

Texas Jewish

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas

Established 1980

Historical Society



January 1999

Newsletter

1999 Annual Gathering

Fort Worth



April 30 - May 2

The Radisson Hotel • 815 Main Street

*See the insert in this newsletter for registration form,
and pages 10 & 11 for full schedule and map.*

From the TJHS President



The summer Board meeting and orientation, held in Houston on August 2, 1998, provided an opportunity for new and long-time board members to get acquainted and share ideas. We also shared a sense of pride in the opening of the renovated exhibit of "The Jewish Texans" at the Institute of Texan Cultures. This was the culmination of a project we had worked on for several years and the opening was the focus of the interesting and well attended 19th Annual Gathering held in San Antonio May 1, 2, and 3, 1998. The exhibit is continuing to develop with additional electronics and photographs. Please read TJHS Board member and ITC docent, Walter Fein's article for details about current events at our exhibit area.

After our morning business meeting we spent the afternoon discussing ideas for future programs and projects. Your suggestions are always welcome and can be sent directly to me.

Salado provided a lovely setting for our fall Board Meeting on November 1st. Forty of us heard about the history of this charming village, shared Shabbat dinner, hosted by Charles and Jan Hart, participated in Havdalah led by Rabbi Alejandro

Lilienthal of Temple Rodef Sholom in Waco, and listened as he told us about his German family's relocation to the country of his birth, Uruguay. His thoughts and analysis of Jewish life in Uruguay was extremely interesting and provoked many questions. On Sunday, at the Board meeting, based on a recommendation from the Executive committee, the Board voted to establish scholarships to attend our Annual Gathering in 1999 in Fort



Fall 1998 Board Meeting, Salado

Worth. These will be awarded to three Jewish full-time students who attend a Texas University. Charles Hart is chairing this committee and you will find more details and an application on page 17 of this newsletter.

Programming for the 1999 Gathering sounds terrific and I urge each of you to consider attending. You will find more information along with the registration form in this newsletter. Co-chairs Fay Brachman and Jack Gerrick promise us a fascinating, fun-filled Fort Worth fantasy on

April 30, May 1 and 2! Don't miss it!

Another tour is being planned for the spring of 1999. You should have received a mailing with a return slip to Ima Joy Gandler to let her know if you have some interest in traveling with TJHS. More info is also in this newsletter, as well as an article about the 1998 tour, which was a great success. Everyone who goes on a tour compliments Don & Gert Teter for planning the entire tour down to the smallest detail so the entire trip is a wonderful learning experience and tremendous fun.

Our next Board meeting will be held in Waco January 15, 16, 17 1999 and will include tours of several museums and places of note as well as the chance to learn more about the pioneer Jews of Waco. Remember that our Board meetings are always open to all members...so Y'all come!

Helen Wilk

Helen Wilk

Please Note:

The Texas Jewish Historical Society and the editorial staff of this newsletter cannot guarantee the accuracy or authenticity of any article. This is the responsibility of each contributor, so please direct your questions, comments and/or corrections to each author directly.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter

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Letter From the Editor

This is my second issue as editor of the TJHS newsletter and I have learned to rely on more people to help in getting proper facts. In the last issue we had a number of errors to members' names, membership status, and articles that were not entirely factual. I want to thank all members who called to volunteer to help proof read future copy.

The first issue was one of transition in that we moved our graphic design artist from Fort Worth to San Antonio and communications had to be fine tuned, plus we had problems with the Post Office. I feel that most problems have been resolved and we are on the right track to continue the quality of the newsletter to which we have been accustomed.

Fort Worth has been selected as the place for our Gathering on April 30 to May 2, 1999 and I can tell you that all the committees have been

functioning to make this one of the most memorable meetings we have ever had. Plans have been made for bus tours, outstanding speakers, panels, and a story about a Torah in Texas that we have never known about. Many of you may not know that Fort Worth has had a great Jewish presence for many years.

Most of historical Fort Worth has been restored and now is a model for cultural and western heritage activities and I'm sure you will be surprised and delighted to attend this meeting. Fort Worth is excited to have you visit our city and I'm sure you will have a grand and educational time.

In this issue you will find an outline of events and a registration form with reservation preferences which we must have in order to provide enough transportation, accommodations, and meals.

We have received a number

of letters from recent new members who have requested reprints of older articles and information of the history of the Society. In order to keep everyone interested, I feel these are reasonable requests. To the founders and older members (in terms of membership), please bear with us if you have seen some of those articles. I think the tremendous growth of our Society dictates some repeats.

I had the occasion to visit the Barker Library in Austin a couple of months ago and was overwhelmed by the amount of information available on Jewish history. If anyone has ever had the urge to do any research on Texas Jewish history, this is a great place to start.

I hope to see everyone in Fort Worth at the next Gathering.

Jack Gerrick



History of Alexander Aaron Brown

by his son Philip Pfeiffer Brown (written August, 1992)



Alexander Aaron Brown was born March 3, 1881 on a farm outside of but near the town of Elizabethgrad in the Russian Ukraine. He was named for Czar Alexander II, known as the "good" czar. On March 13, 1881 said czar was assassinated. The Russian Christians immediately claimed that the Jews had murdered him and, according to Abba Eban's *Civilization and the Jews* as well as Cecil Roth's *History of the Jews*, the first pogrom against the Jews was in the town of Elizabethgrad. My father survived only because he and his parents and two sisters lived on that farm and hid in the haystacks in their field. The pogromists found an empty house and went on. My grandfather, Ephraim Brown, and my grandmother, Catherine Brown, nee Lemonoff, immediately gave up their farm and went to Odessa and got on a ship going to the U.S. They arrived at New Orleans in that same year, 1881. They rented a farm in Louisiana and farmed there for awhile but got

malaria fever and went to St. Louis, Missouri, where my grandfather was a secondhand clothing peddler for several years until they moved to San Antonio, Texas, where my grandfather continued in that business for a number of years. My father, Alexander Aaron Brown, was educated in a military academy in San Antonio and then went to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee for one year and then attended Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia and obtained a medical degree. In 1904 he went back to San Antonio and practiced medicine there until he retired shortly after World War I. He volunteered for army service in the first world War, being inducted on May 2, 1917. He served in the field artillery and then in the medical corps until after the great flu epidemic of 1919, which nearly cost him his life. On June 10, 1908, he married my mother, Carrie Pfeiffer, who was born in 1886 in Carrizo Springs in the Texas brush country. I was born in 1912 in an old house about

a mile from the Alamo. My parents had two more children, Alexander Alan Brown and Betty Brown, who married M.D. Cohen in 1941. My father told me that our family name was always "Brown" since 1799 when Jews had to take second names. That was because his male ancestor lived in England at that time. Presumably a male ancestor went to England after Rabbi Manassah ben Israel of Holland had gone to England and talked Oliver Cromwell into permitting Jews to settle in England. I believe that my father had a male ancestor who lived in Spain and was either a Marrano or one of the Jews who was expelled from Spain by Queen Isabella in 1492. In any event, after getting the name Brown in England, one of my father's ancestors, who was a world trader, settled in the Ukraine because he liked the land and the climate there. My father died in San Antonio in November 1965 at 84 years of age. He was a member of Temple Beth El there for about 57 years.

Biography of Jack Danciger

Research by Floyd R. "Doc" Keen of Fort Worth

Col. Richardy, a friend of Jack Danciger, wrote this letter about Jack Danciger.

I remember Jack Danciger, distinguished American Philanthropist and honoree of the Mexican Order of the Aztec Eagle.

