just what is an ISP and why do we need one?

Good question, especially if you know as little about computers as I do. The Internet, a worldwide network of computer networks, has quickly become very busy with an estimated 30 million people actually using the system and growing at a rate of one million new users per month. Accessing the Internet through traditional on-line service is often inadequate, too slow, and too expensive (billed by the minute) for those who use it heavily to its full potential. NeoSoft solves these problems offering unrestricted and untimed access to the Internet. And what a deal if you are a non-profit organization!

NeoSoft has chosen to be an exemplary corporate role model as far as we at TJHS are concerned. They are truly fulfilling their purpose of helping people communicate and share information using computer networks. They are also helping many of us learn a great deal more about our history!



# Aunt Rosie's Girls

by Barbara Rosenberg  
(Sugar Land)



Aunt Rosie Weinberger

She was everybody's Aunt Rosie, the 4-foot 11-inch European lady with an iron will, a huge heart, a quick business mind, and nimble fingers — a lady who had style and moxy. She ran a boarding house for Jewish girls attending the University of Texas from 1939 to the early 1980s with her own unique style which made her unforgettable.

Some of *Rosie's girls* met recently in Austin to reminisce and renew friendships as they recorded their memories on tape for the Texas Jewish Historical Society. They were Sue Rac (Sookie) Weinberger Seriff (Rosie's daughter-in-law), Estelle (Etsy) Tanenbaum Kogut, Juanita Mendel Silberstein, Beverly Ribakowsky Moskovitz, Barbara Cowan Schmidt, and Cecelia Esserik Schwartz.

Rosie Reichman was born in Hungary and grew up there. She was the first child of her father's second marriage and was named after her father's first wife. Her father, who was in a packing business and made the straw for packing wine bottles and other merchandise, did business with a Mr. Weinberger from Przemocz, Poland. Rosie married young Adolph Weinberger and together they went to live in Berlin

where he was a merchant of fine linen. They had two sons, Joseph and Sol, and were making plans to live in Israel. Adolph and his family would go to clandestine meetings in the basement of an apartment building in Berlin where the adults were learning trades which could be useful in Israel, while the young boys Joseph and Sol played outside to warn if anyone was coming.

It was approximately 1934 when Adolph died of arteriosclerosis. He had been in his late 30s and Rosie was in her early 30s when she found herself widowed with two young sons. Although she already had the passports to go to Israel, her family convinced her to come to the United States. She had two sisters who were already living in Texas, so in 1936 she decided to join her sister Helen Biro's family who was living in San Marcos.

According to her daughter-in-law, "Rosie got the idea that the elegant people, the society, were in Austin. This was the capitol. And one thing Rosie could do was sew!" So Rosie moved her family to Austin and sewed for many ladies in the community. She soon learned that people would pay if you would board their children while they were attending the University, so she took a couple of girls in to live with her. With her sense of propriety, she did not think it appropriate for her sons to live in the house with the girls as boarders, so Rosie made arrangements for her sons to sleep at a home across the street. She then rented a house from some relatives at 1903 Rio Grande and Milton Smith helped by getting her some beds.

In 1939 she opened Rosie's Boarding House and soon became a legend with the unique way she ran the house for *her girls*. In those days freshman girls were only allowed to live in dormitories or approved University housing, and Rosie's Boarding House was approved. In fact it was reported that Rosie had made a number of contacts with University professors, deans and administrators over the years and could call on any of them for assistance.

What was Rosie's unique style? Cecelia Schwartz remembers it as elegance. Rosie always wanted her girls to be elegant. When building the second boarding house on Salado Street, Rosie made sure the closets were big enough for formal gowns and she installed an elegant three-tier staircase upon which the girls would make

a grand entrance as they met their dates.

Rosie had strict rules of behavior and she enforced these rules always using her unique European style and accent. When it was curfew time at 11:00 PM and the girls were out on the porch with their boyfriends, Rosie would come out and start clapping her hands, "Five til 'leven. Okay, boys, make the girls goodnight, and girls, you get to your rooms." And then she would start to flick the lights on and off.

Rosie's girls were not allowed to come to the table with their hair in curlers or without the proper attire. Nor was a boy allowed to take a girl out if he were not properly dressed. Rosie actually blacklisted certain boys and refused to allow her girls to go out with them, turning them away at the door!

As Cecelia Schwartz said, "I don't think anyone else could have done it in quite this way. It wasn't the Lord-and-Master speaking. It was a combination of a woman who ran the show, but with a motherly tone and a great deal of authority. And there was no arguing. You couldn't get a word in edgewise."

Cecelia had come to Rosie's in 1946. There was a last minute decision for her to transfer to the University of Texas because of her father's illness, and Cecelia always suspected that Rosie had made room for her out of willingness to help out when there was a need. Most living accommodations were full late in August, but Rosie had found space, putting a fifth girl in a large room in what was called the annex building made of a garage apartment in back of the main house. The girls loved it even though some of their parents were shocked to find the girls were not living in the lovely house pictured in Rosie's brochure!

Rosie's rules were accepted, but sometimes tongue-in-cheek, as told by Beverly Moskovitz. One time Beverly asked if she could have a guest for dinner the next night. "Rosie told me I could if I dressed formally. At that time Rosie had been leaning on some of the girls for not being as neat as they should be, but not *mine Beverly*. Rosie let my guest in and he introduced himself, etc. Then I came down the stairs and made my entrance. With my short fat legs, I was wearing long white Bermuda socks, high heel shoes, black Bermuda shorts. I forget what the blouse was like. I was bedecked with all sorts of



bangles and beads. I had long gloves on, and bracelets. I wore a hat with a feather. And for someone who didn't smoke, I'm sure the long cigarette holder and cigarette in my hand attracted a little more attention. With a deadpan somber face I came in and sat down at the table. And of course, I got the reaction. Rosie was speechless. Her mouth fell open, and everybody else of course was laughing. Finally then, she did crack up laughing."

Beverly, as well as many of Rosie's other pets, developed a long-lasting relationship with Rosie. When Beverly became engaged, she told Rosie she wasn't going to live in the house that fall, but out of respect and admiration, Beverly traveled to Austin with her intended to meet Rosie and get her approval. As her husband Bill tells it, "When I met Beverly, her mother never asked me anything. We started dating, and that was fine. When I met Aunt Rosie, we walked in and Beverly introduced me. The first thing Rosie said to me was 'What kind of doctor are you?' I said nervously, 'What do you mean, what kind of doctor?' She said, 'Well, are you a regular doctor, or are you a Ph.D. Doctor?' I said, 'No, I'm a regular doctor, a medical doctor.' She said, 'Hmm, are you an intern, or are you through that?' I said, 'No Aunt Rosie, I'm through internship. I'm out of that.' She said 'That sound good. Come on back.' And she served me stuffed cabbage and chopped liver! She also found out my parents were Hungarian, so it worked out."

He was approved.

Rosie was always hospitable. She was quite a cook. As her girls said, Rosie could take a tiny amount of food and make a banquet. Mattie Frances was the cook, but it was Aunt Rosie who made the special Jewish delicacies, including the blintzes, or as she called them *m-lintzes*.

Rosie's kitchen was also a special place to many foreign students. Sookie Weinberger recalls "Every evening after the girls went to their room to study, the kitchen was locked up tight. The back door would open and the boys started coming in — the foreign students. The pantry would be opened, the cake was brought out, coffee was brewing on the stove. And languages — Hungarian, Polish, Yiddish, German and English — all were spoken around the table." Rosie became very close to some of the foreign students and kept in contact with them over the years, and through her

later travels. She wrote letters using her phonetic spelling in all these languages. She also helped many of those who were struggling financially by giving them packages. When school was over in the spring and the boarding house girls packed up to go home, they often left towels and sheets their parents had sent with them to school, and Rosie would get packages together for the foreign students, some of whom were married and struggling to stay in school. Sookie Weinberger later met one of the young men whom Rosie had helped when he was a struggling foreign student. He had gone on to become Dr. Joseph Cohen, a renowned scholar in the English Department at Tulane University. And he is still thankful for Rosie's help.

