

Texas Jewish
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVING
JEWISH
HERITAGE
IN TEXAS

ESTABLISHED 1980

OCTOBER 1997

NEWSLETTER

HOT SPRINGS



*Joint Fall Conference with
Southern Jewish Historical Society*

HOT SPRINGS ARKANSAS - MAJESTIC HOTEL

NOVEMBER 14-16

News from our President



Barbara Rosenberg

Dear Members,

I hope you are all having an enjoyable summer, either traveling or finding enjoyable ways to avoid our Texas heat. In the summertime we truly have *warm* Texas hospitality! We always enjoy hearing about members who discover an interesting link to Texas Jewish history on their travels. Please let us know interesting information you discover. I recently was meandering through the nearby countryside and found a Rosenwald School, which you can read about in this newsletter.

Our board recently had a productive and interesting meeting in Bryan/College Station where we visited Temple Freda, a unique synagogue named for a woman, and one of the buildings documented by **Bob Davis** in our Vanishing Synagogues project. **Lena Aron** was a willing subject for **Helen Wilk** to conduct an oral history interview, providing us with greater insight into the origin of Temple Freda, built in 1913.

We also visited the Hillel building at Texas A&M University where **Rabbi Peter Tarlow** told us about its history and its claim to being the oldest student Hillel organization in the country, and providing the namesake for the national organization.


We also visited Congregation Beth Shalom and enjoyed the hospitality of members of the local community. At our business meeting we *kvelled* over our successful Annual Gathering in Corpus Christi, and reviewed our current projects, including the successful student history contest, and the publication of the cemetery project listing Texas burials. We were especially pleased to hear of the progress of the refurbishing of the Jewish exhibit at The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. It is scheduled to officially open May 2, 1998 when we hold our Annual Gathering in San Antonio! Thanks to all our members who have been helping us gather information for the new exhibit.

We are looking forward to our fall quarterly meeting, the open board meeting and "Mini-Gathering" which will be held jointly with the Southern Jewish Historical Society in Hot Springs, Arkansas during the weekend of November 14-17. Our fall meeting had to be scheduled a bit later this year due to the High Holiday schedule and other conflicts. We have never had a meeting outside of the state before, but as several members have pointed out, Hot Springs is actually closer for many of us to travel to than many other locations within the state. Actually, living in Texas we are fairly accustomed to traveling "down the road a piece" – a few hundred miles! The program topics look very interesting, including several of our members as presenters. We will also have the opportunity to tour Hot Springs and visit places our parents and our *Bubbes* and *Zaydes* used to visit as a resort. It is not too early to make your hotel reservations and register. (See details in this newsletter.)

Enjoy the remainder of the summer, have a joyful and meaningful High Holiday season, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Hot Springs!

B'Shalom,

Barbara Rosenberg
TJHS President



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P. O. Box 10193 Austin, Texas U.S.A. 78766-0193
TJHS Telephone (281) 276-9693
Email address: tjhs@neosoft.com
Web Site Address: <http://www.neosoft.com/~tjhs/>

Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)	President
Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth)	Managing Editor
Debby Rice (Fort Worth)	Production Editor & Graphic Design
Hollace Ava Weiner (Fort Worth)	Contributing Editor
Nell Hall (Fort Worth)	Copy Chief

Come to Hot Springs Arkansas for TJHS Fall Board Meeting & Joint Meeting with SJHS

Our Fall Board Meeting will be held November 14-16 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, as part of a joint meeting with the Southern Jewish Historical Society.

In order to have a good representation of our membership attending, a 5-6 day bus tour from Houston and/or Dallas to Hot Springs is planned. If you would consider participating, please advise **Ima Joy Gandler**, 3001 Wooded Acres, Waco Texas 76710, telephone (254) 772-5717 as soon as possible.

We need to get some idea of interest before planning further. Those who respond will then be contacted individually, as there will be no general mailing made other than this newsletter.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND CONFERENCE FEES ANNOUNCED

The Southern Jewish Historical Society lists costs for the conference. The entire three-day conference, including all meals, from Friday through Sunday afternoon is \$165. Full-time student fee is \$100.

The Host Committee has secured a block of rooms at the classic Majestic Hotel for the special conference price of \$48 individual person in a single room, and \$58 per room if more than one person is in

the room or for a double room. The Majestic Hotel will be the convention site headquarters. *Phone 800-643-1504 - ask for Randy Wright.*

Rooms are available at the Hot Springs Hilton, with room costs of \$62 single/double adult occupancy. *Phone 800-844-7275 - ask for Stacy Ellis.* The Host Committee is not recommending the Hilton Hotel as there will be no meetings held there, and there is no available transportation for guests from the Hilton to the Conference events. Room rates at the Hilton do not include breakfast.

There are a few special rooms reserved at the world-famous Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa. These rooms all have the mineral waters running through the rooms. At the Arlington, both the Mini-Suites and the Mineral Water Rooms are \$140. The Arlington Resort Hotel & Spa is about two blocks from the Conference center site (the Majestic Hotel). *Phone 800-626-9768 - ask for Nancy Payne.*

When you call the hotels for reservations, be sure to mention that you will be attending the Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting in order to receive the special conference rates. Please note that all hotel rooms in Hot Springs have an

added room tax of 11.625%.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 7

The hotels will allow at the special conference rates days added either before or after the conference date weekend, by previous arrangement only.

HOW TO GET TO HOT SPRINGS IF YOU DON'T GO ON THE BUS

Hot Springs, Arkansas is 60 miles from the Little Rock airport.

Little Rock is served by the following airlines: American, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, TWA, US Air, United, and Continental Express.

Hot Springs is approximately 3 hours by automobile from Memphis, and 4 ½ hours by auto from Dallas.

Aspen Mountain Air flies directly into Hot Springs, non-stop, several times a day. Their reservation number is 1-888-637-3869.

The Hot Springs/Little Rock Shuttle Service runs approximately every 2 hours, from 5 AM to 8 PM, between Hot Springs and Little Rock. "Off schedule trips on request," are listed. The charge is \$20 per passenger for one way. The Shuttle Service telephone number is 1-800-643-1505 and reservations should be made at least 24 hours in advance. Their local number is (501) 321-9911.

If you need further information about the joint weekend with the Southern Jewish Historical Society, please call Barbara Rosenberg at (281) 494-2668.