He was born June 18, 1879 in Taos, New Mexico. Taos is 800-900 years old. An old center for Indian trade, it overlooks the Rio Grande River. The Spaniards came in 1540 when Coronado came looking for the Seven Cities of Cibola Gold! Spanish Catholic missionaries returned in 1610, built a church and started converting the Indians to Christianity. Jack learned to speak Spanish and Liuva, the native Indian language before he spoke English. This allowed him to be interpreter for his parents in their mercantile store, and to enjoy an exalted position among friends and early playmates, a privilege he never abused and always respected. His generous and humanitarian instincts reflected his parental guidance necessary for trust and confidence in the Indian and Spanish community. He was always serious, respectful and kind. He learned to hunt and fish with them and participated in their customs rituals and traditions.

His father's store prospered and soon there were cattle and ranches. He loved to read and he educated himself; he hungered for knowledge and history, ever eager to learn the ways of the store, its sales and profits and business dealings.

Work on the ranch required hard manual labor with the Mexican and Indian hired hands. Living and working with them daily, he learned the folklore, music and stories over the campfires. Once Jack was kidnapped by Indians and their chief, hoping to provide a future tribal priest, leader and chief, so loyal and confident was their trust in this young settler. Not without diplomatic negotiations and gifts of beautiful bracelets was Jack's father able to rescue his son.

Jack and his father made covered wagon trips to Denver,

Colorado to purchase merchandise for their store. Jack, being fluent in Indian language, could fend off marauding raiders and assailants by persuasion. Being an excellent horseman, Jack helped his father, Simon, increase his cattle herds and business. He made a lot of money.

Simon Danciger sold the store and moved to Kansas City, Missouri, went into the shoe business. He succeeded, made more money. Jack went to work for Swift and Co., in charge of the margarine department. He became aware of and observed the abuses of special privileged people of wealth. He became active in the Democratic party of William Jennings Bryan of Chicago. Swift and Co. fired him. He went to work for James B. Clow & Co. producer of pipe and plumbing supplies, where he was appointed in charge of the complicated complaint department. His generous temperament and sympathetic manners made him immediately successful. Throughout Jack's entire life he was known for his charity and for sharing his possessions and success. He always helped those less fortunate than himself.

Mr. Clow delegated Jack to a titanic task of translating his company's catalog into Spanish, including giving some articles new and practical Spanish names. At this time he was only 21. So in 1900 Jack was transferred to San Juan, Puerto Rico to manage delivery of a \$600,000 order of municipal water and sewage equipment, and to assist in its installation and development. Jack's fluent Spanish allowed him to investigate and uncover corrupt city officials, from the mayor on down, who had embezzled half of the money allocated to pay for the municipal water and sewage project of San Juan. For this feat Clow and Co. transferred him to Havana to handle a million dollar project (100 million nowadays). Jack was sympathetic to workers and worked for their protection and welfare with Samuel Gompers, famous union leader.

Mr. Danciger Sr died. The sizable fortune he had amassed was equally divided among the heirs. There were Dan, Joseph, Jack and Annie. Annie was in charge of the huge brewery and distillery in Kansas City. It was 1909 and Jack was thirty years old when he built and developed the exquisite Jefferson Hotel.

In one of his many trips he discovered the rich deposits of oil in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado. He now has a million dollars (a billion nowadays).

August 22, 1914 Jack established "El Cosmopolitan" in Kansas City, a Spanish language newspaper to speak out against racial discrimination and exploitation. He persuaded the American Government to endorse the teaching of Spanish in all Kansas City high schools and personally paid the salaries of teachers to teach Mexican pupils to speak English.

Now comes the Mexican revolution started by Uenustiano Carranzas, a close friend of Jack. The Dancigers Royal Brewery just happened to have 100 freight cars of beer to ship to Vera Cruz. The Mexican breweries were all shut down due to the war. Pancho Villa, Mexican revolutionary, used to purchase quite a lot of beer from Dancigers Royal Brewery for his troops. Jack for a time was the Mexican Consul in Kansas City, Mo., appointed by Euanastiana Carranza, then President of Mexico. In this capacity he was able to help thousands of Mexican citizens in the U.S. to find jobs in destitute times. He abolished the custom of burying Mexicans only in Negro cemeteries. This at a time of strict discrimination against races in the U.S. Jack's Spanish language newspaper served to reveal deplorable conditions of Mexicans throughout the U.S. He is now 39 and just one of his many Oklahoma oil wells brings him \$3000.00 a day. He married Queenie Bailey, poetess, composer, artist, a society beauty who worked for his newspaper in 1918. She died from heart failure in 1943. Danciger, Texas Brazoria County was

...continued on page 5

founded in 1933. His newspaper "El Cosmopolitan" was sold to the San Antonio "El Excelsior". Now in 1942 Jack Danciger was appointed Honorary Mexican Consul of Fort Worth. The Mexican community was only 5000 at this time. Jack formed the Benito Juarez organization and the Mexican Patriotic Committee and hired a group of competent lawyers to help Mexicans in legal matters free of charge. He paid their salaries. His right-hand woman was the talented Mrs. Maria G. De Gumaldo, loyal, hard-working, with rare judgment in consulate matters. As consul, Jack lectured to clubs and Chambers of Commerce. He reduced ill feelings and discrimination against Mexicans. He was dedicated to Continental Brotherhood of all the Americas. His personal visits and appraisals of Baja California resulted in a treaty between the U.S. and Mexico for distribution of the waters of the Colorado and Bravo Rivers. Later his visits to Chile, Paraguay and Peru sponsored the building of statues in memory of those countries' heroes, Simon Bolivar, Bernard O'Higgins and Sam Martin. His generous spirit and inexhaustible kindness of heart motivated his many charitable deeds and sponsorship for students..

Jack Danciger's life work, dedicated to doing good and serving mankind, is a model for us all. In one of his speeches he states, "Man ought not to nurture himself with bread alone" but also with spiritual food which good books can provide. To live implies progress. Without books we limit ourselves to the pathetic state of primitive man. It is by the written word that man has risen to a much higher level than the rest of creation. A good book is the best mentor and the most faithful friend – give a library to a house and you will provide it with a good soul.

Jack Danciger is buried on the south side of Temple Beth El Section of Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth Texas. Tekun Olam "Make it a better World" So....Shalom, Jack Danciger.

Respectfully, "Doc" Keen

Grab your Shovel!

from *Texas Highways Magazine*

by Janis Russell Dulaney

A treasure lost on Padre Island during the Civil War has never been found. In 1847, John V. Singer, brother of Isaac Singer, inventor of the sewing machine, and his wife, Johanna Shaw, arrived at the mouth of the Rio Grande. According to The New Handbook of Texas, the family came to Texas intending to set up a shipping business at Point Isabel (today's Port Isabel). Another account says the Singers had started for California and were turned back by cholera. In any case, the family lived on Padre Island in tents for a few weeks and decided to remain. Until 1851, the Singers resided three miles above Padre's southern tip in a cabin built of driftwood. One day, farther north, they discovered the deserted Rancho Santa Cruz, built in the early 1800's by Padre Nicolas Balli, the priest for whom the island is named Johanna and John, individually wealthy, began acquiring land from Padre Balli's heirs and eventually rebuilt the ranch into a prosperous cattle empire.

The Singers' seven children were given their own brands and, when old enough, helped the ranch

hands with the horses. Johanna also helped with the outdoor work, though at times, when she tired of island life, she would row her skiff across Laguna Madre to Point Isabel and take a stagecoach into Brownsville for a few days.

