

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

May, 2009

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas  
Est. 1980



## — Reflections on the Creations of TJHS — by Rabbi Jimmy Kessler

Presented at the 30th Annual Gathering in College Station, Texas, April 2009

I arrived at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in June, 1967. Eugene Levy of San Antonio and I set out in my new car, a Buick Opel,

and drove the truck to HUC. The rumor upon our arrival was that the Jews from Texas were so rich that we saved the rubber on the tires of the car by putting the vehicle in a rental truck and drove the truck to the Queen City from Houston.

So began one-third of Texas Jewish History known to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The other two-thirds consisted of two cards in the card catalogue of the American Jewish Archives housed on the campus of HUC-JIR in Cincinnati.

One card indicated that the original records of the split of



TJHS Treasurer Ruth Nathan and TJHS President Sally Drayer accepting a check from Rabbi Jimmy Kessler on behalf of the Texas Kallah of Rabbis, which has disbanded.

which broke down in Nashville, Tennessee. We put it in a U-Haul truck

Congregation Beth Israel in Houston were stored in a restricted collection.

The other card reported that a collection of the writings of Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston, Texas were available for reading in the collection of the Archives.

Can you imagine two cards on the entire state of Texas and the history of its Jews!

A dozen years later I am having lunch with a few folks in Galveston, including a member of my congregation, Temple B'nai Israel. After listening to me bemoan the absence of a significant record of the Texas Jewish experience, Harris L. Kempner, my congregant, invited me to either put up or shut up. He offered to finance a state wide meeting that would establish a group to preserve and publish this yet-to-be-cared-for historical experience.

So with Harris' \$3,000, I set about organizing a meeting. I called my friends, Lonnie Schooler and David Schwarz, and nudged them to help me

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# Message from the President

by Sally Drayer

I would like to thank Anita Feigenbaum and her committee for hosting the 30th Annual Gathering in College Station. It was a weekend of connecting with friends. It was nice to return to Aggieland in a different capacity from that of an Aggie mom, when I had to schlep clothes and dorm items to and from my children's dorm rooms!

The weekend began with our Board of Directors meeting on Friday afternoon. On Friday evening, our hosts for dinner were Anita and Leslie Feigenbaum—thank you for opening your home to the society. We attended services after dinner at Con-



gregation Beth Shalom.

On Saturday morning, we returned to the Temple for breakfast and to hear fellow member Kay Goldman speak about

Post Civil War Texas Jewish businessmen in their communities. Lunch was on our own, and the afternoon was spent either touring the Messina Hof Winery, touring the George Bush Presidential Library, sightseeing in Bryan, or walking the Bonfire Memorial.

The Saturday evening Havdalah was lead by our past presidents. A

barbershop quartet entertained everyone with "oldies, but goodies." This was followed by a presentation by Past Presidents Rabbi Jimmy Kessler and Lonnie Schooler, who explained the history of how the society came to be. Past Presidents were honored by Rusty Milstein, Davie Lou Solka, and me, by recognizing them and their respective terms of office. Our guest speaker was Rabbi Peter Tarlow, Executive Director of the TAMU Hillel and TJHS member, who spoke about the Jewish presence in Bryan/College Station. Dena Kahan showed slides of Temple Freda, the cemetery, and of the College Station community.

Sunday morning's continental breakfast was followed by the annual general membership meeting with the installation of new board members and officers.

Our summer board meeting will be held the weekend of June 27th in Rockport. Come early on Saturday to relax and enjoy the beach.

Our fall board meeting will be held in Austin the weekend of September 12th. We will have an opportunity to tour the Bob Bullock State History Museum's exhibit, "Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island." Several of our members are involved with the project and I hope many of you come to see

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## The Texas Jewish Historical Society May 2009 Quarterly News Magazine

The Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine is published four times annually. Stories about Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents. Please provide color photocopies or scan at 300 dpi or greater, in .gif, .tif, or .jpg format and send electronically to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka at editor@txjhs.org or mail to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, 512-527-3799. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

**Publisher-Editor** Alexa Kirk  
**Assistant Editor** Davie Lou Solka  
**Photographer** Marvin Rich

Note: The Texas Jewish Historical Society is unable to guarantee the safe receipt and/or return of documents or photographs. It is strongly recommended that you provide color photocopies of both color and black & white documents. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Visit us on the web at [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org).*



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[www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org)

# — Morris Hoffman, Mayor of Dublin, Texas —

by Jon Awbrey, staff writer

Reprinted with permission from the *Dublin Citizen*

**December 4, 2008.** Morris

Hoffman was born in Nizien, Chernigof district, Russia on April 15, 1889 to Jewish parents, and grew up speaking Yiddish in his parents' home. By the time he was eleven, Hoffman was already working a shift in a Russian machine factory.

There was no money and no time for school. Of Hoffman's youth, only three years were spent in any sort of school, and those years were Russian years.

In 1904, Hoffman, at the age of fourteen, immigrated to the United States with his parents and seven siblings, preferring the opportunity of the United States to the anti-Semitism of Czarist Russia—an empire whose monarchs had, in the words of Hoffman himself, "persecuted his

people for ages."

The Hoffmans first touched American soil at Galveston, but soon settled in North Texas, setting up house in Fort Worth, Weatherford, and Mingus, where they learned their first words of English.

As far as Morris Hoffman was concerned, that was half of life's battle. "I think maybe," Hoffman once told a Dallas reporter, "that the best thing that ever happened to me was that Poppa didn't miss that boat." Also of importance to Hoffman was his naturalization as an American citizen, a process he began almost as soon as he got off the boat.

By 1910, Morris Hoffman had settled in Cisco, where he resided with a brother and sister-in-law, H. and Annie Hoffman. In Cisco, the

Hoffman brothers operated a banana stand, probably in association with an extended family of Hoffmans – Alley and Sarah Hoffman who, with their children, Rosa, Abe, Sallie, Leo, and Bay, were "fruit peddlers" in Mineral Wells.

That same year, when he was twenty-one, Morris Hoffman married his wife, Esther, also a Russian-born Jew and recent immigrant, in Fort Worth. In 1912, Morris and Esther Hoffman made their home in Dublin, where they became naturalized citizens of the United States three years later upon the order of District Court Judge Oxford of Stephenville.

Hoffman's banana sales skyrocketed once he set up his cart in Dublin,

convincing him that Dublin was a city of vast opportunity.