**These logos are
synonymous with
Hot Springs.
Do you recognize
them?**



majestic
RESORT-SPA

THE ARLINGTON
Resort Hotel & Spa
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas



OAKLAWN
Thoroughbred racing since 1904

Texas & Southern Jewish Historical Society

Friday, November 14

- 7:45 AM **Breakfast for TJHS & SJHS Board**
- 10 AM -
5 PM **Registration** - Lobby Majestic Hotel
- 1 PM **Welcome & Overview** at the Majestic Hotel

Session I - THE CONFEDERATE JEWISH SOUTH

- 1:30 PM **The Jewish South during The War Between the States** *Theodore Cohen, M.D.*
- 1:50 PM **Sir Moses Ezekial: Jewish Southerner, Soldier, Sculptor** *Prof. Jack Ben-Rubin*

Session II - JEWISH HOT SPRINGS

- 2:10 PM **Some Southern Jewish FOB's: Southern Jewish Influences of Pres. William Jefferson Clinton** *Jane Guzman*
- 2:45 PM **Jewish Bus Tour of Hot Springs** (*Levi Hospital, Beth Jacob Synagogue, Bath House Row, Old Promenade*) *Bus leaves from Majestic Hotel*

BUS ARRIVES AT TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

House of Israel: The Architecture of the House *Joe Resenzweig, M.D.*

A Short History of the Hot Springs Congregation *Susie Resenzweig*

History of the Leo N. Levi Hospital *Carolyn Gray LeMaster*

5:30 PM **Oneg Shabbat**

6 PM **Shabbat Service** *Rabbi Larry Jackofsky*

TRANSPORTATION BACK TO MAJESTIC HOTEL

7:30 PM **Dinner** at the Majestic Hotel

Military Exhibit *Jewish War Veterans of the U.S. Arkansas Post #426*

Saturday, November 15

- 9 AM **Shabbat Services** at the Majestic Hotel)
Rabbi Salomon Truzman
- 11 AM **Meet the Authors**
Authors with recent publications

Session III - JEWISH HISTORIANS/ARCHIVISTS

- 11:30 AM **Special "How To" Session** *Catherine Kahn, Charles Elias, Morton Marks, David Solomon*

Session IV - LUNCH & LECTURE

- 1 PM **Jewish Merchants & Reconstruction**
Dr. Ted Tunnell

Session V WE ARE FAMILY - JEWS OF APPALACHIA

- 1:30 PM **Middlemen of the Coal Fields: The Development of a Jewish Economic Niche in Southern West VA, 1890-1950**
Deborah A. Weiner

The Jews of Williamson: Maintaining Ethnic Identity in Small-Town Appalachia *Peggy Davis*

The Righteous Remnant: The Jewish Community of Beckley *Maryanne Reed*

Session VI WE ARE FAMILY II JEWS FROM LONE STAR TO TIDEWATER TO THE BIG PEACH TO THE BIG EASY

- 3:10 PM **Ride 'Em Cowboy: Kinky Friedman & Texas Jewish Toughness** *Brian E. Stone*

A Tale of Two Jewish Cities: Brownsville & Breckenridge *Leon Socol*

The Life & Times of Harry Reyner
Gertrude Samet

Time's Tapestry: Four Generations of a New Orleans Family *Dr. Leta W. Marks*

Weekend Schedule

Session VII - STUDENT PRESENTATION

- 4:35 PM **SJHS Award Winning Paper**
- 5:20 PM **Havdallah Service** *at the Majestic Hotel*
- 5:50 PM **Board Bus to Racetrack** *from Majestic Hotel*

Session VIII - OFF TO THE RACES

- 6 PM **Cocktails** - *Cash bar*
Greetings from Gov. Michael Huckabee
Keynote Address & DINNER
Installation of Officers
Music by Shechinotes
- 9 PM **Film: "Shalom Y'all"**
- 10:15 PM **Bus returns to Majestic Hotel**

Sunday, November 16

- 7 AM **Breakfast** *at the Majestic Hotel*
- 8 AM **TJHS Business Meeting**

Session IX SUNRISE WITH THE SOUTHERN JEWISH POLITICIANS

- 9:55 AM **State Senator Sam Levine of Pine Bluff**
Paul Greenberg
- Honorable Jacob Treiber, 1st Jewish
Supreme Court Judge**
Annabelle Clinton Imber
- 11:10 AM **Bus to Arlington Resort Hotel for
WORLD FAMOUS BRUNCH**

Sessions X, XI & XII

- 11:40 AM **SJHS History of the Arlington Hotel:
An Arkansas Institution** *Ann Green*
- 12:15 PM **Virtual Restoration of Small-Town
Synagogues in Texas** *Robert P. Davis*
- 1 PM **Closing Session**
- 2 PM **Bus returns to Majestic Hotel**

Registration

Please list name of each person attending!

Name(s) _____
PLEASE PRINT

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Conference Registration Fee:
 \$165 x _____ persons = _____

Conference Registration Fee for Students:
 \$100 x _____ persons = _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please make checks payable to: "SJHS"
 Mail to: SJHS 22nd Annual Conference
 c/o S. Rosenzweig
 166 Peninsula Point
 Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901-9252

DIETARY PREFERENCES

- Please check one of the following:
- Regular meals which, of course, will not include tref
- Vegetarian or fruit plate
- Pre-packaged Kosher meals, which will be heated and served

**Don't forget to call
 THE MAJESTIC HOTEL
 in Hot Springs, Arkansas
 for your room reservations
 (800) 643-1504
 Rate: \$48 single/\$58 double room
 (breakfasts included)**

Sharon Brier & the Children's Museum of Houston — Look at them now!

by Don Teter (Baytown)

“Some people just observe, some just talk, and some really make things happen. I dreamed that I like to make things happen.”

We don't always realize that current events become history in a short time.

The following story about an achievement should, hopefully, inspire future stories about those

who have given of themselves to their communities.

When **Sharon Albert Brier** of Houston visited the Children's Museum of Denver (a hands-on participating museum) with her eight-year-old son, **Samson**, in 1979, she became hooked on the concept.

Before she left Denver, she interviewed everyone who worked at the Children's Museum and came away with enough information to help her to pursue her dream of a similar museum in Houston.

To quote Sharon, “For three months, I was obsessed with the idea. My very supportive husband, **Michael**, and I made a trip to City Hall to see if anyone else was thinking along the same lines.”

Apparently they were not.

Sharon registered the name, *The Children's Museum of Houston*, then researched other youth museums in the country, discovering that there were eighty at that time.

She then traveled to other cities to visit children's museums, to learn all she could about recruiting volunteers, setting up an administration and planning exhibits. The founder of the Los Angeles Children's Museum was very helpful.

Sharon joined the Support Group of Houston, read books on fundraising, grant writing, etc. With knowledge gained from this research she put together a broad-based Advisory Board and a multicultural Board of Directors.

Sharon recounts, “I talked non-stop to organizations and groups throughout the Houston area, to classes at the University of Houston and Rice University. At Rice I worked with students to design a prototype museum that was later used to garner publicity. There was a groundswell of support as individuals became inspired with the idea. Some people just observe, some just talk, and some really make things

happen. I dreamed that I like to make things happen.”