The family's life changed drastically in 1861, when John's strong Union loyalties prompted the Confederates to force his departure from the island. The family packed up their possessions and left one night, but not before burying between \$60,000 and \$80,000 in silver, gold, old coins and jewelry - including Johanna's emerald necklace, in the sand dunes.

After the war, the Singers returned and spent a year searching for their treasure, but the sands had shifted, and the markers they had left were no longer visible. Johanna died soon afterward, in 1866. John left for South America, and though he later returned to the United States, he never came back to Padre Island. In 1931, treasure hunters found the "Lost City," as the ranch came to be known, but the fortune presumably remains hidden beneath the sands.

An unusual honor for one of our members



All members of TJHS should be proud that one of our members, Jerry Wolens, and his wife Sylvia of Boca Raton have been selected as one of the "Top 50 Jewish Community Builders of South Palm Beach County."

The award was part of the Bloomingdale's/Jewish Federation joint celebration of Israel's 50th Jubilee. The "Top 50" were selected by a distinguished panel of judges that included executives from the Sun-Sentinel,

Florida Atlantic University, Chase Manhattan Private Bank and the United Way. The judges' charge was to select those 50 individuals who have given their time, talent or treasure to make South Palm Beach county the most vibrant Jewish community in America. The Wolens have participated in all three categories. Jerry chaired Mission 500 and now serves as Country Club Chairman for the UJA campaign. He has also served two terms as a director of the Federation. Sylvia has served on the boards of Ruth Rales Family Service, the JCC and currently on JARC.

The Wolens are benefactors of two Jewish Heritage Writing contests and have set up a foundation to send students on the "March of the Living". Bloomingdale's is arranging a special reception this fall to recognize and honor the top 50.

The History of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

The formal preservation of the history of Texas Jewry goes back to Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston and Rabbi David Lefkowitz of Dallas, who set out to interview as many early settlers and their families as possible. They produced a historical account for the Texas Centennial, in 1936. Rabbi Floyd Fierman of El Paso and Rabbi Harvey Wessel of Tyler collected and recounted much of the history of their areas. Through the efforts of Rabbi Jimmy Kessler of Galveston, the Texas Jewish Historical Society came into existence in 1980. The society has established an archive at the University of Texas Center for American History in Austin as part of the Barker Texas History Collection. The entrepreneurial and pioneer spirit that pervaded Texas, a reflection of some of the major teachings of Jewish tradition, has been part of the impetus for the involvement and achievements of Jewish residents. Though Judaism is a religion, it is also clearly a way of life that calls upon its adherents to be actively involved in the community within which they live. Jews of Texas have striven successfully to make the world in which they live and particularly the state of which they are an integral part a better place to live.

Bibliography: Henry Cohen, "The Jews in Texas," Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society (1896). The Jewish Texan (San Antonio: University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, 1974). Natalie Ornish, Pioneer Jewish Texans (Dallas: Texas Heritage 1989) Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schechter, *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1990)

Rabbi James L. Kessler

TJHS First Newsletter

February 14, 1980

Dear Fellow T.J.H.S. Member:

It is with a great deal of joy that I send out this first letter on behalf of our new Texas Jewish Historical Society. I say "our" because though you were kind enough to select me as the first President, the Society is and will always be a product of each of our personal efforts. From all reports, the first Gathering in San Antonio was an outstanding success. The minutes of that meeting as well as Dr. Marcus' speech have been transcribed and will be included in our future publications.

As of this mailing, a written constitution is being circulated amongst the By-Laws committee, a membership logo is being prepared, membership applications and brochures are in process, material is being solicited and gathered for the newsletter, cataloging is underway by our archivist and incorporation papers have been filed. It is clear that the Texas Jewish Historical Society is off to an excellent start.

In addition, a Public Relations Committee has been appointed to deal with publicity and a Regional Organization Committee was created to encourage local meetings of the members of the Society. Also a project has been established entitled, "Know your Grand...." to encourage the synagogues in our state to have their students interview their grandparents, grandaunts and granduncles.

There is, however, one item of immediate concern with which each of us must be involved and it is membership. First we need to be sure that our dues have been sent in

to Edwin Lax, 4507 Goodfellow Drive, Dallas, 75229. As you know, the structure is \$25.00 per year or \$250.00 for a patron. Moreover, we need to locate potential members. Even though our applications probably won't be available until the middle of next month, we can still solicit participation. This responsibility must fall upon each of us. And of course we could certainly benefit from some additional patrons.

Our Finance Committee is still searching for about 40 such donors. If you know of any please do let the Committee Chairman, Milton Smith know of their names.

My friends, if the Texas Jewish Historical Society is to grow and achieve its goals, it will be because of YOU. Let each of us begin now to help bring those goals into realization.

As ever,
Rabbi Jimmy Kessler
Founding President of the TJHS

Request for Information

Hello, let me introduce myself. I am Daniel Vaiser and I'm the Librarian/Archivist at the Dallas Jewish Historical Society. I need to know from your information if there is any record of an Orthodox Synagogue (or "Shul") in Dallas in 1869. One of our patrons here in Dallas is doing research on it and I need to know if you've run across any such information. I hope your organization is doing well and best wishes to you all.

Daniel Vaiser

News from the Institute

by Walter Fein

Things are going well at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The "Jewish Texans" exhibit, by virtue of its location and the bright lighting, draws lots of visitors. Several large Jewish groups have visited, CAJE convention sent about 50, Elderhostel, sponsored by the San Antonio JCC comes once or twice each week, and even better, non-Jewish school groups, and individual visitors are attracted. The comments are always positive.

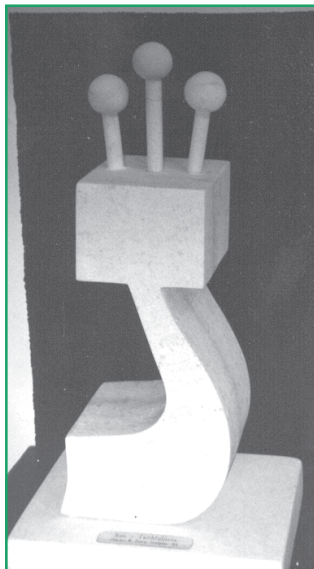
Two events currently under way will be of great interest: San Antonio artist Charles Stern has sculpted and donated one of his famous Hebrew letters in white limestone. It was to be unveiled and shown to the public on December 6, in a Sunday afternoon public event. Several thousand invitations have been

distributed, and the event is being coupled with demonstrations of Hanukkah candle lights, dreidel playing, etc., for the many children expected to attend.

Also, a collection of over fifty photographs is being integrated into the two video screens, under the title "A Gallery of Jewish Texans." This should become a very interesting and popular addition to our exhibit.

Of great interest to many of us, who know and have worked with our good friend Laurie Gudzikowski (you may remember her from the Corpus Christi Gathering in 1997, and San Antonio in 1998) is the news that she has been promoted to

program director of the Institute. In that capacity she will be in full charge of the exhibit floor, and all programs the museum puts on. We certainly want to congratulate her, and wish her all the best in her new, expanded capacity.



This photo was featured on the Institute of Texan Cultures' invitation for the December 6, 1998 event, as mentioned in Walter Fein's article at left.

Pictured are Jennie Coplin Karren (center) and friends in Western regalia for the Fort Worth Stock Show, 1916.



Texas Jewish Historical Society Donor Cards

This card is available for anyone wishing to honor or memorialize an individual through our endowment fund. Upon receipt of your gift, the Society will respond with this acknowledgement. To the members who have sent in funds in the past, thank you on behalf of TJHS. To all those who will send funds in the future, please send your gift to:

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

The Texas Jewish Historical Society

gratefully acknowledges your gift to our

Endowment Fund

of \$ _____

in _____ of _____

An acknowledgement has been sent to the party you specified.