Rosie was always ready to help others. Etsy Kogut recalled, "There wasn't anything Rosie wouldn't do for us. I remember my sister Fay was going to a formal and they couldn't find a dress for her that Rosie liked. Finally they found one that was all beaded from the neck to the waist, and it was a whole size too big for Fay. Rosie insisted that my mother buy that dress, and Rosie sat up all night long and cut that dress down to fit her — she even redid the beads. It was a labor of love because she wanted Fay to be the most elegant girl at the party."

Another time Rosie helped one of her former girls with a *Bris* when Susie and Robert Hauser had their baby. Later Rosie sat quietly and happily when her own granddaughter came to tell her about a young man with whom she had fallen in love. That young man turned out to be the baby whom Rosie had made the *Bris* celebration for.

Rosie became a U.S. citizen in 1942, and immediately after WWII she set out for Switzerland to find her three nieces, the daughters of her sister Louise who had been killed in a concentration camp during the war. Rosie found her nieces and offered them a home and an education in Austin, but while they were grateful to her, they had made lives for themselves in Switzerland and chose to stay there. This was a prime example of the heart and nature of Rosie Weinberger.

Although Rosie herself never remarried, she was always concerned that her girls find a good match. Sookie Weinberger recalled, "If there was a fraternity party, and there was a girl at the

boarding house who was at home with no date, Rosie would call the fraternity house and talk to the house mother and say, 'Who's there that isn't going out? This girl is here, and she's a lovely girl. I know her uncle. He's a doctor.' Her father could have been in jail, but Rosie would find something good to say!"

Sookie Weinberger was married to Rosie's son. Years after he passed away she started seeing a guy named Jack Seriff. Sookie said she knew it was an omen when she was visiting Jack and saw a picture album on the table with Rosie's picture on the front page. Jack's first wife had also been one of Rosie's girls. Soon thereafter Sookie married Jack Seriff. When asked if Rosie would have approved of her new marriage, Sookie said she was sure Rosie was looking down on her from heaven with a smile on her face. "She arranged it. I'm sure!" Sookie replied.

When Rosie died in 1983, letters and cards poured in from people all over the world who felt like they were family. Some were from the hundreds of girls whom she had nurtured and molded through their college years, helping them through the traumas of sorority rush, dating, and in one particular case, giving advice which averted a possible suicide. Many letters were from foreign students from various countries. There were also letters from officials, legislators, and university professors. One especially poignant letter was from the Mayor of Austin telling that trees had been planted in an Austin park in Rosie's honor. Rosie's fame spread hither and yon.

Another letter was from the Director of Hillel who said, "Rosie Weinberger touched the lives of many in a wonderful way, and we were pleasantly surprised to learn that what is today Hillel's home was the first house that Rosie ran as a dormitory for Jewish girls." When Rosie died, her family had given her furniture to Hillel. "We thank you for making it possible for the students to continue to benefit from Aunt Rosie's presence."

We know that Aunt Rosie is carrying on with her work wherever she is.



# The Dairyman's Daughter

## Nettie Schepps Zeitman

by Harold Zeitman (Dallas)

The life story of Nettie Schepps Zeitman is the story of her family and the story of her family is the story of her life.

Nettie Zeitman was born approximately on February 2, 1902 in Zabelin, State of Belerus, Russia, a small rural village not far from the Polish border and near the City of Volkovysk. She did not know her exact Gregorian calendar date of birth because her mother could not translate it from the Hebrew calendar date of birth.

Nettie was the fifth child of the nine

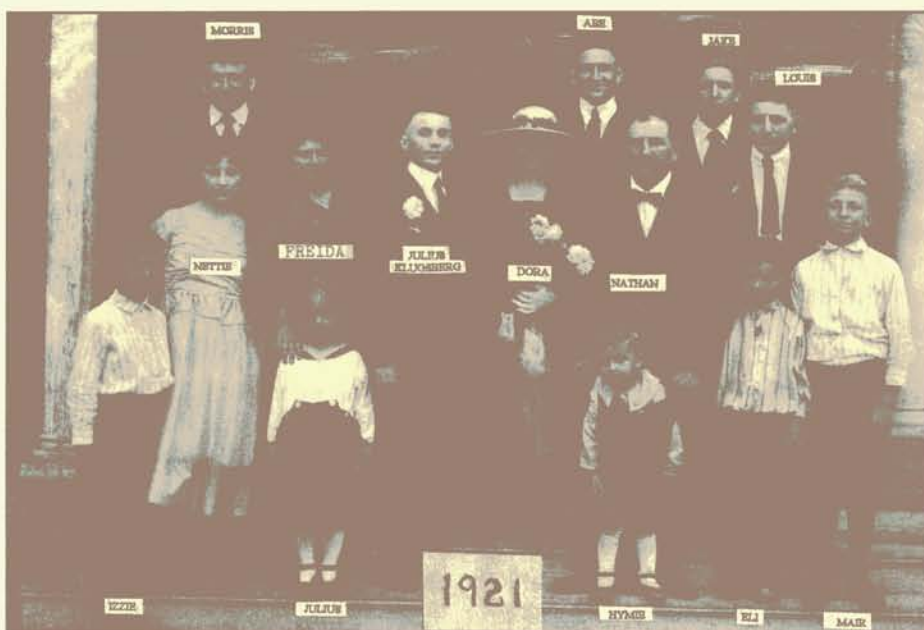
sons and two daughters born to Nathan Schepps and his wife, Freida Golman. Nettie grew up in Zabelin, playing with four Golman cousins in the fruit orchards of her Uncle Israel and Aunt Malkelaeh Golman, and her grandparents, Sholem Yasev and Esther Golman.

Nettie's parents ran a restaurant on Zabelin Square, serving up many potato and herring dishes along with homemade beer. She remembered that once a month the town had a *yard* – equivalent to First Monday in Canton) – all the peasants and farmers from around the countryside brought their wares to be sold or swapped inside the confines of the square.

Nathan Schepps' brother, Joseph, who had emigrated to Dallas and established Schepps Bakery in that city, sponsored his brother, Nathan, and one of Nathan's sons, Louis, to come to the *New World of America*. Joseph Schepps, the family's Moses, visited Zabelin and upon his return to the United States brought two of Nathan's oldest children, Dora and Morris, to Dallas. After getting established in Dallas, Nathan visited Zabelin in 1912, but was unable to bring any of the family to the U.S.A. at that time. Once back in the U.S., Nathan peddled produce in Grapevine and eventually saved enough money to send for the rest of the Schepps family.

Freida Schepps with baby Eli in arms, and five other children: Abe-15, Nettie-11, Jake-9, Mair-4½, and Izzie-3, began their emigration across Poland and Germany. It was Nettie's chore to take care of Mair and Izzie. Crossing Europe via train, the family was too late in reaching Bremen, Germany; thus missing their boat to America. After spending months in barracks, the family finally embarked in September, 1913 on the ship *Chemnitz*, steerage rate in the bottom of the boat. Nettie, severely seasick, remembered the howling whistles and horns and groaning noises of the ship all night long on a very tumultuous crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. After a short stop in Philadelphia, the ship enjoyed smooth sailing to Galveston Island where Nathan Schepps eagerly awaited his wife and family. But even in Galveston the family was again detained and quarantined because of childhood diseases.

After settling in their new home on Metropolitan Street, Nathan bought eight cows to begin the original Schepps Dairy Farm. Later the family moved to Hutchins



The Schepps family in the year 1921.