After raising \$100,000 before a building was obtained, Sharon realized her dream with the opening of the first museum in 1985 on Allen Parkway near Houston's downtown area. This museum served the children of Houston for about ten years.

In recent years a much larger building was built in the Houston Museum District. This building has won many outstanding architectural awards.

Sharon Brier, a member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, is a native of McAllen and daughter of the late **Louis Albert** and **Norma Albert**, who is also an active member of the Society.

Sharon has been honored as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America and as an outstanding Houston area volunteer with the SAVVY Award. Founding the Children's Museum is only one of the many achievements this dedicated young woman has realized in her many years of community service.

We are proud to have her as one of our distinguished members. Congratulations, Sharon!

Some Wise Words of Advice

Making a living should never be confused with making a life.

Sometimes the things we get for nothing end up costing us the most.

People who wait for all conditions to be perfect before acting, never act.

Age is a function of mind over matter and if you don't mind . . . it doesn't matter.

If you are constantly looking back, chances are pretty good you'll fall into a hole ahead.

“If your time is too precious to give to your friends or family . . . change your lifestyle.” — Peter Capozzi

The Markusfeld Family Reunion

By Steven Alexander (Woburn, MA)

Fifty-five family members and descendants of Philip Markusfeld met in Waco, Texas this past July to celebrate the 90th anniversary of his arrival at Galveston, Texas. This was the first Markusfeld family reunion.

Miss Frieda Markusfeld, Philip's daughter, enjoyed seeing all her nine nieces and nephews and many of their children and grandchildren. A very special occurrence for everyone was watching as she met for the first time her first cousin **Kuba Markusfeld** and his wife **Lore**, who live in the Bronx, New York.

Philip Markusfeld came to Galveston on December 5, 1907. He left his wife Sarah, two sons Benjamin and Jacob, and two

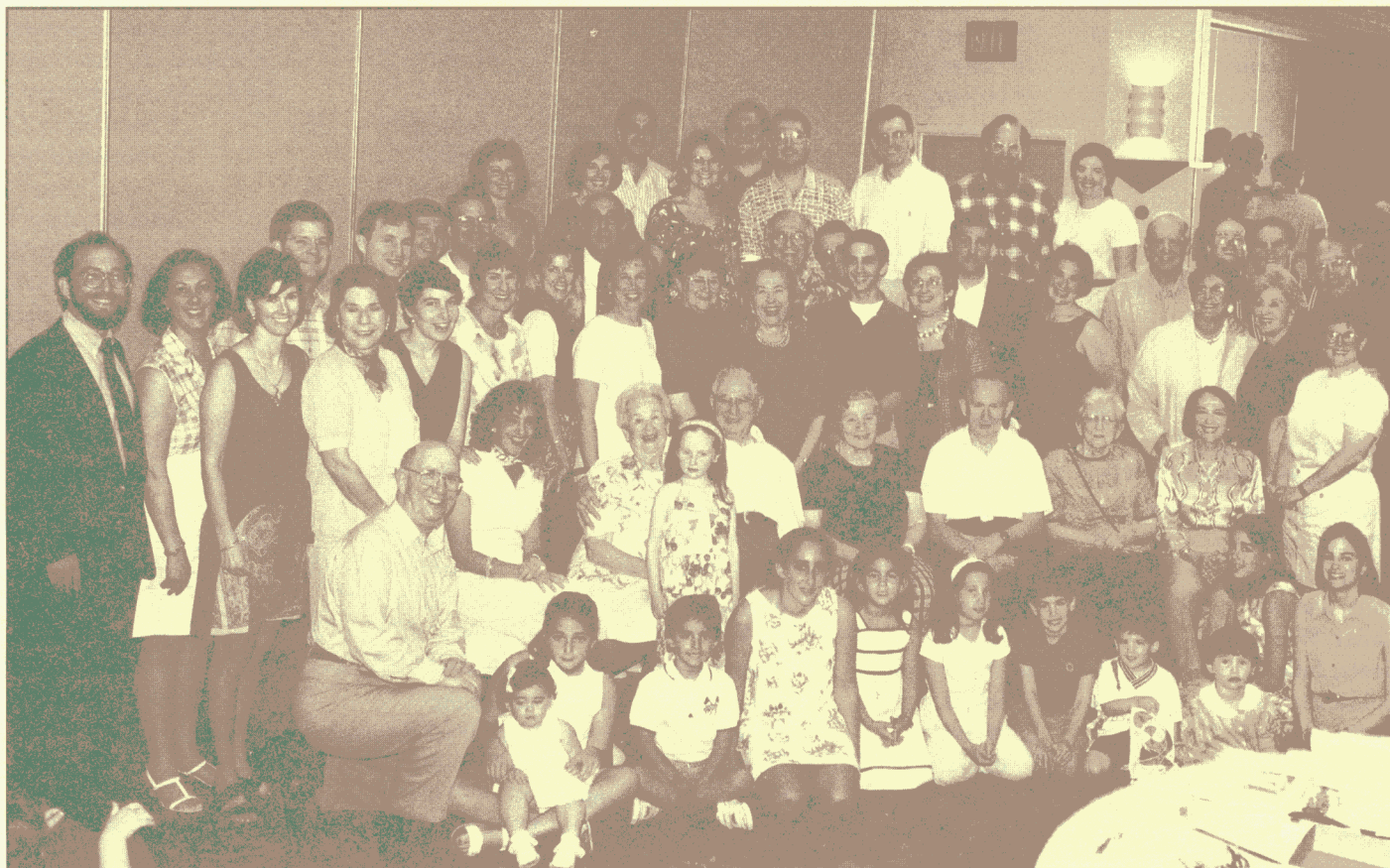
daughters, Stella and Mary, in their Polish town of Siedlce. Soon after, Sarah gave birth to the third daughter, Frieda. All the family except Benjamin followed Philip to Texas, arriving on July 24, 1910, also as a part of the Galveston Plan. Benjamin went to Palestine and served in the Jewish Legion during WWI, coming to Waco in 1920. Kate and Helen were born in Texas.

The grandchildren of Philip and Sarah who attended the family reunion are: **Freddye Duchin** from San Antonio and **Shirley Edelman** from Tyler, daughters of **Stella** and **Sol Ashendorf**; **Sam Barshop**, **Philip Barshop** and **Doris Spector**, all of San Antonio and children of Mary and Joe Barshop; **Steven Alexander** of Woburn, Massachusetts and **Phyllis Ullman** of Houston, children of Kate and Herman Alexander; and **Susan Grodsky** of Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and **Burton Cohen** of El Paso,

children of Helen (deceased) and Dr. Frank Cohen. Their spouses, children and grandchildren completed the family gathering. Philip and Sarah's great-niece, Kuba and Lore's daughter **Evelyn Hillenbrand** of Plano, also attended.