Your gift will further the efforts to record, preserve, and disseminate historic information about the Jewish culture in Texas.

TJHS Travels to Jackson, Mississippi

On Sunday, July 12, 24 members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society departed on a six day bus trip to see Jewish historical sites in Mississippi. Our first stop in the afternoon was at the Museum of Southern Jewish Experience in Utica, Ms. The museum is on the beautiful wooded campus of the UAHC Henry S Jacobs Camp for Jewish youth. Most of the Jews of the 1840's came from Alsace and Germany to Mississippi because French was spoken by the local people. The museum is a fitting tribute to the Jews who settled in these communities. Most of the Jewish immigrant merchants in towns we visited began as peddlers. It was remarkable tracing their steps and seeing how they lived in that period. The museum has collected artifacts from the synagogues that no longer exist in several Southern towns.

On Monday we visited the "Wonders of Versailles" exhibit in Jackson, Ms. It was an exhibit of French nobility which included many beautiful artifacts, paintings and tapestries. We enjoyed a visit to the "Alsace to America: Discovering a Southern Jewish Heritage" exhibit also in Jackson. It traced the immigration of the Jews who came to Mississippi from the Alsatian area of France and displayed some of their many accomplishments. We ended our visit to Jackson with a stop at the State Capital Building, noting the history of the Jews that served there.

On Tuesday we first visited the Hebrew Union Congregation in Greenville, MS., where Betty Goldstein told us about the Jewish history of the city. The Jewish Community dates back to the early 1800's, and by 1869 the community hired a part time Rabbi. In 1906 they built this Temple. One of the early settlers was the Stein Family who developed the Stein-Mart Chain. A Jew, Leopold Wilcinski, was



Greenville's first elected Mayor. Some of the famous Jewish writers who started out in Greenville were David Cohn, Shelby Foote and Camie Stern. There are now 77 Jewish families supporting the Synagogue.

We then visited Adath Israel Congregation in Cleveland, Ms., which was started in 1922. Our guide, Ed Kossman, along with several members gave us an interesting history of the congregation. There are only 15 active families in the congregation, but it continues to thrive. On our way to Clarksdale, Ms., we stopped at Alligator, Ms., and visited with Aaron Kline, who owns the Whale Store, a dry goods store that is over 100 years old. Mr Kline is 86 years old, and it was a pleasure and a thrill hearing him tell about his early experiences in Alligator. The Whale store, started by Mr. Klein's family, is described as a "Whale of a store, a hell of a place". It has changed little in appearance since its beginnings.

In Clarksdale, MS, the Jews started arriving from Germany in 1880. Our host, Stanley Cohen, told us that by 1910 the community had a B'nai B'rith Lodge and in 1913 they organized Temple Beth Israel. Originally it was Orthodox, but is now Reform. A new temple building was built in 1929. There are now 105 families in the Congregation. "Cosmetic repairs" were being made to the Temple when we visited, and indications are that the community is still thriving.

On Wednesday we went to

Memphis, TN., to the Center for Southern Folklore. Our Jewish guide, Judy Peiser, is a founder and now director of the center, which supports the presentation of the music, customs and history of the South. Judy gave us a six-hour tour of Memphis, including visits to the Baron Hirsch Synagogue, the largest Orthodox synagogue in the

country and to Temple Israel, a large modern Reform temple. There are 10,000 Jewish people in Memphis, and there is also a Conservative Synagogue, a Lubovitch Synagogue, a Hebrew Academy, a Solomon Schechter School, the Memphis Jewish Community Center and a B'nai B'rith Home for the Aged. On famous Beal Street, the home of the Blues, we visited the A. Schwab Emporium which was established in 1876 by Abraham Schwab. It is still in business and owned by the Schwab family. The Motto is "If you can't find it at Schwab's – you're better off without it." We ended the day at the National Civil Rights Museum, located at the Lorraine Motel, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.

On Thursday we toured Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley and took a cable car to Mud Island which has a magnificent Museum telling the history of the Mississippi River.

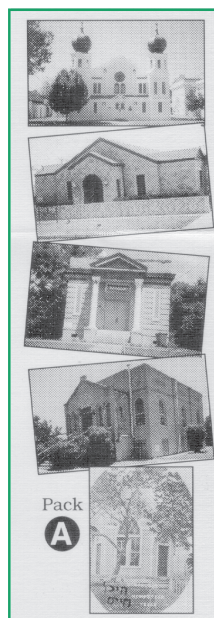
On Friday we stopped in Orange, Texas to see the Stark Museum of Art which houses a complete set of 51 Steuben glass bowls representing each state of the United States.

We all had a wonderful time on this trip and want to thank Gertrude and Don Teter for all their efforts in arranging this trip. Without them this trip would not have been possible.

Muriel Kronick

Share the Pleasure of Historical Texas Synagogues with Someone Special!

Send Historical Texas Synagogues note cards when corresponding with friends or relatives. Each pack contains color prints, two each of five different synagogues - 10 cards and 10 envelopes.



Package A contains:

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Temple Mizpah, Abilene
Temple Freda, Bryan
Temple Beth Israel, San Angelo
Schwarz Family Synagogue, Hempstead

Package B contains:

B'nai Israel, Galveston
Temple Emanuel, Beaumont
B'nai Abraham Synagogue, Brenham
Sinai Hebrew Congregation, Jefferson
B'nai Israel, Victoria



Only \$10.85 per pack! Each pack of note-cards is cellophane wrapped. Give them to friends and family! It is a great gift at a great price! © 1998 Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Order Form



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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Quantity: ____ Pack A at \$10.85 ea. ____ Pack B @ \$10.85 ea.

Discount to shops (40%)

Shipping: 1-5 Packs \$3; 6-10 Packs, \$4, Over 10, add \$.50 per pack

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to: **The Texas Jewish Historical Society** and send with form to: TJHS, c/o Charles B. Hart 2509 Redwing Drive Temple, TX 76502 Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Retail shops receive a 40% discount with a minimum order of any 10 packs. A Texas Resale Certificate must be included with order.

1999 Annual TJHS Gathering

Program Schedule



at The Radisson Hotel – Fort Worth, Texas

815 Main Street

(817) 870-2100 or (800) 333-3333

Friday, April 30, 1999

10:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M.	Registration for Gathering, Radisson Hotel
11:30 A.M.	Executive Committee meeting
1:00 - 2:30 P.M.	How to begin to climb your Jewish family tree
2:30 - 4:00 P.M.	Walking tour of Bass Hall
6:30 - 8:00 P.M.	Dinner & Services at hotel (Rabbi Jimmy Kessler)
8:00 PM	Kai-Feng China & Texas Jewry - the spiritual link - author Michael Pollak describes the discovery of an ancient Chinese Torah now located at the Bridwell Library at SMU.