By 1920, Hoffman no longer had to work out of a street cart. In just a few years, he had risen from a street vendor to a town merchant, establishing himself as a grocer and dry goods merchant on Patrick Street. Working the counter of Hoffman's Dublin Fruit Company was his brother, Abe Hoffman, ten years his junior, who had joined Hoffman in Dublin and resided in the Morris Hoffman household. By this time, the household consisted of Morris and Esther Hoffman and their children, Max, age nine, Solomon, age six, and Fannie, age two.

During the following decade, Morris Hoffman, now residing on Church Street, moved beyond the grocery business, and set himself up as a cotton buyer. Soon, his businesses expanded to include a contracting company and an iron and metal company. As one of only two Jewish families in town, the Hoffmans had some difficulty in observing their religious obligations. In Dublin, there was no synagogue, and the closest one was one hundred miles away. So, the Hoffmans celebrated Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah in the home of Dublin's other notable Jewish merchant, W. H. Novit, who had purchased all the necessities for holding religious ceremonies in his home. Also attending these services were many Jewish families who had settled in neighboring counties, creating a true fellowship of the Jewish faithful in Dublin.

Much too old to fight in 1941, Hoffman was a principal figure in central Texas war production, collecting tons of scrap iron for the government during the dark days of the Second World War. He was so dedicated to

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the cause that he put the financial stability of his own family at risk to defeat Nazi Germany. By the end of the war, Hoffman had shipped 350 train cars of usable metal to the War Department, metal that he could have sold to provide for his own family. Newspapers of the era proclaimed that Hoffman was only doing his patriotic duty, but without a doubt, Hoffman's interest in the war appeared to go far beyond flag and country.

On April 12, 1949, Morris Hoffman was elected mayor of Dublin.

During the 1950s, Dublin was experiencing a new wave of growth. Employment was at an all time high, and factories such as Gillsam Manufacturing Company—a plant that made raincoats and military uniforms—had begun setting up shop in Dublin.

In addition, Hoffman's time as Dublin's mayor coincided with the creation of many projects that are used city-wide today, including the city swimming pool, most paved streets, and much of the city's low-rent housing. Hoffman and the city council oversaw the creation of a number of important and modern projects.

Hoffman presided over the opening of the North Side Addition, and the opening of a number of new city streets including Hawk, Dove, Henry, Hurt, and Travis to stimulate home-building in the northwest side of town.

Late in his fifth term as Dublin's

mayor in 1958, Hoffman oversaw a complete summer recreational program for Dublin that included swimming instruction at the city pool, little league, the creation of a miniature golf course at the city park, and a city recreational hall that provided a venue for roller skating. He also supported the first weekly garbage collection in Dublin for which each city resident paid fifty cents per month.

Hoffman, seeking his sixth term as mayor of Dublin, was unseated from his post on April 14, 1959, by Charles B. Bradberry, who won the mayoral election by some one hundred votes. In that year, a gradual decrease in the number of local businesses had begun to grow large enough to be felt, as area headlines began hinting at an economic slowdown after the postwar boom years.

In addition to his service as mayor, Morris Hoffman was also active in the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, and owned commercial real estate in downtown Dublin.

As a personality, Hoffman was very much an entertainer, as evidenced by a number of news stories that circulated in the Associated Press. On St. Patrick's Day, Hoffman wore a shamrock in his lapel and said that it was "to help the Irish celebrate." His dedication to all things Dublin earned him an invitation to be part of a Dallas welcoming committee for Robert Briscoe, Lord Mayor of

Dublin, Ireland, during his tour of the United States in 1957.

Following his failed election bid in 1959, Hoffman returned to his contracting and metal business until age and infirmity forced him into a slower pace. But the legacy of his struggle and success against long odds did not dim with his retirement.

On April 10, 1970, while residing in a nursing home in Dallas, he received a letter from President Richard Nixon. "The story of your life," wrote Nixon, "is the fulfillment of one of the best aspects of the American dream. You have set a splendid example for your fellow citizens, and I hope you are enjoying the satisfaction and happiness you so richly deserve."

Morris Hoffman died in Dallas, on February 2, 1971, after a lingering illness and was buried in Waco at Agudath Jacob Cemetery. He was survived by his three children, Max Hoffman of Mineral Wells, Sol Hoffman of San Pedro, California, and Fannie Mae Beno of Dallas. Following his death, State Majority Leader Jim Wright sent a letter to the Dublin Historical Society, commending Hoffman's well-documented scrap iron work during World War II. "Let me just say as one of those who fought in that war," wrote Wright, "that everyone in the armed forces really appreciated the patriotic efforts of Americans back home like Mayor Hoffman." 

the exhibit.

We are going to travel north for our winter meeting to Tulsa, Oklahoma. At this time, no date has been set but we will be visiting the Jewish Community in Tulsa, connecting and making new friends.

The 2010 Annual Gathering will be held in Dallas, and the host committee is working on the plans.

Our membership directory will be out this spring/summer. Please make sure your information is updated.

I want to thank the outgoing officers and members for serving on the Board and welcome the new executive board members and Board of Directors. Thank you for your commitment to the Society and its mission.

I extend an invitation to all mem-

bers to come to our meetings throughout the year to learn more of our Jewish heritage in Texas. We explore our roots, make new friends, and reconnect with friends we've had for years.



President, 2008-2010

# — Asst. Prof. Bryan Stone, TJHS Member — to Teach at Ut-Austin's First Texas Jewish History Course by Hollace Weiner

"Texas Jews," a new three-credit history course developed by Dr. Bryan Stone, will be offered at the University of Texas this summer, June 4 to July 11.

The undergraduate class will explore both the historical reality and the mythic perceptions of Texas Jews through an approach that includes biography, sociology, cowboy poetry, archival documents, and survey histories. Students will examine the complexities of Texas-Jewish identity and draw parallels to Jewish experiences elsewhere in the United States.

Dr. Stone, a Dallas native and TJHS member, writes in the course description that the Jewish population of Texas numbers more than 130,000 people—larger than that of any southern state except Florida, or any western state except California. "Yet, as Kinky Friedman's career demonstrates, something about the idea of a Texas Jew can still provoke laughter."

The main textbook for the "Texas Jews" class will be *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, the anthology that the TJHS published in 2007 with Brandeis University Press.

Also on the summer reading list are Bernard Marinbach's *Galveston: Ellis Island of the West*, Kinky Friedman's *Road Kill*, Hollace Weiner's *Jewish 'Junior League': The Rise and Demise of the Fort Worth Council of Jewish Women*, and novelist Sharon Kahn's *Fax Me a Bagel*.