The Schepps family all grown up.



Road in Oak Cliff. Soon Jersey and Holstein cows dotted the Trinity River bottom lands. Nettie and all the children had to work hard in the dairy business. Each oldest son was responsible for selling the milk off a truck as all others participated in milking and processing.

Nettie attended Bonnie View School, but constantly missed classes due to helping her mother feed the family. Understandably, she became an excellent cook of Jewish dishes: *matzah ball* with chicken soup, *compote*, *gefilteh fish*, *gehakteh laiber*, *kichel*, *kishkeh*, *kreplach*, *kugel*, and *tzimmes*.

Nettie's father, Nathan, was a hard working man, but also a very devout member of the conservative Shearith Israel Synagogue. He and his brother-in-law, Mair Golman, attended regularly Friday nights, Saturday and High Holy Day services.

Nettie's mother, Freida, also was a hard working woman who established her own entrepreneur stamp by gathering all sour milk and processing it into *kaiz* (uncreamed cottage cheese). She also churned milk into *purer* (sweet butter) and buttermilk. She was well known in the Jewish community for these products. As religiously devout as her husband, she insisted on moving to the Ambassador Hotel near City Park so that she and Nathan could walk to the Synagogue on High Holy Holidays. Nettie very often cared for her mother during her declining years.

The little dairy struggled from year to year as each son took his turn managing the dairy, until 1941 when the youngest son, Hymie, and older brother, Eli, took over the dairy. The dairy had moved up several blocks and was situated on Eleventh Street and Forest Avenue. The dairy moved again to 5002 Second Avenue for several years and finally to Dolphin Road. Under the management of the two sons, Hymie and Eli, Schepps Dairy grew to become one of the largest dairies in Texas. Brother Jake also worked in the dairy.

Nettie and all her brothers inherited the work ethic and entrepreneurial talent from their parents. All began life in humble circumstances. Three of her brothers lived with her during their early years of marriage. Many of the brothers considered her their second mother.

First to come to the U.S.A. was the oldest brother, Louis. He went overseas in World War I to defend his new country.

Private Schepps served in the 30th Division, Company K of the 199th Infantry. Louie was known to thousands of Dallasites as the proprietor of a newsstand at the corner of Main Street and Lamar from 1921 to 1927. Louie was working for his father's dairy in 1931 when he was killed at Forest Avenue crossing by a Katy Sunbeam train that plowed into his milk truck.

The oldest sister, Dora, married Julius Klugsberg who owned "Texas Candyland" on 1349 Rowan Street in Southeast Dallas. Older brother Morris owned and operated his own liquor store on Pennsylvania Avenue and later at Lover's Lane. Abe Schepps established Schepps Grocery Supply Company at 1303 S. Harwood and later moved to South Lamar Street. Brother Mair Schepps owned his own candy and tobacco company in Houston. He also served his new country as a Tech. 5th Grade in the U.S. Army during World War II. Little brother Julius Schepps, born in this country, served in the Army as a Sergeant during World War II. After the war he joined his brother Abe in the wholesale grocery business.

The only son to graduate from college, Texas Aggie Col. Alvin Izzie Schepps was a decorated officer from World War II serving in the Chemical Warfare Branch, 90th Division. A chemistry graduate, he was nicknamed "Smoke Screen" Schepps for being responsible for a 16-day smoke screen laid down for the Division's first assault on the Siegfried Line near the Saar River in 1944. A.I. Schepps originated Schepps Grocery Company in 1934, and after returning from the war, built it into one of the largest in Texas, serving more than 1,000 independent grocery customers in the Houston area.

On October 21, 1921, Nettie Schepps married Robert (Bob) Zeitman, also an emigrant from Pinsk, Russia. She worked side by side with her husband in the retail dry goods stores on Swiss Avenue and in Goldthwaite. After the birth of her two sons, she and her husband moved to Kaufman in 1926 to help create The Fair Store with partner Abe Litchenstein. The little dry goods store became famous all over the area. People came from all parts of Kaufman County to trade with Abe and Bob, purchasing Red Goose shoes, Carhardt overalls, Byer Rolnick Resistol hats and Acme boots.

The Zeitman family returned to Dallas

in 1942, living on Forest Avenue, Park Row and eventually Tulip Lane in North Dallas. Again during the 50s Bob and Nettie worked side by side in their Grand Shoe Store on Grand Avenue.

After Bob Zeitman died in 1970, Nettie retired to live on Stone Canyon Drive.

In June 1987, an exciting event occurred when the Fannie Siegel, Rose Sievers, Anna Chai Golman, Joseph Schepps and Nathan Schepps families gathered in Dallas for a family reunion. Over 200 family members attended and family charts revealed that there were seven generations and approximately 629 descendants of Meyer and Ettie Schepps.

All of Nathan Schepps' eleven children are first cousins to Joseph Schepps' children - Julius Schepps, George Schepps, and Rebecca Metzger. All of Nathan Schepps' offspring are first cousins to brother-in-law Mair Golman's eight children. All of Nathan Schepps' scions are first cousins to his sister Fannie Siegel's five children. And all of Nathan Schepps' progeny are first cousins to sister Rose Siever's seven children in St. Louis, Missouri. In essence, a patriarch and matriarch begot six children, five of which spawned thirty-three offspring. The proliferation continues.

In 1992, Nettie moved to Golden Acres Dallas Home for Jewish Aged. Nettie was preceded in death by her husband in 1970 and by her oldest son, Eli Gerson Zeitman on February 9, 1995.

Nettie was a member of Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas. Her life was dedicated to her family and she never missed praying and lighting the Sabbath night candles, unless she was incapacitated. Nettie died on June 27, 1995.

Nettie always took her coffee with cream, proudly proclaiming that she was a "Dairyman's Daughter."

*Harold Zeitman, the author of this article, died on February 15, 1997. He mailed these photos to TJHS on the way to the hospital for an operation from which he did not recover. A labor of love! Thank you Harold!*



# AT HOME ON THE RANGE: Jewish Life in Texas

A Progress Report



Cover Photo from Brian's Video Tape.

In 1995 TJHS helped fund a video documentary produced by Brian Cohen, a native of Abilene, in which he explored the Jewish communities in the small towns and rural areas of the state. Those interviewed discussed their personal experiences and the struggles they and their families have faced in creating and maintaining a Jewish identity in these small communities.

Brian reports that reaction to his program has been overwhelming. Since it premiered on PBS in South Texas (Harlingen), it has gone on to air in Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, College Station, Corpus Christi, Killeen, Odessa, and San Antonio. In addition to television broadcast, the documentary has been screened in film festivals across the country, and universities and public libraries are acquiring it for their collections. Dr. Seth Wolitz, UT professor, also presented the film at a scholarly meeting in South Africa.

Brian now has plans to reach into overseas markets in Europe and the Middle East as well. *At Home On The Range* is available on videocassette for TJHS members at a reduced price. (To order, please call Brian at 1-888-873-7740.)

Look for the next airing on Houston's KUHT (Channel 8) on March 2 at 4:00 PM. KMBH (Channel 60) in Harlingen will also present an encore presentation March 21 at 10:00 PM as a part of their Spring pledge drive.

Brian wishes to express his gratitude to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for their support. TJHS can be proud that our organization has helped to make this piece of the Texas Jewish experience available to audiences worldwide.



Brian Cohen

## About Brian Cohen, the Producer/Director

The senior producer, Brian Cohen, is a media professional in New York City.

A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, he has produced programming for organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League, the Texas Jewish Historical Society and Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

His production company, Apple West Productions, is currently producing a nine-part documentary series on the Jewish South.