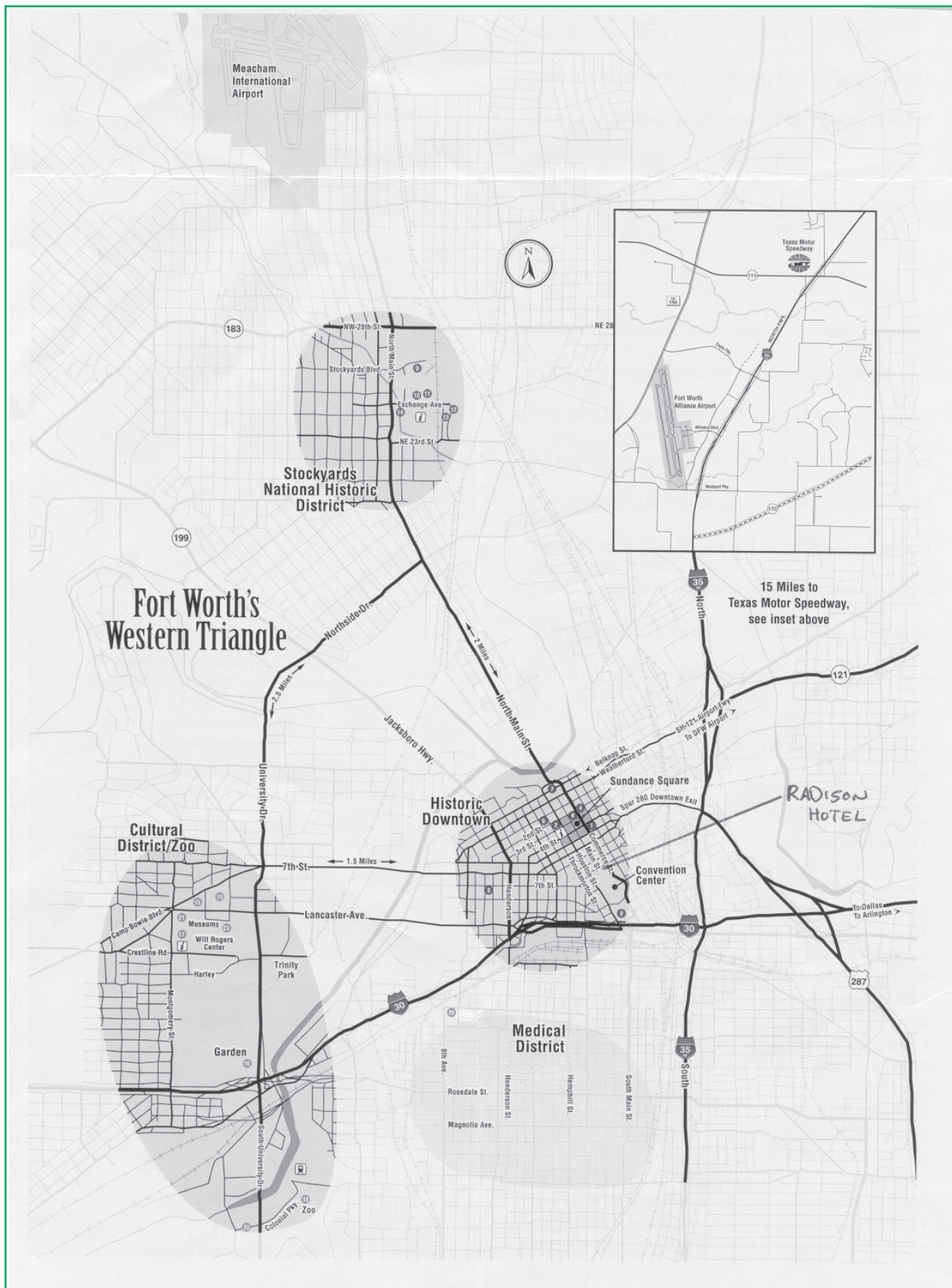
Saturday, May 1, 1999

8:00 A.M.	Torah study in Hospitality Suite (Rabbi Kessler)
8:30 - 9:30 A.M.	Continental Buffet Breakfast
9:45 A.M.	Jewish history in small Texas towns
11:00 A.M.	Break
11:15 A.M.	Finding Jewish Ancestors on the Internet
12:30 P.M.	Lunch. During lunch, Symphony Conductor John Giordano will speak on "Jews in the arts around the state."
2:00 P.M.	Jewish entrepreneurship in Fort Worth
4:30 P.M.	Bus tour of historical Jewish north side including the stockyards (optional walking tour in stockyards)
7:00 P.M.	Dinner at Los Vaqueros in Stockyards (Speakers during dinner on the Jewish impact on North Fort Worth's economy)
9:00 P.M.	Return to hotel

Sunday, May 2, 1999

8:00 - 9:00 A.M.	Continental Breakfast Buffet
9:00 A.M.	Board Meeting, followed by General Business Meeting

Map of Fort Worth



Texas Jewish Historical Society's 1998-1999 Officers

*The Officers and By-Laws changes listed below were voted
in at The Annual Gathering in San Antonio, May 1-3, 1998.*

Officers

Helen Wilk (Corpus Christi).....	<i>President</i>
Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth).....	<i>Vice-President</i>
Charles Hart (Temple)	<i>Vice-President</i>
Ima Joy Gandler (Waco).....	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mitzi Milstein (Longview).....	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Davie Lou Solka (Corpus Christi)	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Mickey Graubart (Houston)	<i>Treasurer</i>
Howard Lackman (Arlington)	<i>Archivist</i>
Blanche Sheiness (Alice)	<i>Historian</i>
Marvin Rich (Houston)	<i>Parliamentarian</i>

Board of Directors

Norma Albert (McAllen)	Dr. Milton Jacobs (San Antonio)	Lena Aron Frost (Houston)
James Alexander (Dallas)	Annette Lackman (Arlington)	Dorothy Harelik (Hamilton)
Glenda Alter (San Antonio)	Dean Milkes (Corsicana)	Sam Harelik (Waco)
Beverly Beck (Houston)	Bill Naxon (Dallas)	Winston Heidenheimer (Cisco)
Florence Blum (Houston)	Julien Rosenthal (Houston)	Phyllis Hirsch (Fort Worth)
Walter Fein (San Antonio)	Ruthe Winegarten (Austin)	Leo Hoffman (Dallas)
Patti Maltz (Austin)	Ann Goodman (El Paso)	Rosalind Horwitz (Beaumont)
Allen Mondell (Dallas)	Lynn Greenberg (Houston)	Eileen Kessner (Plano)
Herman Morris (Fort Worth)	Nell Hall (Fort Worth)	Marvin Leshin (Corpus Christi)
Charles Nathan (Houston)	Dave Hoff (Midland)	R. D. Moses (Fort Worth)
Ben Pfeffer (Houston)	Frank Kasman (Midland)	Mina Parven (Austin)
Norma Skibell (Lubbock)	Edwin Katten (Waco)	Max Stool (Del Rio)
Mimi Toubin (Brenham)	Suzanne Campbell (San Angelo)	Sherry Zander (Dallas)
Edward Winkler (Fort Stockton)		

By-Laws Changes

1. Expanding the dates of the annual meeting to anytime in the spring of the year:

Past wording: Article VII (A): There shall be one (1) regular membership gathering of the Society to be held in March or April of each year.

New wording: There shall be one (1) regular membership gathering of the Society to be held in the spring of each year.

2. Increasing the minimum dues level to \$36 (first dues increase in our 19-year history)

Past wording: Article III (B) (g) Regular Member \$25.

New wording: Regular Member \$36.

Texas Jewish Historical Society Past Presidents

Rabbi James Kessler 1980 - 1982 (Galveston)	Milton Smith 1989 - 1991 (Austin)
Mrs Frances Kallison 1982 - 1984 (San Antonio)	Fay Brachman 1991 - 1993 (Ft. Worth)
Lionel Schooler 1984 - 1986 (Houston)	Don Teter 1993 - 1995 (Baytown)
Ed Lax 1986 (Dallas) (Died while in office)	Barbara Rosenberg 1995 - 1998 (Sugar Land)
Ginger Jacobs 1986 - 1989 (Dallas)	

The Need of a Students' Center in Austin

by Rabbi David Rosenbaum Austin, Texas • Excerpt from *The Texas Jewish Herald* – September 21, 1921

"I gladly avail myself of the invitation to contribute an article to the special New Year number of the Herald. I desire to take this opportunity to state before the readers of the paper the great need keenly felt by those of us who are near the seat of learning at the capital of our state. The University of Texas is becoming more and more the educational institution for the Jewish youth of our commonwealth. For the past two or three years, the number of Jewish students was about seventy-five, and more are expected as the years roll on. In a year or two, we are confident there will be at least one hundred of our young people pursuing their academic training in Austin. It is about time to plan for the future. With the growth of the Jewish population in Texas, we may look forward to the steady increase of our boys and girls in our city.