In addition, students will read "The Immigrant," a drama by Mark Harelak, which takes place in Hamilton, Texas. The playwright's parents, Milton and Dorothy Harelak, have been longtime



Bryan E. Stone, Ph.D.

board members of the TJHS.

Dr. Robert H. Abzug, director of UT's Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies and TJHS Board Member, approached Dr. Stone several months ago about developing and teaching a course on Texas Jewry. Dr. Stone, an assistant professor at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, is the author of the *The Chosen Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas*, which the University of Texas Press plans to publish next year. Dr. Stone's essay, "On the Frontier: Jews Without Judaism," is included in *Lone Stars of David*. He also wrote the article about Texas in the revised *Encyclopedie Judaica*.

The University of Texas joins a half a dozen other campuses that have offered courses about Jews of the South.

Dr. Scott Langston, who is a new member of the TJHS board, recently taught "Jews and the American South" at the University of North

Texas in Denton. The upper-level undergraduate history class was offered under the aegis of UNT's Jewish Studies Program. Of the twenty-five students who enrolled, only one or two were Jewish. At the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Dr. Marcie Ferris teaches the class "Shalom Ya'll: The Jewish Experience in the American South." It falls under the American studies curriculum. For textbooks, both Ferris and Langston use the anthology *Dixie Diaspora*, which includes Hollace Weiner's essay, "The Mixers: The Role of Rabbis Deep in the Heart of Texas."

At Emory University, Professor Eric Goldstein has twice taught a course on Southern Jewish History. The College of Charleston will institute a course in the fall taught by Dr. Adam Mendelsohn. Duke, the University of Virginia, and Rollins College have also offered courses in Southern Jewish History. 

## WANT THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

Would you like to save paper and instead receive this newsletter by email? You would be able to read the latest TJHS news in your inbox days before it would be scheduled to arrive in your mail box. Please send an email to alexa.kirk@gmail.com indicating that you would like to be on the email list. (The usual size of the newsletter is 2 MB.)

# Honor or Memorialize a Friend or a Loved One With a Donation to the TJHS Endowment Fund

When you honor or memorialize a friend or a loved one with a donation to the Texas Jewish Historical Society's Endowment Fund, you help support important programs. Send the honoree's full name, type of honor (memorial, congratulations, and occasion—birthday, anniversary, award, new child or grandchild, etc.) and your name, along with a check in the amount of your choice to:

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

Your support of Texas Jewish Historical Society's programs is greatly appreciated and will be recognized in an issue of the quarterly news magazine. Thank you.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society gratefully acknowledges your gift to its Endowment Fund in the amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Acknowledge To:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Donor Information:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Contributions

*The following donations have been received by the Texas Jewish Historical Society since January, 2009.*

### **In Memory of Winston Heidenheimer From**

*Ima Joy Gandler  
Mickey & Noel Graubart  
Jan & Charles Hart  
Beverly & Jake Trachtenberg*

### **In Memory of Berta Schlesinger From**

*Ima Joy Gandler*

### **In Honor of Susan Septimus From Ima Joy Gandler**

### **In Memory of David Lack From**

*Ileene Rosenfield Robinson  
Davie Lou & Jack Solka*

### **In Honor of the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Gertrude & Don Teter From**

*Susan Rosenbaum and Eric Schoen  
Harry & Dena Sokolow  
Jo Marks*

## Save the Date!

Sherry Zander will have an exhibit of her photographs of small town synagogues at the Dell Jewish Community Center in Austin, Texas on October 2-13, 2009.



# **"A Fair to Remember"**

## **by Allen & Cynthia Salzman Mondell**

### **Selected for World Tour**

The United States State Department has selected the award-winning documentary, *A Fair To Remember*, as one of thirty films included in the prestigious 2009 American Documentary Showcase. The films will represent the United States at special screenings around the world during 2009.



Filmmakers Allen and Cynthia Salzman Mondell said, "We are thrilled to share our film about this grand Dallas tradition with audiences around the world. It will be a proud ambassador for the entire Lone Star State!"

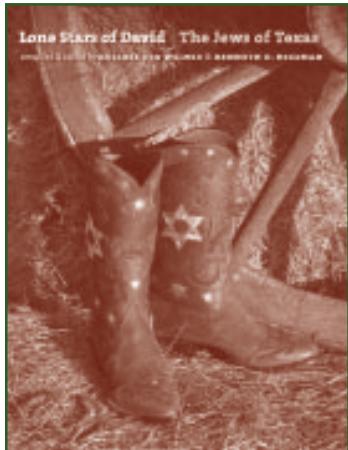
*A Fair To Remember* is the only Texas

film chosen for the 2009 State Department tour, which is coordinated by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. "The American Documentary Showcase is intended to offer a broad and diversified look at American life and the values of a democratic society, as seen by American documentary filmmakers," said Dr. Betsy A. McLane, Program Director. 

## **Iceland and the Jews of Texas**

Atlantica, the in-flight magazine for all international Icelandair flights,

recommended six books for the December book-buying season as suggested by readers of



their website. Vickie Vogel submitted the recent TJHS publication *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, and we are delighted to have been chosen. An illustration of the book cover with the custom-made boots accompanied Vickie's description of the work, which had to be twenty-five words or less:

"Vickie, retired attorney, U.S.: *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of*

*Texas*, edited by Hollace Ava Weiner and Kenneth D. Roseman. It's a book about Jewish cowboys and wildcat oilmen, Neiman-Marcus, and the legendary Galveston Rabbi , Henry Cohen. Think outside the Bronx."

To learn more about Atlantica and/or Iceland, which has no Jewish community, but does have a number of Palestinian refugees from Iraq, visit [www.icelandreview.com](http://www.icelandreview.com). 

## **We need Your Stories!**

We are currently looking for stories with ties to Texas Jewish history! Any kind of story about your family history or your Temple's history can fill the pages of our quarterly newsletter. You can write it, or call our editor for an in-depth interview, and it can be written for you!

Everyone has a story to tell, long or short. Your history is of interest to members across Texas and the

nation! And you will be able to see your family's history in print. It is a wonderful keepsake and a valuable piece of genealogy for future generations.

So what are you waiting for? Send in your article to our assistant editor, Davie Lou Solka, at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org), mail it to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, or call her at 512-527-3799.