Originally from Abilene, Texas, Mr. Cohen grew up as a part of its Jewish community. He has always viewed his Judaism through the prism of small-town life, realizing that there are struggles and dynamics which are quite unique to this experience. *At Home On The Range* makes this experience understandable while bringing to life the rich and varied history of Texas Jewry.



See you  
in Corpus  
for the  
Gathering!



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## Photos from the Open Board Meetings in Sugar Land and Midland



*Sugar Land meeting: Arthur Schechter tells about growing up in Rosenberg.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Sharla Wertheimer remembers the years raising her family in Rosenberg.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Henry Wertheimer – the former Mayor of Rosenberg.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Rick Oshman talks about growing up in Rosenberg.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Ellis Rudy tells about his youth in Stafford/Missouri City.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Maurice Berkman is the lifelong Mayor of Simonton.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Maytee Fisch talks about growing up in Richmond.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Blanche Sheiness from Alice on the tour.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Sherry Zander of Dallas eloquently making a point.*





*Sugar Land meeting: Winston and Ruth Heidenheimer of Cisco at the Imperial Sugar plant.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Barbara and Ben Rosenberg of Sugar Land with Ralph Katz, our entertainer. Ralph is a cantor and an opera singer featured in Gilbert Sullivan roles.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Helen and Larry Wilk with their daughter, Patty Block, sitting between them. Patty lives in Houston with her family, so this was an opportunity for them to get together.*



*Sugar Land meeting: Muriel Shaw and Dr. Charles Nathan of Houston showing a bit of Halloween spirit.*



*Sugar Land meeting: TJHS weekend participants enjoying the social hour in the luxurious lobby of our hotel in Sugar Land.*



*Sugar Land meeting: A birds-eye-view of some of the TJHS members attending the Sugar Land Open Board Meeting.*





*Sugar Land meeting: Charles and Celine Kaplan of Houston with Barbara Rosenberg.*



*Midland/Odessa meeting: Suzanne Campbell of San Angelo making a point to other TJHS weekend participants while enjoying dinner.*



*Midland/Odessa meeting: Sherry Zander of Dallas enjoying dinner with other TJHS weekend participants in Midland.*



*Midland/Odessa meeting: (L to R) Edna Greenberg of Tyler, Ruth & Winston Heidenheimer of Cisco, Shirley Rich of Houston, and Barry Green of Tyler.*



*Midland/Odessa meeting: The attendance was good for the TJHS Open Board Meeting at the Oil Museum in Midland.*



*Midland/Odessa meeting: Barbara Rosenberg and Frank Kasman of Midland at the synagogue in Odessa.*

**A big thank you to Marvin Rich of Houston for these pictures. Thank you, Marvin!**



# Society Preserves Centuries Old Tradition of Interest-Free Loans

By Hollace Ava Weiner

FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM staff writer

**N**ewlyweds Miriam and Shooky Labovitz couldn't swing a conventional bank loan when they opened their family grocery in 1939.

Nor could Larry Goodwin approach a bank for credit in 1949 after he launched his first shoe store in downtown Fort Worth. He was already in hock.

Short of cash but long on ambition, these entrepreneurs — who would someday build multimillion-dollar businesses — took a cue from their ancestors. They borrowed interest-free funds from the local Hebrew Free Loan Association.

A low-profit institution with ancient roots in the Jewish community, the Tarrant County Hebrew Free Loan Association was founded in 1907, in an era when European immigrants with peddler's packs on their backs needed cash to fill their bundles with wares.

Co-religionists who could spare a few coins joined the loan society, originally paying dues of less than \$1 a year. Signatures of two co-signers from fellow Jews were and remain the only requirement for receiving the maximum loan, which has multiplied over the years from a few shekels to a few grand.

"It's one way of helping people without going to the government," said Lou Barnett, a retired plastics manufacturer who with his friend, investor Sol Taylor, spearheaded the current push to retool the Hebrew Free Loan Association for the 21st century.

Motivated by cutbacks in social

service programs and the influx of Russian Jewish immigrants to Tarrant County, the loan association is raising its profile and its reserves from \$106,000 to a projected \$250,000 by year's end.

Annual dues, fixed for decades at \$5, were hiked this year to \$18 — a number symbolically linked in the Hebrew word for *life*. The board of directors, enlarged from eight to 19 members to include applicants' peers, instituted \$500 lifetime memberships.

Cognizant of the cost of living, the board raised the maximum loan from \$500 to \$3,000, with larger loans possible, Barnett said.

Nowadays, those notes no longer fill peddlers' packs. They cover down payments on houses, car loans and provide seed money for hamburger stands, electronics shops and home tailoring businesses that may require no more than a sewing machine.

"This is strictly for our own community, but I would be delighted to sit down with anybody to help them set this up for their own group," said Barnett, 77, whose own family in Depression-era Boston took out a Hebrew free loan to buy an ice box. "The privilege of helping is the greatest blessing of life."

Larry Goodwin, 68, owner of the 11-store chain of Larry's Shoes, recalls the \$300 he borrowed in 1949 to cover a shipment of merchandise.

"When I started in business, I was sort of drinking water with a fork," recalled the men's shoe retailing giant whose stores handled \$30 million in sales last year.

"I was borrowing from whomever I could borrow. If there was something for sale, I wanted to buy it," he said. "Three hundred dollars would go a long way then when the best pair of shoes cost \$30." Goodwin was familiar with the loan society from an early age because his immigrant grandfather, bootmaker Frank Motley, talked about the time he borrowed an interest-free sum to make ends meet.

Julius Blum remembers, too.

He borrowed a few hundred dollars in the 1950s to pay off bills at Blum's Cafeteria, his fledgling north side enterprise that evolved into a firm that equips the food processing industry with knives, aprons, latex gloves and freezer clothing.

Blum also recalls talk of the loan association when he was a boy playing at the Hebrew Institute, a Jewish community center located where the Federal Building now stands. "A lot of old-timers walked into the office to pay \$5 or \$10 a week," he reminisced.

Miriam Labovitz's payments totaled \$20 a week in 1939.

She hand-carried the weekly sum to Max Herman, the candy and tobacco wholesaler who for years was Free Loan Association treasurer.

"We didn't have anything to start with. Shooky and I were married one year. He must have been 20 years old," Labovitz said, recalling her late husband who was a founding partner of the King's Liquor Store chain. "His mother cried that we were going to be broke."

Moreover, the young couple's store on Bonnell Street was located in Como, an African-American neighborhood that bankers customarily ignored despite a wealth of customers.

The Hebrew Free Loan Association neither questioned the store's location nor critiqued the couple's business expertise. With two fellow Jews vouching for the Labovitzes, a \$500 loan was extended.

Today, son Harry Labovitz serves on the Hebrew Free Loan Association board.

The tradition behind the Hebrew Free Loan Association is 33 centuries old and biblically based. The Book of Exodus commands: "If thou lend money to any of my people, even to the poor with thee, thou shalt not be to him as a creditor; neither shall ye lay upon him interest."

Sixth-century commentaries from the Talmud reinforce the concept, categorizing interest-free loans as "acts of kindness," or *gemilut chasadim* in Hebrew.

*"A loan is better than charity, for it enables one to help himself."*

— Maimonides



Gemilut Chasadim is the alternate name for the Tarrant County Hebrew Free Loan Association and the hundreds of others like it around the world.

Loaning money within the tribe is so exalted a notion that Jewish scholars continued expounding on the concept. The rabbinic philosopher Maimonides preached 850 years ago that "a loan is better than charity" for it enables people to help themselves.

"Such acts of loving kindness are greater than charity, in that charity is restricted to the poor," observed Rabbi Falik Schtroks of Fort Worth's Chabad House, which aims to communicate tradition in a modern world. The rabbi previously helped establish a free loan society in a suburb of Paris, France, and in Vancouver, B.C.