It must not be forgotten that many of our youth coming to the State University are from very small towns where there is no organized Jewish community life. Many of them never see the inside of a synagogue before they arrive here, and many more have not had even the mere rudiments of religious training in a Sabbath school. The university period is the most delicate as well as the most impressionable of the years to come. Whatever influences are brought to bear on the young minds of college students will determine, in large measure, their attitude during their entire career. Moreover, these young people are bound to become leaders and spokesmen in their respective communities. It thus behooves us to give them those advantages that will make their Jewishness virile and strong.

The local community is doing its best to attract our young people to the synagogue and its influences. We are encouraging them to attend services and become an integral part of the congregation. By means of an effective Menorah Society meeting regularly every fortnight, a forum is furnished them for study and discussion of current Jewish problems and

Jewish life and thought. Prominent Jewish lecturers, both laymen and rabbis, address them frequently at Menorah meetings, thus bringing them the message of our faith and influencing their Jewish consciousness. Their social life is not neglected either. The congregation as a whole, and many families individually, make it a pleasure to bring the students in touch with a Jewish environment. As a result, many of the students have distinctly stated that they became conscious of their Jewishness for the first time during their residence at Austin while studying at the University. A singular instance is the following. "A young student from a very small town, came to our synagogue the first Friday night after he registered at the University. Following the service, he was greeted with traditional, "Good Shabbos," but he did not know what it meant. After two years at the University, and being a promising young man, he became so imbued with Jewish life, that the writer thought it wise to suggest to him that he prepare himself for the rabbinical profession.

What we urgently need now, and the need is becoming more urgent with the increase in the number of Jewish students, is a comfortable Students' Center, where all students activities might be localized. The different denominations at Austin are doing this very thing. The Newman Hall of the Catholics, the splendid Baptist Church under construction, and a variety of other churches in the University neighborhood, have all given serious consideration to the facilities for social and religious activities of the students of their respective denominations. We must do the same. We need a Center of several rooms, containing an assembly hall, a reading room, and so forth, for recreational, social and religious endeavors. The Center should be the gathering place of our young students. There they would feel perfectly at home as their very own, to read, to study, to dance and meet socially under a Jewish and proper wholesome environment.

As the Austin Jewish Community is very small, barely able to maintain its own communal organization, and as this is a matter for the Jewish students of the state, it is but proper that this need should be met by the Jewish people of the state at large. Texas Jewry is already numerous and efficient enough to make provisions for its religious needs. It is about time that we bestir ourselves and do what the other denominations are doing. We must not allow ourselves to be taunted that we neglect the social and religious development of our student, or that we fail to furnish them a Jewish environment that may lead to estrangement from the fold, and often to still worse consequences.

The local synagogue is about a mile from the University, but without adequate facilities as herein suggested. It happens to have, however, enough ground near its place of worship for the very Center so badly needed. The outlay for the realization of the proposed plan will not therefore entail too great an expense. All we need is a modest building with simple equipment, the local community being perfectly willing to maintain it when completed. Is there not in the great commonwealth of Texas some benevolent Jewish family or group of families that will want to perpetuate their name in a most worthy manner?

The writer has often discussed this matter with many of his own congregation and with prominent Jewish visitors to our town, among them being Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston. They all felt that the time was at hand for the Jews of Texas to seriously look into the question with a view to the rapid realization of the urgent need. If the coming year, to which we look forward with the blessings of Providence, will see the maturing of this plan, Judaism in Texas will have good reason to count it as a period of constructive effort and beneficent results. It is the prayerful hope of the writer that this wish may be realized during the year upon which we are about to enter."

Poetry by Chaya Ruchel Andres

Mother of President Ruth Andres of the Dallas Texas Jewish Historical Society

Years have Sped by Passover - Season of freedom

Passover days!
For whom are you free?
Days renewed-enlivened,
Days of breathing fully in the bright spring
sunshine.

Now as I write these lines...
It seems I'm in command of my senses,
yet thoughts penetrate stubbornly,
of yearning-in my reverie...

I take note – most especially,
Of the suffering during the holocaust;
I take a reckoning – essentially
In multiples, of those I've lost –

My younger sisters three,
and their husbands, that makes six;
Add seven children to the sum, –
a paragon – every one ...

Father and mother
with gifted children blessed
then cut down in bloom of youth,
and not even covered with earth ...

Gone-is my brother...
Gone is his wife..
Gone are their children, two...
Vanishing like the morning dew.

Wantonly they were trodden to powder;
My nerves seem of iron – all this to bear...

Your children will ask the “Führer
kashes; in wonder,
Enlighten them – “The New
Haggadah” is here!

What can one recall, or say?
Flowing, blood... spilt on street and highway...
Bitter fate – scattered like gunpowder, flies...
The dead – with open staring eyes!

Whom do I ask?...How did it happen?
How did such things come about?
Such a horror! Such destruction! –
Must the Jew for the whole world be the
victim?

Bereft of speech – I am quiet now...
The anguish, I bear heroically ...
The smouldering ashes smoke no more...
Passover – our holiday!

Passover days – for whom are you free!
Days renewed – enlivened ...
Days of breathing fully,
in the bright spring sunshine!

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Cemetery Records Now on the 'Net

by Mic Barnette

"This weekend happenings," September 19, 1998 *Houston Chronicle*

Members of the US GENWEB have designed a new project to record tombstone inscriptions from every cemetery in America and place them on the Internet.

To view the main US GENWEB website, go to www.usgenweb.org. From the main page, one may link to a website for each state.

This project already has a wide showing of cemeteries from every state. Formatted portion of each state's US GENWEB page contains an area set aside for the state's tombstone project. A Table lists each county where cemeteries have been transcribed or are anticipated. The table lists the name of each cemetery enumerated within the county plus the name and e-mail address of the person responsible for overseeing the project for that cemetery.

People wishing to transcribe tombstones in a cemetery are needed. Directions to volunteer and conduct transcription work are available on the website.

A similar project is being conducted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies at <http://jewishgen.org/>. The IAJGS has posted information on more than 21,000 cemeteries, including cemeteries in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, the Ukraine and Poland. At present the society has posted more than 400,000 names from more than 775 cemeteries around the world.

Jewish Website

Readers interested in Jewish research should tap into JewishGen, the official Home of Jewish Genealogy. JewishGen is known as the premier website for Jewish research. The website is located at <http://jewishgen.org>. JewishGen was made possible by a consortium of volunteer Jewish genealogists from all over the world. At the helm of this linkage of websites and volunteers is Susan King of Houston. This website has a hyperlink to nearly every website on the Internet of interest to anyone

conducting Jewish research. JewishGen includes discussion groups where topics of Jewish interest may be discussed in chat groups and e-mail mailing lists. There are areas where beginners may go for instructions on how and where to begin research. JewishGen Infofiles is a set of more than 100 information files on specific topics of interest to Jewish researchers. There also is a database of information about Shtetls and Yitzor books.

In JewishGen Family Finder, researchers may search a database of more than 85,000 surnames and towns being researched by more than 5,000 researchers.