**The deadline for  
the June,  
2009 TJHS  
Newsletter is  
June 19.**

# Jacob Lipstate, Tyler Texas

## by Syl Polunsky

The following information was sent to us by Syl Polunsky, whose wife, Carol, is a cousin to Eugene Lipstate.

During the Spanish American War, Jacob Lipstate sponsored a militia out of Tyler called the Lipstate Rifles, according to his grandson, Eugene Lipstate from Lafayette, Louisiana and Tyler, Texas. Jacob's oldest son, Eugene's uncle, graduated from the

Naval Academy in 1907, and when he left the service he went to graduate school at Columbia University. Unfortunately, he died an untimely death in New York in the twenties.

Jacob founded the Lipstate Dry Goods Store in Tyler, and was very successful in that business. After World War I, he sent the sum of \$60,000 to his family in Germany,

which made a "big dent" in the family's finances just prior to the Big Depression. Jacob passed away about this time and his son, Phillip Lipstate (Eugene's father) took over the store. However, the store burned down in 1932 or 1933, but Phillip did not mind. He went into the oil business since the East Texas oil field had just been discovered. 

### *Reflections from the Creation of TJHS, continued from page 1*

put together a meeting. Then I chose San Antonio for the location because of the presence of the Alamo and also the new Institute of Texan Cultures. I called Rabbi Jacob Radar Marcus, PhD, the father of American Jewish history who was teaching at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and asked him to give the keynote address. His presence was a necessity, and he agreed to attend. I then chose to publish a letter in the three Jewish-Anglo-presses in Houston, Dallas, and Fort Worth calling for all those interested in the history of the Jews to come to San Antonio for a meeting.

In January, 1980, a hundred Jews from all over Texas gathered in San Antonio to hear Rabbi Marcus speak on the concept of preserving the American Jewish experience. Following the lecture, the group constituted itself as a meeting, and by acclamation declared the establishment of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. I was elected the first and founding president.

Dr. Marcus, a past president of the American Jewish Historical Society, issued four stern warnings at that time. The first was to never own a building. There would always be a group of Jews who would want to have you take over their building, and

that would surely be the death of the society. That group couldn't afford to keep it up, and neither could a statewide society. In that same regard, he suggested we never have an office or a professional staff. If the society could remain fluid and without fixed expenses, it could survive and grow; it did and it has.

Secondly Dr. Marcus urged us to find a way to maintain an archive without having to pay for it. Documents don't earn money, but cost a great deal to preserve and disseminate. In response to this, I contacted Dr. Don Carleton, the then-Director of the Barker Texas History Center (now the Center for American History) at UT Austin. He immediately agreed to designate a Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection in their archive and in exchange for caring for the materials and making them available, the materials would become the property of the Center. The TJHS agreed to this arrangement and it has now been in force for thirty years. The idea was not to interfere or replace local collections, but to maintain a repository for materials that had no secure home in their locale.

The third warning was that the Society should never lend its name to a publication or project unless some other professional or commercial

group had invested in the effort. This would keep the Society from having to judge another's work and being involved with personality issues.

Clearly, this has been good advice.

The fourth and final warning was directed at me. Dr. Marcus warned me not to become the perpetual President of the organization. Moreover, he suggested that after my term of office, I should disappear for a few years. He felt my absence would insure that there would be others seriously interested in the organization who would be willing to take on the leadership of the new group. I followed his advice and I only have to look at the past three decades to see the validity in his recommendation.

After the first meeting in San Antonio, the next Gathering was held in Dallas in 1983, with Frances Kallison of San Antonio serving as President.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society represents the achievement of hundreds of folk who have espoused an interest in the Texas Jewish experience. Their labors have insured that the efforts of those Jews who settled in the Lone Star State would not go unnoticed. Today's members include those who were present at the beginning, as well as others who have joined in later—all of whom represent the heirs to and keepers of a rich heritage. 

# From Our Archives

by Vickie Vogel

*This is the first in a series of articles on materials and information that can be found in the TJHS archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas in Austin. If you would like to write an article on any of the items in the archives, please visit <http://www.cah.utexas.edu/services/using.php>.*

## The Sarah Klass Linens

by Vickie Vogel

Sarah Schatz Klass was born May 17, 1886 in Blaszki, Poland, a village outside Warsaw, to Rabbi Hershel and Brucha Schatz. In this era, fine needlework required a skill sought by many young women to beautify their current or future homes. Sarah's needlework started with her trousseau in the early 1900's in Poland. She married Joseph Klass (originally Okladek) in 1909.



Joseph had an adventurous nature and decided to emigrate, his destination the United States. He arrived in Galveston on June 6, 1914 and settled in Wichita Falls, by way of Fort Worth. Delayed by World War I, Sarah and their daughter Trudy stayed with her parents and did not arrive until 1921.

In Wichita Falls, Joseph owned and ran a feed and grain store while Sarah had an adjoining old-fashioned general store and grocery. They called their enterprise General Feed and Grocery Store. After Joseph died in 1942, Sarah continued managing the business until around 1947 and stayed in Wichita Falls until 1951.<sup>1</sup>

The Sarah Klass Linen Collection contains some sixteen examples of

cutwork, embroidery, appliquéd, and crochet that Sarah made for the use and enjoyment of her family. There are several pairs of pillow cases of luxuriously thick linen, purchased with a pre-stamped design. Skillfully embroidered with neat, tiny stitches, the insides look almost as fine as the outsides. Sarah's beautiful

handwork won a prize at the State Fair of Texas in the 1930s. Probably taught embroidery and crochet by her mother in Poland, Sarah continued to enjoy handwork until she became ill in her 70s.<sup>2</sup>

To do cutwork, a close covering of thread is laid down, leaving a small area completely surrounded by stitches. This area is then carefully clipped away, leaving a lace-like appearance. The pillowcases are hem-stitched and a delicate edging of crochet is added to the scalloped edge.

The pillowcase patterns include the ever-popular "His" and "Her" design in daisy loops with cross-stitched leaves setting off the letters. The linens are yellowed with age in places, and one pair (white on



white butterflies with the initials "S.K." in the center) appears to have suffered water or mildew damage. The beauty of the workmanship is only slightly diminished by these inevitable signs of age. The pillowcases are marked with yellowing where they have been folded.

Also in the collection are two whimsical cross-stitched hand towels of a painter with a large paint brush drawing the message "For Your Lips" on one and "For Your Fingertips" on the other. They appear to be from the 1920s.