Members of the family were given a booklet that described the genealogy of the Markusfeld family and contained photographs of most family members from each generation. Most were unaware of Philip's brothers.

Research by **Steven Alexander** has identified three brothers; Israel, Jacob, and Mordechai. Jacob's sole surviving son, Kuba came to the United States in 1948 following the Holocaust. Avraham Yehuda Morag (Markusfeld), grandson of Israel and Menachem Markusfeld and sister Bronka Lifshitz children of Mordechai Markusfeld live in Israel with their families.



Members of the Markusfeld family who attended their family reunion this past July in Waco, Texas. A special thank you to Steven Alexander for sending this picture to us.

Texas Jews Who Fought in the Civil War

List taken from "AMERICAN JEW AS PATRIOT, SOLDIER AND CITIZEN" by Simon Wolf, published in 1895 and "WHERE THEY LIE" by Mel Young, published in 1991 by the University Press of America, Inc.

Name	Rank	Co.	Regiment	
Alexander, A.S.	Capt.		1 st Infantry	Commander Oswald's Battalion; served until close of war.
Angel, Albert	Pvt.	A	5 th Infantry	Killed in the Second Battle of Bull Run.
Ash, Henry		C	5 th Infantry	
Auerbach, Dr. J.		A	5 th Infantry	
Auerbach, E.		B	5 th Infantry	Killed at Wilderness.
Bacharach, Wolf		A	5 th Infantry	
Benedict, Jacob	Pvt.	F	1 st Infantry	Killed at Malvern Hill.
Billig, Isaac		A	5 th Infantry	
Buck, Robert			1 st Artillery	
Cobman, Louis		A	5 th Infantry	Wounded at Gettysburg.
Cohen, Henry		L	1 st Infantry	
Cohen, S.	Pvt.	A	5 th Infantry	Killed in the Battle of Gettysburg.
Coleman, Louis		A	5 th Infantry	Wounded at Gettysburg.
Coleman, Meyer		A	26 th Infantry	
Cramer, A.	Lt.	B	8 th Infantry	Flourney's Regiment.
Cramer, Joseph			1 st Infantry	Wounded at Gettysburg; served until close of war.
Daniels, J.		C	8 th Infantry	
Dannenbaum, Joseph		C	Cook's Regiment	
Davidburg, David D.		B	6 th Infantry	
Davidson, David H.		B	6 th Infantry	
Davidson, Henry		A	26 th Infantry	
Deutsch, S.		C	6 th Infantry	
Deutsch, Solomon			1 st Infantry	Wounded; served until close of war.
Dreyfus, Charles		A	26 th Infantry	
Dreyfus, Samuel		B	1 st Infantry	
Elsasser, I.		A	5 th Infantry	
Fischel, Leon			Wirt Adams Cavalry	
Fleischel	Capt.			
Fox, A.		B	Waul's Legion	
Fox, Allen		C	Heavy Artillery	
Frank, J.W.		L	1 st Infantry	Enlisted 1861; killed at Sharpsburg.
Frank, L.		B	Elmore's Infantry	
Friedberger, Gabriel			Terry's Cavalry	
Friedberger, Samuel			Terry's Cavalry	
Friedburger, G.	Pvt.		9 th Cavalry	Killed at Corinth.
Friedlander, N.		A	26 th Cavalry	
Gans, Leon		A	Parson's Cavalry	
Gans, Samuel			26 th Cavalry	Wounded at Cane River.
Glaser, Wolf			1 st Infantry	
Goetz, Julius		A	14 th Infantry	Wounded and taken prisoner.
Goldsticker, J.	Pvt.	A	4 th Infantry	Killed in the Battle of Gettysburg.
Harby, Henry J.		C	26 th Cavalry	Enlisted at the age of 16 years; served until close of war.
Heller, Louis			6 th Infantry	
Hief, Charles		B	6 th Infantry	Enlisted 1861; captured.
Hines, A.		B	4 th Infantry	Lost an arm at Gaines' Mills; wounded at New Hope Church.
Hirschberg, J.		A	26 th Cavalry	
Hirschfield, H.		A	Parson's Brigade	
Holdstein, Isidore		A	8 th Infantry	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Co.</i>	<i>Regiment</i>	
Hyams, S.		A	26 th Cavalry	
Jacob, Frank	Pvt.	L	1 st Infantry	Killed in the Battle of Antietam.
Jacoby, Max		A	1 st Infantry	Lost right leg at Gains' farm.
Kaufman, C.				
Kaufman, Edward			1 st Infantry	
Kaufman, K.				
Keller, Theodore	Col.		2 nd Infantry	Promoted; wounded at Corinth.
Kemper, H.			1 st Infantry	
Klopman, L.	A		8 th Infantry	Killed at Jenkins' Ferry, Arkansas.
Kohlman, M.	A		26 th Cavalry	
Lachman, E.	D		5 th Infantry	Wounded at Manassas.
Lasker, M.			2 nd Cavalry	
Lazarus, B.	E		4 th Infantry	
Lazarus, S.S.	L		1 st Infantry	Wounded at Chickamauga.
Leave, R.B.	B		1 st Infantry	Wounded at Malvern Hill.
Leopold, W.			1 st Heavy Artillery	
Levinson, A.	B		Waul's Legion	
Levinson, Paul	B		Waul's Legion	
Levy, Isaac	B		Light Artillery	
Levy, Robert	A		5 th Infantry	
Lewis, Isaac	C		5 th Infantry	
Maas, Louis	Pvt.	D	5 th Infantry	Killed in the Second Battle of Bull Run.
Mayer, Leo E.				Captured.
Melaski, J.	A		26 th Cavalry	
Meyer, Joseph	C			Heavy Artillery
Michel, Henry			15 th Infantry	
Moriss, Simon	Sgt.	D	1 st Infantry	Killed in the Battle of Gettysburg.
Morris, Lehman	Sgt.	D	1 st Infantry	Killed at Gettysburg.
Oppenheimer, Benjamin			22 nd Infantry	
Oppenheimer, D.	Capt.		3 rd Cavalry	
Oppenheimer, J.	B		2 nd Infantry	
Oppenheimer, S.			22 nd Infantry	
Pepper, L.S.	A		8 th Infantry	
Pepper, Samuel	A		8 th Infantry	
Pickard, H.	H		5 th Infantry	
Pohalski, G.D.	G		11 th Infantry	Served throughout the war.
Pohalski, P.	G		11 th Infantry	Served until the close of the war.
Rich, Louis M.	C		Cook's Cavalry	
Rosenfield, Alexander	A		26 th Cavalry	
Rosenfield, Henry	A		26 th Cavalry	
Rosenfield, Michael	A		26 th Cavalry	
Sampson, Edward J.	Pvt.		10 th Infantry	Killed at Hanover Court House; buried in Jewish cemetery, Richmond, Virginia-Confederate Section.
Sampson, Edwin	Sgt.		4 th Infantry	Killed in Virginia.
Samush, J.	A		8 th Infantry	Wounded at Sabine River.
Seligson, Henry	Lt.		Cavalry	
Showlski, Charles	E		5 th Infantry	Wounded at Gettysburg.
Siegel, Joseph			8 th Infantry	
Silberberg, George	B		9 th Infantry	Served four years.
Solomon, Joseph A.	G		11 th Infantry	
Stein, Isaac	Col.		Marshall's Regiment	Lost his right arm at second battle of Manassas.
Steiner, Victor			Texas Rangers	
Teah, Abraham			8 th Infantry	Promoted to Corp., Sergeant-Major, and Aide-de-camp to Colonel Overton Young, commanding 1 st Brigade, Walker's Division.
Teah, Abraham			22 nd Infantry	
Walker, A.	K		1 st Infantry	