There also is a listing of Jewish genealogical societies, including hyperlinks to their websites. Houston researchers interested in attending monthly Jewish genealogical meetings, should contact the Jewish Genealogical Society of Houston at 17614 Fairway Oaks Drive, Spring, Texas 77379.

Radio Show

Guests this week on the Family History Radio Show will be Joan Kirchman Mitchell of Tuscaloosa, Al. And Mic Barnett of Houston.

Mitchell is a former director of Stamford University's annual Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research and program chair for two National Genealogical Society conferences. Her lecture topics include genealogical, historical, family health and genetics.

Barnette is a genealogist, lecturer and genealogical instructor. He has compiled several books and dozens of articles. His speciality is genealogical methodology and research in the southern United States.

The Family History Radio Show is a genealogy talk show which airs live on the Texas State Network each Sunday night from 10:05 P.M. to midnight. The show is broadcast in Houston on KPRC-AM (950). To ask questions or make comments during the show, call 1-800-765-1080. The

show has a website at <http://familyhistory.flash.net>.

From the book shelf

Gertude M. And Donald L. Teter have compiled and edited *Texas Jewish Burials: Alphabetically by name*. This compilation is \$23, postpaid, for softcover and \$45, postpaid, for a hardcover edition. The book may be ordered from the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin Texas 78766-0193.

In 1985 the Texas Jewish Historical Society launched a project to locate and document all the old Jewish cemeteries in Texas. The project included three distinct burial types. Consecrated Jewish cemeteries that were separate from other cemeteries; sections of nonsectarian cemeteries that were consecrated; and dedicated as Jewish cemeteries and Jewish burials in non-Jewish cemeteries. The compilers, with the help of many volunteers, have documented all known Jewish cemeteries in Texas.

They transcribed and indexed all Jewish graves in these cemeteries from 1991 to 1996 when the transcribers visited each cemetery.

The book is arranged in a database format. Columns of burial information contain the following fields: given name, surname, date of birth, date of death and cemetery name. Also included is a listing of each cemetery enumerated. Two lists contain the following information about the cemeteries enumerated: the name of the city, name of the county, name of the cemetery, the date the cemetery was enumerated, the number of burials, the date the cemetery was founded, the name of the cemetery owner or operator and whether or not a historical marker is present at the cemetery.

There should be a place for this book on the bookshelf of readers, researchers, libraries and societies with interest in Texas Jewish history.

Mic Barnette is owner of Barnette's Family Tree Book Co., 5215 San Jacinto, Houston, Texas 77004. He may be contacted by e-mail at barnette@neosoft.com.

Excerpt From *The Forward*

September 11, 1998 by Masha Leon (*The Forward* is a weekly Jewish newspaper from New York City)

There is funny, sometimes witty David Brenner whom I took to task in my April 30, 1993, column for telling David Letterman's TV audience that "Jews are no good with their hands. We can only use our heads. I can't use a hammer, only one finger." He paraphrased what the late comedian Dennis Wolfberg had said on Jay Leno's show. "I'm Jewish, therefore I am mechanically retarded," thereby transferring a personal disability into a peoplehood's defect. On January 22, 1996, Brenner reiterated, "I can't fix anything because I am Jewish, and if our mothers saw a hammer, they would throw it and say,"book, book, book."

At the March 17, 1997, Creative Coalition Award gala, I finally got to ask David, "How can you keep saying that Jews are manually deficient? Who builds, flies and repairs Israeli planes? What of the generations of Jewish immigrants who were tailors, machinists, carpenters, bakers, painters, plumbers. What about all the Jewish engineers, surgeons and musicians?" I added that my raised-in-an-Orthodox-home-in-the-Bronx husband, Joe not only designs, but builds, complicated production machinery. "Well," waffled David, "Maybe he shouldn't." I had hoped --in vain-- that David might have mended his ways. But during his appearance (again) on Tom Snyder's show this August 7, the subject was Texas. Brenner joked that there were no Jewish cowboys and had there been Jews at the Alamo, "they would have gotten out through the back door." My usually low blood-pressure soared.

In April 1985 my daughter Karen and I were in San Antonio where our Regency Hyatt Hotel window faced the Alamo. The visitor's guide noted: "Two gallant Jews died fighting Santa Anna's troops. Anton (Anthony) Wolfe who came to Texas from England (and was one of the last to die) and Balba

Fuqua, an Alabamian." We met with elegant white-gloved Mrs. Kallison, the then president of The Texas Jewish Historical Society, who took us to dinner at the La Fonda Mexican Restaurant and then on an in-depth tour (with accompanying tales of Jewish cattle barons) of Jewish San Antonio.

At the August 13 Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations reception I asked the president of the American Jewish Historical Society, Ken Bialkin, what did he know about the Jewish presence in Texas? He referred me to the director of the society, Michael Felberg, who last week sent me more than 50 pages of documentation, including "The Participation, of the Jews in the Liberation and Development of Texas," which was the March 6, 1936, address by Rabbi Ephraim Frisch on the 100th anniversary of the fall of the Alamo.

Among the references: "Three other Israelites fought under Fannin in the famous and tragic encounter at Goliad: Benjamin H. Mordecai, whose life was spared by the Mexicans, but who was subsequently killed by Indians in 1840. M. K. Moses and Herman Ehrenberg, who escaped." The long list of Jewish Texan patriots includes: Dr. Moses Albert Levy who was appointed chief surgeon and whose description "remains one of the most vivid and candid accounts of the taking of the Alamo" ("The Frontier Jews" by Rabbi I. Harold Sharfman): Captain Levi Charles Harby, a midshipman in the U.S. Navy (who in 1836 resigned from the Navy in order to bear arms with the Texans and subsequently took part in the Mexican War and also in the Seminole War of Florida. At the Battle of Galveston (in the Civil War), he was commander of The "Neptune" and died in Galveston on December 3, 1870. His last words were: "There is no God but Israel's God," and David Kokernot, a former

sea captain who became a member of the first Texan revolutionary army. There was also Henry Castro, born into a rich Parisian Jewish family, who in 1806 accompanied Napoleon to Spain and from 1842 to 1844 served the Republic of Texas as consul-general to France. He spent personal fortune of (then) \$150,000 to help colonize Texas by providing food, seed, farm implements, cattle and medical care for one year. Known as the greatest of all Texas colonizers, in "Frontier Jews," Sharfman notes: "Texas Jews generally were model citizens and none more so than Castro the Jew. In his honor, his grateful Catholic colonists established a town named Castroville as well as the western county Castro," David Brenner – an apology: to Jews in general and Texan Jews in particular is in order.

Excerpt from *The Texas Jewish Herald*

June 6, 1921
Houston, Texas

A Ku Klux Klan organizer has been politely informed by citizens of Marshall, Texas, that the Klan was not wanted in that community. The "Organizer" was requested to leave as soon as he could pack his grip. The community made known its position through a group of its leading citizens who decided to take positive steps after it has been pointed out that one of the rules of the Ku Klux prohibited the admission of Catholics and Jews to Ku Klux ranks. The committees stated that it did not favor the introduction into Marshall of a body that might create ill feeling among its citizens or harm the healthy spirit of the community."

– *Jewish Independent*.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society (TJHS) is a multi-generational society dedicated to the preservation of Texas Jewish history. The Texas Jewish Historical Society Annual Gathering is a meeting of the general membership. Activities during the weekend meeting include Shabbat celebrations, workshops and lectures, tours of Jewish sites and other points of interest. The members of the

Now for the 1999 Gathering the Society will offer a limited number of scholarships to full time students of a Texas college or university wishing to attend and participate in the annual gathering. The scholarship will cover all registration fees and housing costs for the annual gathering to be held

Any interested student should submit the registration form below no later than March 1, 1999, to The Texas Jewish Historical Society, Attention: Charles B. Hart, 2509 Redwing Dr. Temple, Texas 76502. Students accepted will be notified of their scholarship by the review committee.