*continued on page 10*



Sarah was considered an excellent cook, and there are several appliquéd luncheon table covers and tiny napkins, embroidered with cherries and pears, bananas and berries. The hems have been turned to the front and secured with a broad buttonhole stitch. The hems on all the pieces are completely covered with embroidery stitches before the crocheted edging is added. A second luncheon set boasts a floral design. A plain white damask table cloth and napkins were used for her Shabbat table.

A very large dish towel, whose embroidery has deteriorated but is still visible, depicts a woman in the kitchen with the German lettering “Froh erfülle deine Pflicht.” This phrase means “Gladly Accept Your Sense of Duty.” At the end of the 19th century, textiles often contained admonitions to women to remind them of society’s perceived role for them. Sarah became a modern American woman who combined domesticity with business experience, but the phrase reminds us of the limited role for women in earlier times. Perfect domesticity was considered woman’s path and goal.<sup>3</sup> These reminders were especially popular in Germany around 1900.<sup>4</sup> Although Sarah lived in Poland, her village was near the German border and must have had a good selection of stamped linens from Germany.<sup>5</sup>

An unworked pair of pillowcases still bears the price tag from A. Harris for \$1.59. A lovely pink table cloth and napkins of peacock design are half completed.

The most unusual piece in the collection springs from the National Industrial Recovery Act passed by Congress in 1933, which regulated banks and injected government spending into the economy in an effort to lead the nation out of the Great Depression. The NIRA created the NRA (National Recovery Administration) and the PWA (Public Works Administration).<sup>6</sup>

The Klass NRA member banner, which hung in their store in Wichita Falls, states, “We Do Our Part.” The letters are embroidered in a thick satin stitch on a feed sack and the well-known Blue Eagle is appliquéd underneath. It is clearly patterned after the poster which hung in businesses and store windows, and appeared on pack-



ages and in advertisements.<sup>7</sup> The Blue Eagle, a thunderbird with outstretched wings, symbolised commitment to President Roosevelt’s fair competition rules and support of the NRA. Consumers were urged to shop where the symbol was displayed.<sup>8</sup>

Sarah Klass died in 1968 in New Jersey at the age of 82. She and Joseph are buried at Hebrew Rest Cemetery, Wichita Falls.<sup>9</sup>

In 2007, TJHS member Enid Klass of New York donated her mother’s hand-worked linens to our archives in Austin, where you can view them by appointment.<sup>10</sup> The Klass Linen Collection reminds us that not only paper history should be preserved, but also fiber reminders of our past.

### References

<sup>1</sup> Enid Klass, “A Brief History of My Family,” unpublished. Sarah Klass lived in Dallas from 1951-1959. 2007

<sup>2</sup> Enid Klass, “Mama” unpublished. 2009

<sup>3</sup> [www.marktbreit.de/museum/](http://www.marktbreit.de/museum/)

rueckblick7.htm Translated by Google.

<sup>4</sup> [www.ruhrwaerts.de/ruhrwaerts/index.nsf/url/D64CBF2B6519F003C125727B004DB076?](http://www.ruhrwaerts.de/ruhrwaerts/index.nsf/url/D64CBF2B6519F003C125727B004DB076?) Translated by Google

<sup>5</sup> Enid Klass, phone conversation with the author, February 4, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Not to be confused with the Works Progress Administration that came later. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Industrial\\_Recovery\\_Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Industrial_Recovery_Act)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> The emblem was abolished in 1935 when the NIRA was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. Further use of the symbol was prohibited. When the Philadelphia football team was organized in 1933, the owner named the team the Eagles after this symbol. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue\\_Eagle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Eagle)

<sup>9</sup> Enid Klass, “Mama,” unpublished. 2009

<sup>10</sup> The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, with thanks to Lynn Bell, Assistant Director for Exhibits and Material Culture for her help in viewing the collection. Bell says the ideal storage for such pieces is for them to lie flat. Unfortunately, space is not always available for boxes or drawers of the right size. The Klass Linens have been catalogued, and each given a tag with a number before being lovingly placed in archival boxes with acid-free paper and as little folding as possible. To store your own fabric treasures, Bell recommends that if they cannot lie flat, use acid-free paper to fluff the fold areas to prevent permanent creasing. If this is not practicable, re-fold the items at frequent intervals. In the archives, costumes, and clothing are stored on hangers unless they are too fragile to support weight. Acid-free paper is placed inside to prevent folding of the fabric. 



# Texas Jewish Historical Society

## Summer Board Meeting

### June 27-28, 2009 in Rockport, Texas

at the **Rockport-Fulton Hampton Inn & Suites**

3677 Highway 35 North, Reservations 361-727-2228

*Ask for the TJHS rate of \$129 per night*

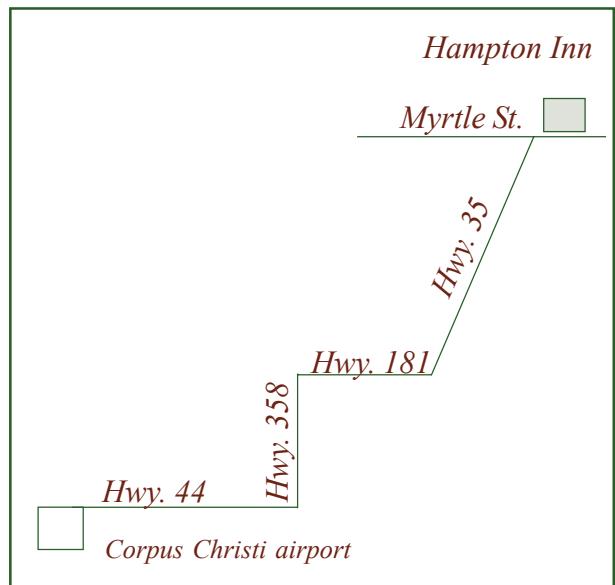
**Deadline for Hotel Reservations is June 13, 2009**

#### Saturday, June 27, 2009

- 5:30 PM Dinner at Latitude Restaurant.  
6:30 PM Dessert at the home of Phil and Elaine Albin,  
1893 Bay Shore Drive

#### Sunday, June 28, 2009

- 6:00 - 8:30 AM Breakfast supplied by hotel  
9:00 AM Board Meeting



## Summer Meeting Registration Form

**Deadline for Registration is June 13, 2009.**

Please list name of each person attending:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$30 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$\_\_\_\_\_  
*(number attending)*

Mail form and check made out to TJHS to: Elaine Albin,  
1893 Bay Shore Dr., Rockport, TX 78382.  
If you have any questions, contact Elaine  
at 316-729-6487.