<i>Name</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Co.</i>	<i>Regiment</i>	
Weis, Albert			2 nd Cavalry	
Weis, Leopold			2 nd Cavalry	
Wetmore, James	C		8 th Infantry	
Wiener, Solomon			Terry's Scouts	
Wolf, A.	A		5 th Infantry	Wounded at Seven Pines.
Wolf, A.F.	A		5 th Infantry	Killed at Sharpsburg.
Wolf (Woolfe), A.F.	A		5 th Infantry	Killed in the Battle of Antietam.
Wolf, Benjamin	A		5 th Infantry	
Wolf, Simon	Pvt.	F	4 th Infantry	Killed in the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Private A.F. Wolf of Houston Buried in Confederate Cemetery in Maryland

In the Washington Confederate Cemetery, Hagerstown, Maryland, there is a burial site containing some 2,500 Southern soldiers who fell at Antietam. Of this number only 346 are identified.

Included among the known dead is listed **A.F. Wolf**, from the State of Texas.

Private Wolf enlisted in Company A, 5th Texas Infantry, in Harris County (Houston), Texas in July of 1861. He was wounded June 1, 1862, at the Battle of Seven Pines,

wounded a second time near Richmond on June 9, 1862, and mortally wounded a third time at Antietam on September 17, 1862, where he died in a federal hospital as a prisoner of war of these wounds two weeks later on October 1, 1862.

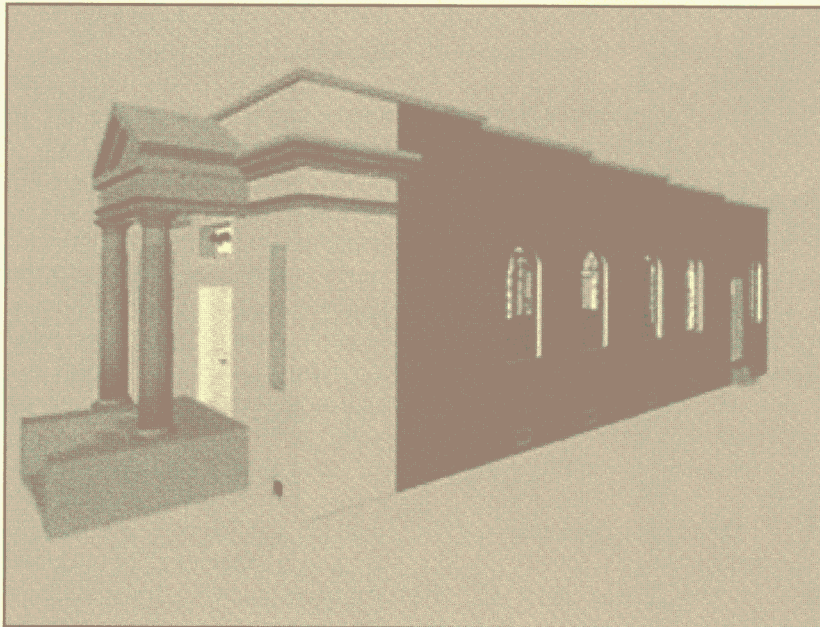
The Hagerstown, Maryland Confederate cemetery is a long way from Houston, Texas; and someone should say Kaddish for this Jewish soldier of the Confederacy who unselfishly gave his life for the South.

Texas Jews Who Fought in the Mexican War

List taken from "AMERICAN JEW AS PATRIOT, SOLDIER AND CITIZEN" by Simon Wolf, published in 1895.

EUGENE JOSEPH CHIMENE	Served with Sam Houston, in the Texan War.
HERMAN EHRENBERG	Fought under Fannin at Goliad.
ALBERT EMANUEL	In Captain Kimball's Company, 2 nd Regiment of Texas Volunteer Cavalry.
SAMUEL ISAACS	Texas Army, 1836-1837 (Company D, 10 th Infantry).
EDWARD J. JOHNSON	Volunteered in Captain King's Company during Texas revolution; killed at Goliad, March 27, 1836.
DAVIS S. KAUFFMAN	Aide to General Douglas, wounded at the battle of Neches; was Speaker of the Texas Assembly and advocated its annexation; was member of Congress from Texas from date of annexation (1846) to his death in 1851.
NATHAN KLUGAN	
MR. KOHN	Texas Spy Company (at San Jacinto).
D.I. KOKERNOT	Fought at Anahuac, also at the Grass battles, 1835, and in Texas War, 1836.
SURGEON GEN. MOSES ALBERT LEVY	In Sam Houston's Army, in service throughout the Texas-Mexican War. Colonel Johnson's report of the capture of San Antonio, December 15, 1835, stated: "Doctors Levy and Pollard deserve my warmest praise for their unremitting attention and assiduity."
LT. HENRY SEELIGSON	Galveston Cadets, was appointed First Lieutenant of that Company when the Mexican invasion of Galveston was threatened. In the Mexican War of 1846 he enlisted in Captain Bell's Regiment, which was ordered to join the command of General Taylor, en route for Monterrey. He bore so conspicuous a part in the battle at that point that he was sent for by General Taylor and highly complemented; being offered a Lieutenantcy in the 2 nd Dragoons. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Confederate Army, joining a Cavalry Company commanded by Captain Woodward.
ADOLPHUS STERNE	Joined the American settlers in their early struggles against the Mexicans; took part in the Fredonian War; he was captured by the Mexicans and sentenced to be shot, but was subsequently released. He served in both lower and upper Houses of the Texas Legislature, previous to annexation.
A. WOLF	Killed at the storming of the Alamo, in the Texan War, December 1835.

Temple Freda in Bryan Established 1912



During our recent board meeting in Bryan/College Station, we toured Temple Freda, the first synagogue in Bryan, and uniquely named for a woman. The temple is located at 205 Parker Street in the historic district of Bryan near downtown. Built in 1912, it is located near the tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad which curve around the back and north wall of the building.