Why are you interested in Texas Jewish History? (250 words or less)

[illegible]

Only in America

by Arnold Wisper

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following poem, written by a Mr. Arnold Wisper, and published in the Detroit News, was sent to me by Helen Wilk. Even though it has nothing to do with the Jews of Texas nor it's history, I felt that it was so moving and inspirational that it should be shared with the members of our society. It certainly makes us proud to be a part of this.

What lands did they leave, from where did they flow,
Those early refugees from so long ago.
They trembled in waiting rooms, in stations, on docks,
From Poland from Germany, from life on the rocks.

From Greece, from Italy, they showed their mettle,
Each left behind, their own little shtetel.
Russian women in babushkas, the French with grace.
They didn't look back, they left not a trace.

After endless days, jammed below decks,
"They shivered and prayed, O Lord, what's next?"
They met hunger and fear, they were hot, then cold.
They faced every challenge, they tried to be bold.

Finally the day they all waited for,
The Statue of Liberty, and the golden shore.
A new life was there, but what lay in the mist?
They descended the ladder, the ground they all kissed.

They landed with nothing, just the clothes on their back
A few little trinkets, they clutched in a sack.
Their commitment to a new life in the Promised Land.
Where will it lead, it all looked so grand.

The stories are legion, the peaks they did climb.
Overcoming obstacles, time after time.
Consider their numbers the roles they did play.
Consider their problems, day after day.

Chaym Solomon loaned cash to the Fed at no interest.
Merchants and peddlers, moved the frontiers West.
They exchanged wagons for trading posts and stores.
Levi Straus was there during the Indian Wars.

Some of these men made marvelous gains.
They built from nothing today's retail chains.
Magnins, Macy's Altman and Saks
Strauss, Neiman-Marcus, they started as hacks.

The lists go on, it seems like forever,
These resourceful people, who also were clever.
Nobel Prize Winners, they received thirty percent,
In medicine, math, and law, they made quite a dent.

When it came to talent, they soared in the arts.
Playwrights, like Kaufman, Moss Hart, Ben Hecht
wrote the parts,
Lil Hellman, Arthur Miller, Neil Simon wrote more.
Brothers Gershwin, Berlin, Jerome Kern wrote the score.

Richard Rogers, Oscar Hammerstein, what a pair!
Leonard Bernstein, who can compare.
Jack Benny, George Burns, the Marx Brothers for laffs.
Woody Allen, Mel Brooks are great at their crafts.

Who pioneered the movies? Who made them so great?
Goldwyn and Mayer, they knew how to create.
Zukor and Lasky, they frosted the cake.
Warner Brothers and Selznick, for goodness sake!

The Rabbis, the Judges, the Scientists and more.
The Teachers, the Doctors, just add up the score
The Bankers, the Lawyers, and last but not least,
The Business Man, who just adds to the feast.

They did it all, but they were not alone,
With their wives beside them, protecting their own.
Their women raised families, and worked hard at their side.
They deserve equal praise, they did it with pride.

When you look back, you look back and wonder.
These are people-, who brought lightning and thunder.
They came from many lands, without fortune or fame,
And they brought to America, their courage and name.

What lands, did they leave? From where did they flow?
Those early refugees, from so long ago.
"ONLY IN AMERICA" are just words to me and you,
But the words that GAVE LIFE TO "THE AMERICAN JEW"

Texas Jewish Historical Society Website

Texas Jewish Historical Society
P.O. Box 10193 Austin, TX 78766
Telephone - (281)276-9693
E-Mail 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 Board Meetings 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.

Help! New Directory Underway!



Has your address changed?

What about your Area Code or phone number?

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

Please let us know. We'd really appreciate your help.

Please fill out the form below and send by February 19 to Geri Gregory, 327 West Lullwood Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Thank you, and please print.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Area Code & Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Texas Jewish Historical Society Annual Membership

☐ **YES!** I am enclosing my dues payment to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for the 1999-2000 membership year.

☐ **\$36 – Annual Member**

☐ **\$50 – Supporting Member**

☐ **\$100 – Sponsor**

☐ **\$250 – Sustaining Member**

☐ **\$500 – Benefactor**

☐ **\$1,000 – Patron**

Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home tel. #: _____ Fax #: _____ E-mail address: _____

Contributions to the **Texas Jewish Historical Society** are tax deductible within the limits of the law.
Please clip and send with your check to **TJHS**, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193.

This & That...

TJHS past President Ginger Jacobs from Dallas has been recently honored by the Zionist organization of America for lifetime achievement. Ginger has been a member of ZOA for many years.

Laurie Gudzikowski of the Institute of Texan Cultures has just been named acting Director of Programs. She has been a great friend of TJHS and we congratulate her as she is named permanent director. Our exhibit, which has recently been remodeled and enlarged, has had a vastly improved attendance.

Our apologies to Dr. Nathan Cedars for the misspelling of his name in our last newsletter. Congratulations again for your honor for the governor's volunteer award for 1998.

Bob Davis' project, *Virtual Restoration of Small-Town Synagogues in Texas*, will be included in the February issue of *Heritage Magazine*, published by the Texas Historical Foundation.

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter is **May 15, 1999**. All articles should be sent to Jack Gerrick, 4308 Sarita Dr., Ft. Worth, TX 76109, or faxed to him at (817) 924-5595.

Welcome New Members!

July 1, 1998 to Dec 1, 1998

Margie Abrams, Houston
Steve Axelrath, Littleton, Colorado
Helen Breen, Beaumont
Congregation Agudas Achim, San Antonio
Dallas Jewish Historical Society, Dallas
Harold Eisenman, Houston
Annette Gedaly, Beaumont
Hattie Lee Gleichenhaus, San Antonio
Barbara Goldstein, Houston
Marvin and Annabelle Korn, Georgetown
Jack and Muriel Kronick, Houston
Dr. Jack and Jenice Levine, Houston
Steve and Linda (Hyman) Levine, Dallas
Naman and Esther Lipinsky, Waco
Melissa Mantel, Houston
Larry and Bernice (Cohn) Mazer, San Antonio
Harold and Leah (Lichtenstein) Pullman, Dallas
Jackie Rosenwasser, Wilmette, IL
Marjorie Rumsey, Houston

**Texas Jewish
Historical Society**

P.O. Box 10193
Austin, Texas 78766-0193

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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1999 TJHS Annual Gathering Registration

*This is the **ONLY** registration form for the Gathering.
Please list name of each person attending.*

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Registration fee for members: \$149.00 X _____ persons = Total \$ _____

Registration fee for non-members: \$185.00 X _____ persons = Total \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

No refunds after April 1, 1999

Please make checks payable to "TJHS" and mail to:

Texas Jewish Historical Society, c/o Fay Brachman
3720 Autumn Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Transportation Inquiry

Please check the following if applicable:

- _____ I will need transportation in Fort Worth
_____ I will have a car and will be happy to provide transportation for others.
_____ How many will be on bus tour of Fort Worth (must know)

Don't Forget to Call!!!!

The Radisson Hotel

815 Main Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Tel. (817)870-2100 or 800-333-3333
TJHS rate: \$89.00 Single or Double Room

Reservations must be made by April 1– Airport shuttle from DFW \$4.00 for Senior Citizens

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