*This article appeared in the Saturday, July 13, 1996 edition of THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM and is reprinted here with their permission.*

*Hollace Ava Weiner is a featured staff writer for THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM.*

*TJHS board member R.D. Moses is president of the Tarrant County Hebrew Free Loan Association. We're proud of you, R.D.*

## Historical Trip to Savannah & Charleston

**T**JHS is co-sponsoring a trip to Savannah and Charleston with the Jewish Community Center of Houston from April 30 to May 4th.

The tour will visit historic and Jewish sites in Savannah and Charleston.

If you have not received your brochure and/or want more information, please call Ruth Nathan at the Houston Jewish Community Center at (713) 729-3200, ext. 3298.

## Dr. Charles Nathan Appointed to Harris County Historical Commission

**D**r. Charles Nathan was recently appointed to the Harris County Historical Commission, appointed by the county judge.

Commission Chairman Al Davis recently contacted the president of TJHS because of his interest in seeing that historical markers are erected which reflect our contributions to the history of the area. The first priority is to erect a marker at the site of the cemetery of Congregation Beth Israel.

Hopefully, this will spur interest in writing papers which lead to other markers.

TJHS has received a copy of the Official Texas Historical Markers Guidelines and Application Form. If you wish to have this information, please contact Barbara Rosenberg at (281) 494-2668.

## Tyler Congregation to Celebrate its 100th Year!

**C**ongregation Ahavath Achim in Tyler is beginning its one hundredth year and is planning a special One Hundredth Year Celebration for the spring of 1998.

Barry Green of Tyler, TJHS Parliamentarian and long time TJHS board member, is co-chair of the One Hundredth Year Anniversary Committee to make plans for the upcoming year.

Barry reports that "Each member of the congregation will be given a task to complete, and like a jigsaw puzzle, as each task is completed, we will get closer to the final celebration."

Barry continues, "We are looking forward to a very exciting time preparing for the event, and the final celebration itself will be the culmination of about fifteen months of planning, implementing and

finalizing details."

Barry is asking that any of you who have already celebrated a 100th anniversary in your synagogues, and have special advice, he and his committee would be most appreciative for your sharing this with them.

Please call Barry Green at (903) 561-4484.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society looks forward to hearing more about the celebration.

Congratulations, Congregation Ahavath Achim and Barry Green.



# A Tale of Turkeys in Tyler

By Hollace Ava Weiner

(FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM Staff Writer)

**B**uilding a business was not what Zelick Greenberg had in mind when he shipped a dozen turkeys to Dallas by rail in 1942. Those hickory-smoked birds took flight.

**“Thriving word-of-mouth business evolved from holiday gifts to friends.”**

Word-of-mouth turned Greenberg’s backyard poultry product into a multimillion-dollar holiday business that delivers 150,000 turkeys coast to coast, most of them between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A third-generation enterprise, the East Texas family business evolved from a turn-of-the-century practice of smoking kosher turkeys as a favor for friends. While the kosher end of the product line has practically disappeared, the firm’s soaring business remains grounded in the past.

Greenberg Smoked Turkey runs no ads, except for a one-column spot in the TYLER COURIER-TIMES-TELEGRAPH. It accepts no credit cards, and has no toll-free number, no unsolicited mailings, no catalog and no retail grocery outlets.

“You couldn’t start a business like this today,” said Sam Greenberg, 38, who terms the company a “monument” to his father, Zelick Greenberg, who died in September at age 83.

“We don’t have any credit problems. None. I thought the stuff they taught in college was absolutely crazy. This is what I saw all my life, and it works. People respect it.”

Repeat customers fax, phone or mail in orders, and are billed after the orders are delivered. Only new customers — many of whom track down the origin of the smoked gobbler they received as a gift the year before — must enclose checks or money orders to cover the \$3.10-per-pound cost.

The 6- to 15-pound hickory-smoked feast arrives in a white cardboard box picturing a red logo that hasn’t changed in decades — a silhouetted bird, with breast puffed and a fantail of feathers.

“People can identify that box,”

Greenberg says. “That’s our advertising. It won’t change.”

The Tyler turkey business remains on turf that once belonged to Greenberg’s namesake and grandfather, Sam Greenberg, a dairy farmer, blacksmith and Russian native whose family migrated to Texas around the turn of the century.

Like many settlers who farmed these rolling hills 150 miles east of Fort Worth, the family smoked meat over smoldering hickory logs. Using materials at hand, Sam Greenberg constructed a tin shed, attached an iron wheel to the ceiling and suspended meat hooks from the spokes.

Because of their Orthodox Jewish upbringing, members of the family did not consume pork. Instead, they used the hickory smoking for meats such as turkey, goose and leg of lamb, all slaughtered according to kosher rituals.

“As I remember the tale, he was glad to smoke turkeys for friends,” said Joyce Greenberg, who married into the family in 1946. “When somebody asked him, ‘Sam, would you fix this piece of meat?’ he would.”

The patriarch died in 1941. The following holiday season, Dallas friends requested multiple birds. Faithful to his father’s legacy, Zelick Greenberg, a Texas A&M engineering graduate, scrambled to find shipping crates.

“He didn’t even have boxes,” said Joyce Greenberg, who brightens the warehouse with fresh-cut dahlias from her garden. “The war had started. He had no buying record. There was rationing. I remember going to the grocery store and getting boxes. Any box we could find. Hit and miss.”

As the business took wing, Joyce Greenberg filled order forms with a hard lead pencil and then recruited her friend Louise Portier, who had a typewriter.

“I would type mailing labels at home,” recalled Portier, who today helps manage the company’s 11 full-time and 120 part-time employees.

During Christmas week in 1951, after the last birds had been smoked, ashes emptied onto a trash heap set a haystack on

fire. The premises burned. The hickory smoke wafted for miles. Two employees caught a whiff, returned to the office and dragged out a filing cabinet filled with customer addresses.

The Greenbergs rebuilt the business, replacing their metal sheds with a bricked-in smokehouse. These days, during the heat of the holiday season, the dusky room stays stoked with 22 cords of wood and 1,500 turkeys. The birds are supplied by turkey brokers in Minnesota who scout out fowl with short legs and large breasts. The frozen birds start arriving in Tyler in June. The preparation begins in September with defrosting in tubs of running water, seasoning with great-grandmother Jenny Greenberg’s secret spice blend and four days’ suspension in the smokehouse.

Kosher birds, once the basis of the business, gradually shrunk to a minuscule portion — 218 in 1995. Last year, the metal certification tag attached to the skin of the kosher fowl fell off during the smoking. Customers complained. Sam Greenberg ate the cost of those turkeys. Until he can remedy the situation, he said, he will not offer customers kosher fare.

“It’s been a nightmare,” Greenberg said.

Meanwhile, dozens of customers flock to the warehouse counter daily, eager to tote home smoked holiday birds.

“My seasonal workers stay on the job just for the turkey,” said Charles Utz, a landscaper who makes a 45-mile pilgrimage from Longview to purchase holiday gift birds. “I give one to all my employees for Christmas. It’s cold outside. The laborers prefer to go south by now. But they will hang with me plumb till Christmas. They all look forward to getting this turkey.”

*This article appeared in the Thursday, November 28, 1996 edition of THE FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM. It is reprinted here with their permission.*



## Greenberg Death Loss For Tyler and East Texas

If one is looking for an example of how a quality idea and hard work, plus family and community cooperation, can lead to an American success story, no better one could be found than that in the life and career of Zelick Greenberg, who died in a Tyler hospital this week.

Mr. Greenberg, who was 83, and a brother, the late Isadore Greenberg who was a leading Tyler banker for many years, were born in Tyler. Their parents, Sam and Selma Greenberg, were immigrants, having been born in Russia and Warsaw, respectively.