Please indicate your choice for dinner:  
Guest 1 Guest 2

- Beef Burgundy        
 Blackened Chicken        
 Fish Gilroy

# TJHS 30th Annual Gathering

TJHS 30th  
Annual  
Gathering.



Rosalie Weisfeld, Sally Drayer, Charlene Hertz,  
and Norma Albert.



Rabbi Peter Tarlow from College Station, was the speaker on Saturday night.



Dena Kahan from College Station.

# — College Station, April 24-26, 2009 —



Havdalah with Past Presidents Marvin Rich, Vickie Vogel, Charles Hart, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, and Lonnie Schooler.



Board meeting on Friday afternoon. Front row: Selma Mantel. Second row: Raye Brown, Bob Gindler, Samylu Rubin, and Roy Elsner. Back row: Vickie Vogel and Max Stool.



Past President Barbara Rosenberg installed the 2009 -2010 officers: Sally Drayer, Rusty Milstein, Ruth Nathan, Samylu Rubin, Marc Wormser, and Ima Joy Gandler.

# Past Presidents Honored and Their Achievements Recognized at the 30th Annual Gathering in College Station, Texas

**Rabbi James Kessler**, from Galveston, served as TJHS president from 1980 to 1982. The first Gathering was held January 26, 1980, with Dr. Jacob R. Marcus giving the keynote address. In February of 1980, the Society was incorporated by the State of Texas, and in March of that year, an agreement with Dr. Don Carleton at the Barker (now the Center for American History) at the University of Texas was signed to establish the TJHS Collection for members to send family materials. The first newsletter was printed in August, 1980.

**Frances Kallison**, from San Antonio, served as president from 1982 to 1984, with the next Gathering held in Dallas in February, 1983. Partial funding for *West of Hester Street*, a movie in production by Allen and Cynthia Mondell, was granted.

**Lionel Schooler** of Houston served as president from 1984 to 1986 with regional meetings held in Houston and Dallas, and one Gathering in San Antonio in 1985 and another in Dallas in 1986. An essay contest for elementary and high school students was established and a Publication Committee was formed for newsletters and other items of interest.

**Ed Lax** of Dallas was elected president in March, 1986, but passed away in October. Ginger Jacobs of Dallas assumed the presidency.

**Ginger Jacobs** served as president from 1986 to 1989. During her term, meetings were held in Austin, Houston, Dallas, and Marshall. Gatherings were held in Fort Worth in March, 1987, Austin in March, 1988, and in Jefferson in 1989. Research for *Handbook of Texas* began with a goal to double the number of present

entries. The Society helped fund the purchase of a Texas Historical Marker for Jacob de Cordova in Waco. Five hundred dollars was allocated to collect data on extinct early Jewish communities, and the Newsletter began to be printed four times annually. *Reflections of Southern Jewry*, edited by Louis Schmier, was available only from TJHS. The first joint session with the Texas State Historical Asso-

awarded. An oral history of Soviet Jews who had immigrated to Houston, and an oral history of Helen and Rabbi David Jacobson of San Antonio were funded.

Membership grew to 550 by 1991 and Milton Smith pledged \$5,000, payable over five years to establish a permanent Endowment Fund.

**Fay Brachman** of Fort Worth served as president 1991 to 1993.



Sally Drayer & Davie Lou Solka reading achievements of each President during their term of office: Vickie Vogel, Marvin Rich, Charles Hart, Barbara Rosenberg, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler.

ciation was held prior to the 1988 Gathering in Austin.

**Milton Smith**, from Austin, became president in 1989 and served until 1991. Meetings were held in Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, and Dallas and Gatherings were in Austin in 1990, and at Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas in 1991. *Deep in the Heart*, by Cathy Schechter and Ruthie Weingarten and a Curriculum Guide was published in 1990. The Board of Directors was enlarged and a file cabinet for records was acquired. Partial funding for *West of Hester Street*, a movie by Allen and Cynthia Mondell, and *This is our Home—It is Not For Sale*, a documentary by Jon Schwartz, was

Meetings were held in San Antonio, Fort Worth, Brenham, Waco, and Houston, and Gatherings were held in Galveston in 1992 and in San Antonio in 1993. Members were given the opportunity to participate in the Scroll Project in Galveston, and the Microfilm Project—which involved placing Texas Jewish newspapers on microfilm—was begun. Money was funded for microfilming the *Jewish Herald Voice* of Houston.

**Don Teter** of Baytown was president from 1993 until 1995. Meetings were held in Austin, Corpus Christi, Tyler, and Fort Worth. The 1994 Gathering was in El Paso, and the 1995 Gathering was in Houston.

*continued on page 15*

Guidelines for grant applications were established and a journal by Howard Lackman was published. Renovations on the Jewish Exhibit at the Institute of Texan Culture in San Antonio were begun with funding from TJHS. A trip for TJHS members to Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, and Matamoros, was led by Don and Gertrude Teter. A video documentary, *At Home on the Range*, by Brian Cohen, was partially funded. A videotape of Dr. Jacob R. Marcus, the Father of American Jewish History who spoke at the first meeting of TJHS, was made, which reflected on Texas Jewish History (see his remarks in the first newsletter which was reprinted in the last issue).

**Barbara Rosenberg** of Sugarland was president from 1995 to 1998. Meetings were held in San Angelo, Beaumont, Austin, Sugarland, and McAllen, and a joint meeting with the Southern Jewish Historical Society was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Gatherings were held in Longview in 1996, Corpus Christi in 1997, and in San Antonio in 1998. Grants were awarded to help document vanishing Jewish cemeteries in Texas, and to help Robert Davis of Houston to reproduce his computer imagery of small town Texas Synagogues. An additional \$15,000 was given to the Institute of Texan Culture in San Antonio to renovate the Jewish exhibit. A Speaker's Bureau was formed. All of the archival materials at the Barker in Austin were fully catalogued. A bus tour for TJHS members to Jackson and Utica, Mississippi, and Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee was held, along with a historical trip to Savannah and Charleston that was co-sponsored with the JCC of Houston. A staged reading of the play, *The Immigrant* by Mark Harelak was presented at the 1997 Gathering in Corpus Christi, and the exhibit at the Institute of Texan Cultures opened at the 1998 Gathering in San Antonio. Trophies and cash

awards were presented on behalf of TJHS to the winners of the first annual Jewish History Award in the essay division for Texas History Day. The first Past President's pin was presented to Barbara Rosenberg, and afterward, all previous past presidents were given a pin as a gift from TJHS. Future presidents will receive a pin upon the conclusion of their presidency.