The synagogue must have truly been a source of pride when it was first built. The brick building in the Greek Revival style has two Corinthian columns at the front and five stained glass windows on each side. The original pews, bimah, ark and menorah stands are still present. The Torah is not kept in the building since it is used primarily by an African American Christian Church, but the original prayer books are kept in a bookcase at the side. The pressed metal ceiling is showing its age, as is the entire building. Vandals broke into the building some time ago and damaged some of the

windows. They have not been repaired but are covered with a protective material. The original cast iron stoves, although no longer used, are stored in the building.

According to historical information, Jewish merchants entered the area around 1865. They were from England, Poland, Prussia, Russia, and Germany, and were apparently from Reformed as well as Orthodox backgrounds. Consequently there was dissension as

to the standards of religious observance. By 1890 there was an organized congregation that met in the homes of the members.

Lena Aron, one of our TJHS board members, recalled synagogue services held in her home in Bryan when she was a small child. Her father, **Max Tapper**, was one of the men who worked daily on the construction of the synagogue taking time out from his usual business occupation to do so.

According to Lena's account, as well as a historical survey conducted by A&M University students in 1984 when the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the land for the Temple was given by a gentile banker named **J.W. English** who had purchased the lot in 1906 for \$125. In the deed, Mr. English stated that the conveyance of the land to the Jewish community was intended as a gift, and he stipulated that the land should only be used for religious and benevolent purposes. Otherwise the property would revert to the

English family.

When the non-Jewish citizens of Bryan heard of the project, they donated money as well as construction materials. Temple Freda was completed in 1913, and reportedly a time capsule was placed behind the cornerstone and included the story of the building of the synagogue.

There are at least two accounts of the source of the name. According to a report in the newspaper, the Temple bears the name of the then president's deceased wife, **Ethel Freda Kaczer**. However, according to Lena Aron, her father was given the honor of naming the synagogue because he was so active in its formation and often led the services and read the Torah. He reportedly named the synagogue for his grandmother, for whom many members of his family are also named. He then told Lena in Yiddish, "Daughter, I may not have been a very rich or important man, but I have known the joy of building a *House of God*."

Today, Temple Freda is in a rather sad state of disrepair, but remains on the National Register so that it cannot be torn down or altered significantly. However, there is not enough money within the community to undertake the massive repair that would be necessary to restore it. Perhaps Jewish women's organizations will come to its rescue? Or perhaps a benevolent soul might restore it. But for the present, Temple Freda is under the watch of a local caretaker, **Dr. William Bassichis**, and is used by a church on a regular basis so that it is fulfilling the purpose stipulated by the land donor, Mr. English.

“The Legacy” — An Interview with Mark Harelik

by Pat Launer of *THE PERFORMING ARTS MAGAZINE*
of Southern California
This article appeared in its July/1997 edition.



Mark Harelik

His grandparents were happy to leave Czarist Russia and settle in the U.S. Their unexpected destination was Hamilton, a rural central Texas, largely Southern Baptist town of 3,000 — none of them Jews.

What kind of legacy did they leave for their children and grandchildren?

This question haunted veteran actor **Mark Harelik**. In 1985, he wrote his first play, *The Immigrant*, which chronicled his grandparents' life in a new land. In 1991, it was the most widely produced play in the country, mounted at colleges, community theaters, and most of the major regional theaters. “It became the *Forever Plaid* of the Jewish community,” quips Harelik.

But that play, says the intense, soft-spoken 45-year old, was “about my paternal group.” The second

play in his family-history trilogy, *The Legacy*, “is about my

generation, and the challenges of finding their faith.” In the final installment, *The Merchant*, the father closes down the family “shmatta” (clothing/drygoods) business; he had hoped his children would continue the tradition.

With Harelik, the conversation often returns to traditions and legacies.

“In *The Immigrant*, this young displaced Jewish couple landed in the middle of Christian America and established a happy productive life for themselves. They did not become less Jewish; they retained the seeds of their faith. But the next generation found itself less in touch with the ancestral life, and my generation, even less so. *The Legacy* explores the theme of feeling lost, marginalized, cut adrift from your roots.”

The play is more than a trifle autobiographical.

“When I was about 15, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer,” says Harelik, “and was sick for a couple of years before she died. I checked out entirely. A situation like disease, dying, tragedy in the house, is not something a child can deal with directly. So he hides behind a compensating activity. Like Nathan [the character in the play], I was a smartass, the class clown. At 12, Nathan tries to bring life into the house. He becomes the merry prankster. I was a little older. I had access to much more anger, and I retreated from the family.”

While his mother confronts illness and death, Nathan is being forced to memorize, without any instruction or understanding, the Torah portion of his Bar Mitzvah. The fictional aunt, who comes to help the family through this difficult time, is also drawn directly from life. This religious character becomes the dramatic foil for Nathan's father, a total pragmatist, according to Harelik, “who feels that you just scrape through the best you can, because the more you ask the unanswerable questions, the more pain you bring into your life.”

In addressing both philosophy and theology, in forcing a confrontation of faith and identity, the play poses profound questions, but offers no answers. Some see it as Judaism-bashing. “It has angered some Jews,” admits Harelik. “‘Why couldn't the rabbi have been more successful?’, they ask.”

“In fact, this was an autobiographical element I had to change. The rabbi who actually came to our house at that time was still a student in the seminary and was so shaken by his inability to answer the simple question of ‘Why?’ that he dropped — out... I don't advocate religion or deny it. My focus is on the family situation. I want the audience to be as upset and confused as this family is.”

In the play, it's not clear whether or not Nathan actually goes through with the Bar Mitzvah. But Harelik did. Like the character, “I spent hours and hours phonetically memorizing the Hebrew. I just couldn't get it. My father tried to take me to Hebrew school 80 miles away in Waco. But I felt so out of place... I'm fairly knowledgeable about Jewish spiritual life, but I don't practice the faith. But I do maintain a strong sentimental attachment to all things Jewish, and I know I always will. I'm fascinated by the symbolism and mythology. It's very beautiful and deeply poetic.

“And I appreciated the intellectual challenge of the Bar Mitzvah. Once I was standing up on the ‘bima’ [pulpit] leading the prayers, and there was this big audience, I felt a surge of power.”

That feeling never left him. Harelik went on to play leading roles on stages across the country, including the Old Globe Theatre where he starred in *Lost Highway*, a musical he co-conceived about the life of country singer Hank Williams, and most recently in the western-styled 1996 production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. It was during this production that Harelik was named an Associate Artist of the Old Globe Theatre. He's also

made television and film appearances, and is currently working on a musical version of *The Immigrant* and the final play of the family trilogy.

The Legacy has appeared twice before in San Diego: as a staged reading at the Streisand Festival of New Jewish Plays (under the more provocative title *What The Jews Believe*) and later at the Hahn Cosmopolitan Theatre. In the Old Globe production, Harelik plays the father, Dave Estanitsky.