Greenberg Smoked Turkeys is the product which Zelick Greenberg is identified with, and it is a product which has taken the Greenberg and Tyler names to places throughout the world over a period of more than half a century.

The Greenberg smoked turkey ranks right up there with roses and Earl Campbell on establishing a far-reaching identity for Tyler. Zelick and his wife, Joyce Greenberg of Tyler, worked along with other family members in developing a business that was essentially started by his father at an early location in the vicinity of Fannin and Elm streets. Officially, Greenberg Smoked Turkey was founded in 1939, and it has continued to grow and prosper through the years.

Under their guidance and leadership, the company made and maintained a quality product with 100 percent responsibility behind it. The supremacy of the product in the field of smoked turkey has been as good a boost to Tyler as some other things that might be considered more glamorous. Most people across the country, and even beyond its borders, who have gotten a Greenberg

Smoked Turkey didn't want to take time to see what town it was created in because they were in too big a hurry to eat some. And the product is one that can be found on the holiday menu at a huge number of homes in Tyler at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and almost unanimously is among the delicacies at any party in this area during that season.

Mr. Greenberg, a lifelong Tyler resident, graduated from Texas A&M University in 1934 with an electrical engineering degree. He was a member of Ahavath Achim Synagogue and Temple Beth El.

Nothing could typify the success that a quality idea, hard work and family and community cooperation can bring more than that of the Greenberg example.

Zelick Greenberg was the kind of citizen, and he developed and ran the kind of business, that contributes immeasurably to a community's good reputation.

*These two articles about Zelick Greenberg were so interesting we wanted to share them both with our membership. Hope you enjoy them.*



### Help! Help!

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Do you want your name to appear differently on the TJHS mailing label?

Please let us know.

We'd really appreciate your help.

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2108 West Freeway  
Fort Worth TX 76102.

Thank you and please print:

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*Phone Number:*



# The Houston Jewish Community Center: Past, Present & Future

by Alex Cohen (Houston)

***“The mission of the Jewish Community Center of Houston is to develop and strengthen Jewish identity, foster Jewish values, and enrich the Jewish community and the greater Community.”***

In the 1930s the Jewish community settled in different areas of town. The wealthy upper class Jews lived in the Heights, the working class Jews lived in the Sixth Ward, and the orthodox Jews lived in the Third and Fifth Ward and worked as store keepers and

merchants.

Through the years, the Jewish community in Houston moved to the Southwest and Memorial areas of Houston. The JCC moved many times over the years, with the Jewish community.

The JCC was started in the 1880s, and

officially chartered in 1936 by wealthy Jewish families that decided the Jewish people needed a place for everybody to come together. It was called the YMHA at that time. It was very important because it was the only place where Jews could freely socialize, freely be educated, and for some, it was the only place where they could freely be Jewish without being picked on or shown prejudice because they were Jewish.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association, YMHA, existed in the 1880s, and was officially founded in 1936. In the 1970s the YMHA changed its name to the JCC. It was originally designed to be a place for Jewish men to play sports. The most popular sports were volleyball, basketball, and baseball. By 1936 the YMHA offered activities for men, women, and children similar to today's JCC programs.

The Settlement House was started in the late 1920s by the

Council of Jewish Women. It was officially chartered in 1936, when it joined with the YMHA. It was originally located at 608 White St., then in 1933 it moved to a location near Chartres and Clay St., when it joined with the YMHA. The Settlement House was established to teach Jews how to be Americans, how to speak English, how to use currency, how to be a good citizen, and how to take care of themselves in this country so that the government wouldn't have to pay for them. The Settlement House was used mostly by working-class Jews, young and old. It was copied after the large Settlement House that existed in New York at that time.

The director of the Settlement House was Jenny Radoff. She was in charge of all programs and activities that took place there. She is still alive today. Two of the programs at the Settlement House that were important for children were student tutoring and "To Be a Friend." The student tutoring was taught by other students. "To Be a Friend" was a program where one student was assigned to be a friend to another student, a stranger. They would call and visit each other daily, and do things to get to know each other like regular friends. Many of the students that volunteered were members of the Council of Jewish Junior Women. The council was made-up of high school girls.

The JCC has had many different locations. In 1945, the JCC moved from Clay St. to the corner of Caroline and Blodgett Street in downtown Houston. A woman named Nina Vance started a theater group and taught children drama. She gained city-wide fame. She later left the JCC to become the founding director of The Houston Alley Theater. The JCC moved next to a

location on Southmore St., east of Almeda. It was near the first Beth Yeshurun Synagogue. In 1951, the JCC moved to its own building on Hermann Drive by Hermann Park. In 1969, the JCC moved to the present South Braeswood location; in 1987 built the Bertha Alyce Early Childhood Center at 10901 Sandpiper and in 1989 built the Ethel & Al Herzstein Building at 1120 Dairy Ashford.

1996 marks the 60th birthday of the JCC since it was chartered. The JCC is just as important today as it was back in its beginning, but being a Jew is easier today. People use the JCC for different reasons now. Today, people come to the JCC not only because they want to be with other Jewish people, but also because they want to learn something, they want to send their kids to camp, and they want their kids to go to school in the early childhood service.

For the future, the JCC hopes to keep improving their programs, and build a new Bertha Alyce campus in the Meyerland area to replace the Sandpiper location that was recently sold to the Houston Independent School District.

*For your information, Alex Cohen is a third grade student at Houston's Hebrew Academy. His teacher is Laurie Dreyfuss.*

*Alex presented this report as a part of a History Project at his school. For this article, Alex interviewed individuals at the Houston JCC because he wanted his report to be as accurate as possible.*

*Very enterprising little boy, don't you agree?*



# HATTIE LEAH HENENBERG: The First Jewish Woman on the Texas Supreme Court

by Hollace Ava Weiner (Fort Worth)



The first all-woman state Supreme Court in the nation was, left to right, Hattie Henenberg, Hortense Ward and Ruth Brazzil. The justices were appointed by Gov. Pat M. Neff on Jan. 8, 1925. The women presided over only one case.

In 1925 a Texas governor reluctantly appointed an all-female Supreme Court to hear an appeal involving Woodmen of the World, a fraternal group whose members included virtually every male lawyer in the state. Hattie Leah Henenberg, a lawyer since 1916, was among the trio of special associate justices tapped for that “petticoat” panel.

A pioneering jurist who launched her legal career as a stenographer, Henenberg would set other precedents. In 1924 she was a founding director of the Dallas Free Legal Aid Bureau. In the 1940s, she created a unit in the Dallas DA’s office that jailed parents who failed to pay child support.

Born on a farm in Ennis, Tex., Feb. 16, 1893, Henenberg was the second oldest of six offspring raised by Samuel and Rosa (Trebitsch) Henenberg, Hungarian immigrants from Pest. Her paternal grandfather, Lazar Henenberg, ran Dallas’ oldest pawn and jewelry shop. When he

fell ill in 1904, the farming family piled their belongings in an oxcart and moved to Dallas to help out with the business.

In 1913 Hattie Henenberg went to work for a lawyer and began three years of night classes at Dallas Law School, an extension of Southern Methodist University. She was admitted to the Texas Bar in

1916 and was appointed to a Legal Advisory Board that assisted WWI draft registrants fill out Selective Service questionnaires. She served as Assistant Texas Attorney General from 1929-30, a special assistant U.S. Attorney General in Washington, D.C. in 1934, and an Assistant Dallas District Attorney from 1941-47. A Democrat, she was Delegate to the 1932 National Convention in Chicago and Assistant Secretary to state conventions in 1936 and 1940.

She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Temple Emanu-El, Business and Professional Women’s Association, and Dallas president of Zonta International.

“Judaism manifested itself in her refusal to eat pork or marry a Gentile beau,” said her nephew Sam Henenberg who is retired and lives in Dallas.