**Helen Wilk** of Corpus Christi served as president from 1998 to 2000. Meetings were held in Houston, Salado, Corsicana, and Victoria with the 1999 Gathering in Fort Worth, and the 2000 Gathering in Laredo. For the first time in the history of the organization, dues were raised from \$25 to \$36. Grants were awarded to the Institute of Texas Cultures for *Shalom Y'all*, a travelling exhibit on Jewish immigration and to Texas A&M Press in support of *Jewish Stars of Texas*, by Hollace Weiner. Financial support was also given to Hollace Weiner for *Jewish Stars of Texas* and to Allen and Cynthia Mondell for their film, *From the Garden of Eden*. A microfilm reader was purchased to be used by the Houston Jewish Genealogical Society to gather information from the *Jewish Herald Voice* newspapers. Note cards of historical Jewish synagogues were printed to sell. Scholarships were available to three full time Jewish students who attended a Texas university so that they could attend the 1999 Gathering in Fort Worth. One was awarded to Greg Meyer of Texas A&M University. Trips for TJHS included a bus trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, and one to Monterrey, Mexico preceding the 2000 Gathering in Laredo.

**Jack Gerrick** of Fort Worth, was president from 2000 to 2002. Meetings were held in Dallas, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi, with Gatherings in Austin and Houston. The membership records became computerized, and a website was created. A second trav-

elling exhibit, *Howdy Y'all* began travelling the state, and membership reached an all-time high of 837.

**Charles Hart**, from Temple, served as president from 2002 to 2004. Meetings were held in Kerrville, Tyler, Temple, and South Padre Island, and a joint meeting with the Southern Jewish Historical Society was held in Shreveport, Louisiana. A Gathering was held in Dallas in 2003 and the 25th Gathering was held in San Antonio in 2004. TJHS helped fund the sermons of Dr. Stephen Wise from aluminum recordings to compact disc, and membership was at 860. A trip to Branson, Missouri was enjoyed by many members.

**Marvin Rich** of Houston became president in 2004 and served until 2006. Meetings were held in Houston, Galveston, and Victoria with the 2005 Gathering was held in Austin along with a Symposium for *Lone Stars of David*, and the 2006 Gathering was held in Houston. A contract was signed with University Press of New England for *Lone Stars of David*, edited by Hollace Weiner and Ken Roseman.

**Vickie Vogel** of La Grange served as president from 2006 to 2008. Meetings were held in Austin, Abilene, Kingsville, Fort Worth, Amarillo, and Beaumont, and Gatherings were held in Odessa and Waco.

*Lone Stars of David* was published and a book tour for it was co-sponsored by the Society.

The TJHS records that had been in Houston were transferred to the Center for American History in Austin (formerly the Barker).

**Sally Drayer** of Dallas has been president since 2008. Meetings have been held in San Angelo and La Grange, and a joint meeting with the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society was held in El Paso. The 30th Gathering was held in College Station in 2009. 

# Speakers Bureau

When an organization asks TJHS for a speaker, we will suggest those on our list who match the criteria. That organization is responsible for making contact with the speaker and handling any details. No re-

muneration (other than expenses, lodging, meals, etc.) is provided to the speaker. If you would like to be included in this database, please provide the following information:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

Topic(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of each topic (use another sheet of paper if needed):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Distance you are willing to travel: \_\_\_\_\_

Restrictions or special requirements: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Mail this information to: Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193, or email it to txjhs@yahoo.com.*

## Jewish Latvian Project

Jewish community "Shamir" is in Latvia. It is aimed to commemorate the memory of Latvian Jews, and one of its projects is the *Latvian Jewish Encyclopedia*, which gathers information about all the Jews who are connected to Latvia. Over 2,500 biographic and thematic entries have already been gathered, which is about half of the proposed amount. It covers the period of time from 1561 to 1991.

The project is looking for Jews who were originally from Latvia, and they would appreciate any photos and biographical essays about Latvian

Jews who are living abroad. In addition, all family stories will be placed on their web site. If you are a Latvian descendant, and are interested in contributing to this project, contact Victoria Shaldova; Jewish community "Shamir" at Shamir@apollo.lv or by telephone at +371-67270827. The web site is www.shamir.lv.

Ms. Shaldova has sent some of the project's publications to Sally Drayer, TJHS President. These items include two beautiful books: *Latvia Synagogues and Rabbis 1918-1940* and *Jewish Cemeteries in Latvia*

(written in English, Hebrew, Russian, and Latvian.) Also included was a set of postcards showing the synagogues and a book of a series of lectures on the Extermination of the Jews in Latvia from 1941 to 1945, edited by Rabbi Menuchem Barkahan, who is Chairman of the Religious Community. There are also some maps and other information on Latvia. If you are interested in seeing these books, contact Sally Drayer. The address of Shamir is Rabbi Menchem Barkahan, Stabu 63, LV 1011, Riga, Latvija.



# TJHS Records Are Now Online

## by Ima Joy Gandler, TJHS Archivist

The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas, which is the depository for memorabilia for the Texas Jewish Historical Society records, is now online. You may add your memorabilia to the Texas Jewish Historical Society records. To access the records online, go to [www.lib.utexas.edu/tarotcah/00255/cah-00255.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/tarotcah/00255/cah-00255.html).

Items not included are the selected archives and manuscripts collection in the Texas Jewish Collection. To obtain lists in this category, log on to [www.cah.utexas.edu/guides/jewish.html](http://www.cah.utexas.edu/guides/jewish.html).

The types of materials—originals or copies—that you may add to the Texas Jewish Historical Society records are as follows:

**Personal Papers**—family trees; histories; letters; diaries; journals; passports; naturalization papers; birth certificates; death certificates; records and certificates of marriage, circumcisions, consecrations, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and confirmation; war records; scrapbook materials such as report cards, graduation certificates, programs, invitations, and other documentary mementos; obituaries; newspaper clippings; recorded or written oral history, interviews, or memories; legal records such as wills, estate materials, deeds, court records, and contracts; and photographs and photo albums, identified or unidentified.