“This play is really for and about my father, and the revelation for me has been understanding him because he’s the central character, the intersection of all the roads between all the people. His job was to keep a family functioning, to somehow make the experience endurable... Not only is the character near and dear to me, it’s a portrait of a simple person thrust into a very complex situation.

“Both I and my father share a pragmatic view of life. I wonder if — and my secret answer is ‘Yes’ — a pragmatic person can have a strong inner spiritual life. That’s a question posed by having a character like this. Questioning fills me spiritually. Watching how people question and why they need to, inspires me.”

This article is about Mark Harelik, son of TJHS members Dorothy and Milton Harelik of Hamilton. Don’t you know the tremendous joy they are getting out of their son?

Mark appeared in a staged reading of his enormously popular play THE IMMIGRANT at our TJHS Gathering last May in Corpus Christi.

You really missed something if you weren’t there to see this. Congratulations Dorothy and Milton.

PHOTOS FROM OUR BOARD MEETING IN BRYAN



Lena Aron (Houston) and Helen Wilk (Corpus Christi) in the midst of an Oral History taped interview.



Ima Joy Gandler, Blanche Sheiness, Lena Aron, Helen Wilk, Winston Heidenheimer & Dave Hoff outside Temple Freda.



Standing: Lena Aron, Ima Joy Gandler, Helen Wilk, Mickey Graubart, Julien Rosenthal, Ruth Heidenheimer, Blanche Sheiness, Ruth Hoff & Barbara Rosenberg. In front: Winston Heidenheimer, Dave Hoff & Ben Rosenberg.

Israel Moses Nuñez & the Salado Stagecoach Station

By Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth)

Israel Moses Nuñez, born in St. Joe, Florida in 1838 and raised in Georgia, served as a private in a Virginia Artillery Battery.

As the tide of fortune began an irreversible downturn with the defeat for the Confederacy at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania, Israel Nuñez worked his way past the Union forces until he rejoined General Longstreet's Artillery at Bean Station, Tennessee, near Knoxville.

It was too late for the South and soon thereafter the Civil War ended.

After the Civil War, he and his wife Anna Marie, whom he married

in 1859, lived in Columbus, Georgia and moved to Texas, eventually settling in West, Texas in 1870 where he laid out the town of Stonewall, Texas.

The family operated the stagecoach station in West and Salado, Texas.

Israel and Anna had eleven children, moved to Austin, Texas in 1890 and later retired. He and his wife Anna are buried in the cemetery of Temple Beth-Israel in Austin.

Student History Contest Winners

TJHS proudly awarded trophies and checks to winners of the first annual Jewish History Award in the essay division at the 1997 Texas History Day contest in Austin on April 19 and 20.

This contest is in its sixteenth year and included entries from over 800 students across the state. It is a project of the Texas State Historical Association in cooperation with the Center for Studies in Texas History at the University of Texas at Austin and is headed by Dr. David Deboe. The Jewish award now joins eight other awards, which highlight ethnic diversity.

Of the entries at the state level, those with Jewish themes were sent to a panel of judges from TJHS who then chose the final winners on the basis of judging criteria set out by the contest organizers.

Marvin Rich was in charge of this project for TJHS. Winners were **Katherine L. Jenkins** from the Alex W. Spank Academy in Dallas, and **David Worrell** who attends Hamilton Junior High School in Houston.

Katherine's paper was entitled "*Raoul Wallenberg: Triumphal Faith in Humanity Impacts Tragic Persecution.*" David's paper was entitled "*Ten Pounds of Sugar and a Bottle of Vodka,*" indicating the rewards that German citizens received for turning Jews in to the Nazi government.

Copies of the papers are available if you wish to read them. Please contact Barbara Rosenberg or Marvin Rich.

DISCIPLINE

I am old and I have had more than my share of good and bad:

I've had love and sorrow, seen sudden death, been left alone, of love bereft.

I thought I'd never love again and felt my life was grief and pain.

Twixt life and death the edge was thin, then I discovered discipline:

I learned to take the good and bad and smile whenever I felt sad.

I learned to care a great deal more for the world about me than before,

began to forget both "me" and "I" and joined in life as it rolled by.

This may not mean sheer ecstasy
But it's better far than "I" and "me."

— Brooke Astor



SECOND PLACE ESSAY

A STRONGER FLOWER

My Experience as the Only Jewish Girl

by *Laura Chavkin*
(San Marcos)

who knows
who remembers
the burning the burst
the flickering of a flame
of outrage, anger, strength
that cannot voice itself
but wants to so desperately?
and when that flame is
expressed,
it fades
flickers
extinguishes
seeming so cold, foreign, and
emotional
later

The other night, I threw two pink roses in the trash can. The blossoms had long wilted, the bud hung limply, barely attached to the stem like a head collapsed into desperate arms. I couldn't stand to see those flowers dead and still surrounded by sweet baby's breath blossoms.

And I went into my room and I thought about the questions that day. I thought about how odd it is that I carry the weight of an entire religious tradition on my back. I am Jewish, the only Jewish person in most of my classes since elementary school. And the experience of being the solitary Jew, an alien among a sea of curious and occasionally hostile people, has been odd—from Santa Claus letters I couldn't write to those discussions when I cannot believe what I am hearing, and it seems impossible to begin to explain.

The questions always come, whether it is that polite, tense voice

asking how I can just not believe in Jesus and wondering why the Jews killed *Him*, whether it is the joking one about why there are so many Jews in Hollywood, whether it is the curious ignorant one about what I do on Christmas or whether it is the surprised question that I really am ... Jewish.

At times, I tire of being appointed the authority on all Jewish matters. There are times when I don't mind the attention and when I can remind myself of people's good intentions. Sometimes every comment feels like a personal attack.

The other night, I thought about the irony of being held responsible for whatever myth people choose to believe about Jesus' death or Jews in Hollywood. I wanted those people who were so curious to please remember that I am only 17 – still too young to affect the world so dramatically. I was not alive, please remember, during any biblical crucifixion.

Mostly, the questions make me feel distinct and separate, as if I was outlined in dark charcoal against the mass of gray silhouettes. I have collapsed with tears into my mother's arms feeling as forsaken as that crumpled flower. That helpless kind of crying, cathartic crying, until I gasp for breath, is my way of admitting on some days that I cannot change people. The tears fade, the scenes blend in my mind, and the sting remains, hardening into a kind of resilience. There are other days when I can laugh at the comments, funny in their ignorance but, still, it is a caustic kind of laughter.

I would never change the fact that I am Jewish. Judaism is a legacy I love; it is a legacy of family, of survival, of learning, and of love. Judaism is that bond as my friend and I press our feet into the texture of the carpet and talk late into the night, understanding. The experience of being the only one has shaped my identity.