Jewish ideals infused her legal philosophy and her free legal aid work. In March, 1925, she told HOLLAND’S MAGAZINE: “A legal aid

society does not give charitable support to needy persons, but only justice and the enforcement of just and honorable claims. Such a society may be compared in its relation to justice to a medical clinic in its relation to health.

“From birth to death, the poor man is the prey of petty swindlers. He is educated to believe that justice is free, and he later awakens to find that, to get it, he must pay a lawyer a price he cannot afford. Legal aid work consists of giving legal advice and legal assistance gratuitously, if necessary, to all persons who may appear worthy, and who, by reason of poverty, are unable to procure assistance elsewhere.”

*A condensed version of this biographical sketch was originally written for the forthcoming JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICA: AN HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, to be published by Carlson Publishing Inc., Brooklyn, N.Y., and sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society.*



# San Antonio's "MITZVAH DAY" Fort Sam Houston Cemetery Project

by Betty Brown Cohen (San Antonio)

**O**n May 5, 1996, Temple Beth El in San Antonio had their third annual "Mitzvah Day" Project. The Fort Sam Houston Cemetery project was chosen to be one of the Mitzvah Day events.

Don Teter had an article in the Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter asking for volunteers to document the Jewish people buried in the National Cemetery at Fort Sam Houston. It sounded like a fun project and I volunteered to coordinate it. I called Don Teter and he told me how he had documented the Jewish burials in the National Cemetery in Houston. It sounded like a long range project that would need many volunteers. I approached Rabbi Barry Block to see if we could get help from the youth group. He suggested that I ask the Temple Beth El Mitzvah Day Coordinator, Renee Wender, if this could be a Mitzvah Day Project.

About thirty people signed up to help with the Cemetery Project. Miracles happen, and we almost completed our mission in one morning, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

One couple who helped us — Kenneth and Sally Tannen — live on the Fort Sam Houston Post. Kenneth Tannen is in the service and is the Jewish lay leader on the Post. Kenneth and Sally

volunteered to finish the project for us and they did.

There are over 300 Jewish people buried in the National Cemetery. The difficulty in documenting burials in a national cemetery is the fact the cemetery is nonsectarian. Burials are not listed by religion.

We had to walk the rows looking for Stars of David. Once a name was found, then it could be looked up for more information like date of birth and death.

There are over 80,000 people buried in the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, so we had a big job.

A special thanks to the Veterans Association which takes care of the cemetery. They provided us with maps with the sections marked. This allowed us to assign sections to volunteers and not to overlap.

This was a fun project and we all did it with a labor of love.

The following is a list of volunteers:

- Glenda and Sylvan Alter (*TJHS members*)
- Dr. Arthur Bahme
- Betty Cohen (*TJHS member*)
- Deborah Cohen
- Benjamin Cohen
- Dr. Melvin L. Cohen
- Elaine Gale (*TJHS member*)
- Rachel Greenburg
- Deborah and Leslie Hempler
- Barbara Livingston
- Guadalupe Martinez
- Josie Queen
- Dr. Lewis and Barbara Richmond
- Kenneth and Sally Tannen
- Rabbi Samuel Stahl (*TJHS member*)
- Herschel Sheiness (*TJHS member*)
- Joan Baskin
- Bill Matusoff

Thank you one and all!



(L to R Standing) Ken Tannen, Joan Baskin, Sylvan & Glenda Alter, Betty, Debby & Benjamiin Cohen.  
(Kneeling) Josie Queen & Guadalupe Martinez.



"Mitzvah Day" volunteers at Fort Sam Houston Cemetery.  
(L to R) Betty, Debby & Benjamin Cohen.



# The Beginning of SIGMA ALPHA MU at the Univ. of Texas

by Gabe Goldberg (*Corsicana*)

Introduction by James Alexander (*Dallas*)

*Foreword: In October 1997, the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity at the University of Texas campus will celebrate its 75th anniversary. It is the oldest Jewish-oriented organization on the campus. In the course of its existence, it has initiated 1,676 members, many of whom have become outstanding leaders in their local communities over the years.*

**D**uring the semester of 1919-20, the first Jewish fraternity, Phi Sigma Delta, was organized at Texas. In the fall of 1920, most of the present charter members of Sigma Theta Chapter became acquainted with each other and expressed a desire to organize another fraternity.

In the beginning most of us were favorable to the idea, but a few were skeptical because we felt it might hold us aloof from the other Jewish students, there being about 75 Jewish students in the University at the time. After a few informal meetings we agreed to band together and call ourselves the Alpha Club. During that year, the members lived apart. These men I recall as follows: E. Raymond Cohn, Morris L. Swartzberg, Julian Simon, Leo Fox, Jacques Lehmann, Moritz O. Simon, Sidney J. Rosenberg, Joe Wolens, Armand Blum, Koppel Schapiro, Aaron Schaeffer, and Gabe Goldberg.

In the spring of 1921 some of these members arranged to rent the two-story house at 2107 Nueces Street which still stands. We left our respective living places and moved into this house and to us the idea of Jewish young men living together with a firm high regard for one another was a revelation and a blessing. We learned to appreciate the fruits of fraternalism and at the same time maintain a friendly atmosphere with the remaining Jewish students. Slowly but surely the Alpha Club attained a fine reputation and knowledge of its existence began to spread. In the fall of 1921 most of us again occupied the same house and Frs Ben A. Shanblum and Sam Hurwitz as Freshmen were initiated

into the Alpha Club and possibly one or two others whom I do not recall. The two fratres mentioned above moved into the house with us shortly after their initiation.

For many years the social life of Jewish students

at Texas was centered around the Menorah Society. Its meetings were held monthly on Sundays at Temple Beth Israel. I was elected president of the Menorah Society for the year 1921-22.

Here the story of Sigma Alpha Mu begins. Early in the spring of 1922 plans were formulated to arrange a series of debates at Texas between representatives of the Menorah Societies of Oklahoma University, S.M.U., Baylor, Rice and Texas. As president, the writer dispatched letters to the Menorah Societies at these universities, inviting them to visit Texas and participate in debates and discussions on various Jewish topics. They were also invited to submit essays on any Jewish topic to compete for the Amsel cash prize mentioned in the Texas University catalogue. Among the replies received to my letters was one from the president of the Menorah Society at Oklahoma University. The president of that Society was Travis Milstein, now an attorney in Tulsa and later to become a prominent figure in SAM.

On his envelope I noted his name and his return address: *Care of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, Norman, Oklahoma.* Mr. Milstein had replied that he was glad to accept our invitation to participate. Realizing we were in position to affiliate with some outstanding national fraternity but knowing little of Sigma Alpha Mu, I referred the envelope to Frs Cohn and Schwartzberg whom we recognized as the driving force in the organization of the Alpha Club. At our meeting we decided that we would acquaint ourselves with Mr. Milstein when he visited our house and if he proved to be a favorable representative of SAM, we might consider affiliation with them, provided of course he felt our group had the proper material.

We were most favorably impressed with Mr. Milstein and we felt fortunate he attained a favorable impression of us. Under the leadership of Frs Schwartzberg and Cohn and through correspondence with

Mr. Milstein who recommended the Alpha Club to the Octagon, plans were formulated for our initiation into Sigma Alpha Mu. Our group was most enthusiastic and we felt the realization of a cherished ambition. One or two representatives from the Menorah Societies of the other universities appeared for our program and I recall very little of the proceedings of the debates, essays, etc. I may state it was particularly successful and enjoyed by those who participated. But for the Alpha Club it was a tremendous success. And so by sheer accident the writer played a small part in arranging the meeting of Fra Milstein with the Alpha Club.

The initiation was arranged and held in October 1922. The writer having obtained his degree was not eligible for initiation and I was a participant. I recall the initiation was most impressive. I recall the presence of Fra Irving Fineman representing the Octagon, of Fra Harold Keller of Oklahoma University and of Fra Alfred Sack, then of San Antonio, a member of the Chapter at Washington University in St. Louis. It was a great occasion for our chapter named Sigma Theta, and I returned home, thankful that I was a participant and played some small part in our organization. I watched with interest the growth of Sigma Theta, of its growing reputation on the campus in the fields of scholastics, athletics, and an outstanding Jewish fraternity. I visited it on numerous occasions and recall the construction of its present home in 1940 or 1941. Sigma Theta has a remarkable record through times of prosperity, depressions, war and peace. Certainly I am proud of its heritage and today it is the pillar of Sigma Alpha Mu in the great Southwest. May it continue its blessings and its march toward greater accomplishments for Sigma Alpha Mu.

*This article was a part of the booklet entitled "1952—30th Anniversary Issue, Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity." We thank James Alexander for submitting this article and we apologize for the omission of SAM's picture in our previous edition.*



# Are you in these pictures?



ROBERT MAURICE ALTERMAN

## SIGMA ALPHA MU

### OFFICERS

<i>Prior</i>	ROBERT MAURICE ALTERMAN
<i>Vice-Prior</i>	MAURICE AARON LEMMONS
<i>Recorder</i>	BERNARD IRVING BUDOW
<i>Exchequer</i>	ARTHUR MANUEL MILLER

### FACULTY

AARON SCHAEFFER	<i>Professor of Romance Languages</i>
-----------------	---------------------------------------

Alterman, Heller, Crystal, Strauss,  
Mesinger, D. Novy, Sidney Mellinger.



Herring, Gertz, Budow, Potash, Reich,  
Kaliff, Donzis.



H. Novy, Schaenfield, Levy, Gordon,  
Ravel, Albert, Goldfarb.



Jacobs, M. Lemmons, Samuel Mellinger,  
Gilbert, Goidl, Miller, Blaugrund.



Sylvan Millinger, Travis, R. Lemmons,  
Shanker, Roddy, Wood, Ravicz.



Massman, Oppenheimer, Wolf,  
Fichtenbaum, Lynch, Simon, Hart.



*This is a page from The UT Cactus (the annual yearbook of the Univ. of Texas) showing the Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity for the year 1941-42. We thank Norma Albert of McAllen and James Alexander of Dallas for furnishing us with the material. TJHS apologizes for omitting the SAMMIES from the last TJHS Newsletter – it was an oversight, and was not done to hurt anyone.*





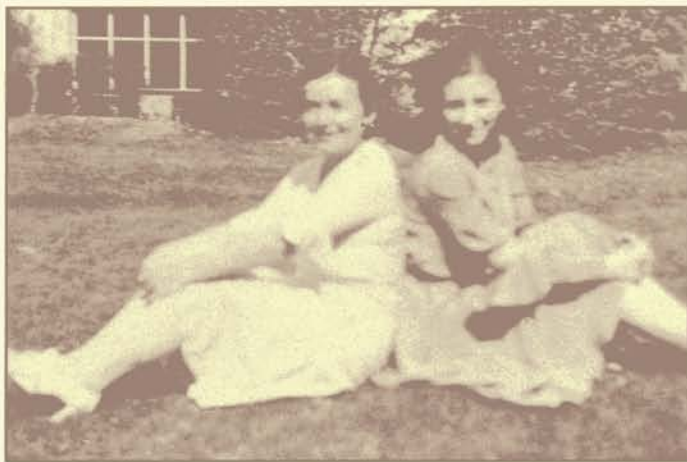
*This is a photo showing the pledge class of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority for the year 1941.  
We thank Norma Albert of McAllen for reproducing this photo and making it available to us.*



*This is a photo of the women of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority for the year 1941-42.  
We thank Norma Albert of McAllen for reproducing this photo and making it available to us.*



## Photo Album Memories . . .



(L to R) Zidella Seibel Brener M.D. and Helen Goldberg Schaffer M.D. in front of Scottish Rite Dormitory at The University of Texas at Austin in May 1931. Thank you Blanche Sheiness for these great photos!



Blanche Ladabaum Sheiness and three friends. Photo taken in front of Scottish Rite Dormitory at The University of Texas at Austin in May 1931. Which one has the Tony? And which one is Blanche?

## TJHS SPEAKERS BUREAU FORM

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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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 \_\_\_\_\_



# BIFTY Youth Work at La Grange Jewish Cemetery

by Don Teter (Baytown)

On Sunday, November 17, the BIFTY (Beth Israel Federation of Temple Youth) members from Temple Beth Israel in Houston made their annual trip to the La Grange Jewish Cemetery. Over the past few years this group has made a major contribution to the upkeep of this small, but unique cemetery, located on the private residential property of a La Grange family.

David Vogel, a TJHS member and a resident of La Grange, has himself done a magnificent job of caring for the cemetery on a continuing basis and arranging for all the equipment and tools necessary for the workers.

This year the emphasis was on painting the two sections of wrought iron fence which still exist, along with the trimming and cleaning around the markers. Rabbi Steven Gross of the Temple and Jay Freedman, the BIFTY sponsor, accompanied the group and also lent their talents to the project.

The Cemetery Committee is very appreciative of this Mitzvah and hopes that this group and those who maintain some of our other small, almost-forgotten cemeteries will continue to donate their time and energy in the years to come.



(L to R) Front row kneeling: Dara Pollicoff, Rabbi Steven Gross, Rachel Portnoy, Jennifer Kirstein & Jill Chesnik. Back row standing: Jay Freedman, Elaine Golden, Tamara Fleischer, Philip Schneider, David Vogel, Kirk Sood Halter, Josh Kaufman, Amira Wizig & Caroline Thomson.



(L to R) Tamara Fleischer, Caroline Thomson, Elaine Golden, Rabbi Steven Gross, Dara Pollicoff & Amira Wizig.

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Raye & Frank Brown .....	<i>Houston</i>
Ruth & Albert Fridkin .....	<i>Houston</i>
Anne & Jack Goldberg .....	<i>San Antonio</i>
Mr. & Mrs. David Gottlieb .....	<i>The Woodlands</i>
Betty & Sheldon Greenwood .....	<i>Beaumont</i>
Ben Hertz .....	<i>McAllen</i>
Marilyn Lasof .....	<i>Bellaire</i>
Irene & Poy Levey .....	<i>Richmond</i>
Hilda Chaleff Lewin .....	<i>McAllen</i>
Sylvan Mellinger .....	<i>Tyler</i>
Pamela & Dr. Douglas Neimand .....	<i>Coral Springs, FL</i>
Trudie & Dr. Daniel Oshman .....	<i>Fort Worth</i>
Dorothy Porterfield .....	<i>Odessa</i>
Sydney & Ted Roggen .....	<i>Houston</i>
S. Dale Rosen .....	<i>Sugar Land</i>
Irene & Yale Rosenberg .....	<i>Houston</i>
Janice & Robert Schwartz .....	<i>San Antonio</i>
Leslie & Malcolm P. Slatko .....	<i>Houston</i>
Alyson W. & Richard Slutzky .....	<i>Maplewood, NJ</i>
Evelyn Rae Stool Waldron .....	<i>The Woodlands</i>
Judy & Mike Weingart .....	<i>Houston</i>
Marc Wolens .....	<i>Dallas</i>

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**April 4 - 6**

### **18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING**

Corpus Christi  
Best Western Sandy Shores Hotel  
Call (800) 242-3166 for hotel reservations  
Call Helen Wilk at (512) 991-1118 for information

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**April 30 - May 4**

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Call Ruth Nathan  
(713) 729-3200 - Ext. 3289  
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in Corpus Christi!*