Judaism is an integral part but not all of me.

This experience of aloneness has

made me stronger. I will know myself. I will not need strangers or their approval. I will understand a little better about hate, about the feeling of being alone and different, and about the need not to surrender your beliefs. I will be able to stand alone but I will not be alone. I will still cry but I will be stronger than that flower. And I will try to answer your questions.

Laura Chavkin received the second prize for this poignant essay in the Austin Writers' League Contest. Laura lives in San Marcos, graduated this year from San Marcos High School, and will be entering Yale University in the fall.

You may write her at 206 Suttles Avenue, San Marcos, TX 78666.

Texas State Historical Association Searches for Rosenwald School Information

By Barbara Rosenberg
(Sugar Land)

What does a former President of Sears Roebuck and Company have to do with Texas Jewish History and with Black history as well?

Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932) was born in Springfield, Illinois, the son of German Jewish immigrants. He began working in his uncle's clothing store in New York at the age of 17, and later started his own business in Chicago. In 1895 he purchased a quarter interest in the recently established mail-order firm of Sears Roebuck and Company, and became its vice-president, then president in 1909. In 1925 he became chairman of the board and remained in that post until his death.

He was one of several wealthy whites who took an interest in the educational needs of southern rural African Americans, as well as participating in numerous other philanthropic endeavors. His concerns were practical as well as humanitarian.

At the time, the United States needed more productive agriculture to support urban and industrial development. Rosenwald believed this could be achieved by creating a better-trained African American labor force through vocational education, then called industrial education.

In 1912 Rosenwald gave \$25,000 to the Tuskegee Institute's Industrial program in Alabama for this purpose. In 1915 funds were made available to other states on a matching grant program. As demand

for these schools grew, Rosenwald consolidated his financial contributions and formed the Julius Rosenwald Fund in 1917 with capital of \$30,000,000. However, Rosenwald Schools did not appear in Texas until the 1920-21 budget year. School construction boomed throughout the southern states and by 1928 the Rosenwald Fund reported that Texas had the greatest activity in school building with five schools constructed that year.

There were a total of 464 schools eventually built in Texas and the Rosenwald Fund intended that they serve as models of modern rural school design. Standardized plans were developed that reflected Rosenwald's philosophy of education. Each school had to include an industrial room in addition to the regular classroom.

The fund offered plans for separate shop buildings, and teachers' homes where home economics lessons could be practiced. All schools had to stand on at least two acres of land to allow for school gardens as well as playgrounds.

The Rosenwald School plans were available, free at the request of the school districts, and were labeled according to "teacher-type," one teacher to twelve teacher types.

Some were built of lumber and brick while others were built of stucco like Lockhart Vocational High School (Carver School) in Caldwell County.

In 1923 Rosenwald Funds were used to build a Powell Point School in Kendleton (Fort Bend County), a facility with six classrooms, a library and an auditorium. Powell Point became the only Class A high school for black students in the Southeast Texas region. Although the original building no longer exists, the school has a historical marker and still serves as a center for community life and activity in the community of Kendleton. It is on the National Register of Historic places as a Black Freedman's Colony.

In 1928 Booker T. Washington School in Bonham (Fannin County)

was partially funded with an \$1,800 grant, and for years was the focal point of the African American community there.

By the time of his death in 1932, there were 4,977 schools built throughout fourteen southern states. Texas ranks third in the total number of schools constructed. Rosenwald and his Fund was a great force that aroused and encouraged southern blacks to dream of a better life through education. The schools that remain are testimony to those who sought that dream, and to the philanthropy of a man who provided the means to accomplish it.

Now the Texas Historical Commission has set upon a task to determine and analyze how many Rosenwald Schools still exist in Texas. The data gathered will be used, with property owners' consent, to prepare statewide multiple property nominations to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission will send, upon request, a list of the Rosenwald Schools built in Texas and a survey form to be filled out by anyone willing to obtain the information.

Please contact Texas Historical Commission, National Register Programs, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276, phone (512) 463-6006, Fax (512) 475-3122, e-mail nr@nueces.the.state.tx.us.

Are you in this picture?



We think this is a picture from an AZA gathering taken about 1937. We recognize some people from Fort Worth and Dallas, but we think the meeting included other towns in the area, possible Waco. Do you recognize anyone? Please contact Fay Brachman (817) 924-9207. Thank you to Fay Brachman for getting this photo from the Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

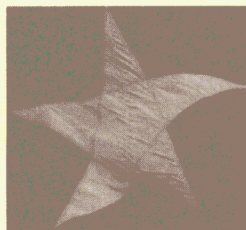
“Texas Jewish Burials” Now Available For Sale

TEXAS JEWISH BURIALS, documenting 34,000 internments in Texas cemeteries, is now available to individuals, synagogues, and libraries.

This book is the work of **Don and Gertrude Teter**, Baytown, who have spent untold hours, days, weeks and months searching the entire State of Texas, visiting cemeteries. They sought graves with Jewish markings, documenting their locations very meticulously. In the local courthouses, they were able to find more information about the deceased. This entire study is now included in the book, *TEXAS JEWISH BURIALS*.

This has been a labor of love for both Don and Gertrude Teter for many years. They performed this work under the auspices of the Texas Jewish Historical Society in the hope that future generations would benefit from this information.

Prices are \$23 for spiral-bound books and \$45 for hard-bound volumes. Texas residents must add 8.25% sales tax unless they can furnish an exemption certificate. Orders and payment may be sent to the TJHS, P.O. Box 10193, Austin Texas 78766-0193.



Texas Jewish Historical Society Website

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 10193
Austin, TX 78766 0193
Telephone - (281) 276-9693
Email address - tjhs@neosoft.com
Web Site address - <http://www.neosoft.com/~tjhs/>

The Texas Jewish Historical Society draws its membership from across the State of Texas, bordering states and across our great nation. TJHS supports a wide-ranging agenda. Quarterly gatherings are held at points of particular interest, an extensive newsletter is published regularly, and a Speakers Bureau is maintained. A variety of research projects are facilitated through the Jewish Archives in the Barker Library, or supported directly such as “Virtual Restoration of Small-Town Synagogues in Texas.”

We are very proud of our organization and ask you to look us up and celebrate the joys of Texas history.



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

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I am enclosing my dues payment of: **\$36** **\$50** **\$100** **\$250** **\$500** **\$1,000**
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Dates To Remember

October 2-3
ROSH HASHONAH 5758

October 10-11
YOM KIPPUR

October 16-17
SUKKOT

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FALL OPEN BOARD MEETING
Joint Meeting with Southern
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Hot Springs, Arkansas
Majestic Hotel
Call (800) 643-1504 for hotel reservations
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Call (281) 494-2668 for more information

January 1998
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