**Business Papers**—(no active records that are needed to operate)—correspondence; ledgers or record books; classified files; financial records such as receipts, invoices, and inventories; legal records such as contracts, deeds, and court records; flyers; calendars; schedules; posters; memos; business cards; and photo-

graphs or photo albums, identified or unidentified.

**Printed Materials**—newspapers, books, pamphlets, posters, broadsides, maps, and printed documents.

**Literary Productions/Writings**—essays, poetry, fiction, reminiscences, memoirs, oral history, interviews on cassette tapes, narratives, or speeches.

**Organizational Records**—charters, membership lists, minutes, yearbooks, programs, press releases, correspondence, newsletters, newspapers, and brochures.

**Religious Materials**—synagogue records, minutes, programs, brochures, bulletins, record books, membership lists, prayer books, hymn books, cemetery records, and photographs or photo albums; identified or unidentified.

**Sound Materials**—music on disc, cassette tape, or as sheet music; and oral history interviews.

**Artistic Materials**—posters, drawings, and photographs.

If you require additional information concerning placement of items in

the Texas Jewish Historical Society records, please contact the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History Registrar, Evan Hocker, at 512-495-4535, or email him at [e.hocker@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:e.hocker@mail.utexas.edu). Prior to donating items, please contact Ima Joy Gandler at 3001 Wooded Acres, Waco, Texas, 76710 or at 254-772-5717.

Items may be shipped to Ima Joy Gandler or to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History; c/o Evan Hocker, Registrar; 1 University Station D1100; Austin, TX 78712. Be sure to include a letter stating that these items are to be included in the Texas Jewish Historical Society Records.

If you wish to visit the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History Research and Collection Division, it is located in Sid Richardson Hall, room 2.101, by the LBJ Library.

Please keep this article for future reference. 

## TJHS Traveling Exhibit

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has compiled two museum quality photo exhibits with explanations depicting early Jewish life and contributions. Both exhibits highlight the lives of Jews in Texas since the early part of the century.

Each exhibit is comprised of approximately thirty-six photographs that can either be self-standing with an easel back or hung on a wall. There is no charge for the exhibits and they will be shipped prepaid freight via UPS in waterproof boxes

to your location. The only expense to the borrower will be the shipping of the exhibit back via UPS ground.

The exhibits have been displayed in various locations in Texas and other parts of the United States, including Rhode Island and California. They are an excellent program for schools, congregations and other organizations. To schedule the exhibits, please contact Jack Gerrick at 817-927-8765 or email him at [texbed@aol.com](mailto:texbed@aol.com).



# Texas Jewish Historical Society 2009-2010

## Officers

- President*  
Sally Drayer (Dallas)
- 1st Vice-President*  
Rusty Milstein (Longview)
- 2nd Vice-President*  
David Hoffman (Evant)
- 3rd Vice-President*  
Dr. Jane Guzman (Dallas)
- Treasurer*  
Ruth Nathan (Houston)
- Recording Secretary*  
Marilyn Jorrie (Boulder, Colorado)
- Corresponding Secretary*  
Samylu Rubin (Dallas)
- Historian*  
Lynn Greenberg (Houston)
- Archivist*  
Ima Joy Gandler (Waco)
- Parliamentarian*  
Marc Wormser (Corpus Christi)

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Max Stool (San Antonio)  
David Vogel (La Grange)  
Hollace Weiner (Fort Worth)  
Sherry Zander (Dallas)  
Rotating Member (Various)

## In Memoriam

**Dr. Zidella Brener**, TJHS member, died in Houston, Texas.

**Herbert Givens**, TJHS member, died in El Paso, Texas.

**Dr. Guillermo Guzman**, husband of Dr. Jane Guzman, TJHS Vice-President, died in Dallas, Texas.

**Itta Lenowitz**, TJHS member, died in San Antonio. She was the sister of Buddy Freed of Austin, past TJHS Board Member.

**Dorothy Levine**, mother and mother-in-law of TJHS Board Members Dick and Claire Brooks of Austin, died in Florida.

**Genie Weitzman**, sister and sister-in-law of Jack and Davie Lou Solka, TJHS Board member, died in Dallas, TX.

**Vernon Woolf**, TJHS member, died in Waco, Texas, December 18, 2008.

**May their memories  
be a blessing.**



# Welcome New Members!

January 1, 2009 - April 17, 2009

## Betty & Dr. Seymour

Aronwitz  
5627 Wigton  
Houston, TX 77096  
713-723-6998

## Rev. Tyrone & Ellen Bauer

725 Miller Ave. #333  
Freeport, NY 11520  
516-379-6326

## Christy & Howard Cave

240 Dogwood Ln.  
LaGrange, TX  
979-242-2400  
cell: 936-293-6325  
cbcave@cvctx.com

## Mimi & Martin Cohen

6004 Calm Meadow  
Dallas, TX 75248  
972-233-5608

## Diane & David Epstein

23919 Southwestern Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75225  
214-234-0118  
cell: 214-794-4370  
dgepstein@msn.com

## Judy & Leon Feldt

P.O. box 13600  
El Paso, TX 79913  
915-581-5501  
lbf4321@yahoo.com

## Muriel Selber Folloder

12607 Mossycup  
Houston, TX 77024  
713-465-9709

## Update

Please update the following entry in your directory:

Norma Albert  
12271 Coit Rd. #3510  
Dallas, TX 75251  
972-661-1983

## Max A. Friedman

5602 San Felipe  
Houston, TX 77056  
713-963-0184  
cell: 713-385-5418  
maxaf@mail.com

## Arza & Arie Funk

1200 Post Oak Blvd. #1604  
Houston, TX 77056  
832-816-9800  
afunk51@yahoo.com

## Beverly & Malcolm Gerber

12151 Pipping Rock  
Houston, TX 77077  
713-816-5016

## Sharon & Sonny Gerber

5610 Grape  
Houston, TX 77096  
713-814-6290

## Linda & Steve Levine

1640 Sylvan  
Dallas, TX 75208  
214-941-1600

## Margaret Smith

12271 Coit Rd. #2122  
Dallas, TX 75251

## Dena Sokolow

4139 Gramercy St.  
Houston, TX 77025

## Benette & Tom Wilmeth

P. O. Box 771  
Daingerfield, TX 75638  
903-645-3496

## Has Your Address Changed?

If you have any changes in your information, please send those changes to: Leon Brachman, 3720 Autumn Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109, phone: 817-924-9207, e-mail: leonhb@flash.net

# Can You Help?

Can you help me locate some information?

After presenting a paper about Page Boy Maternity Company in Dallas at the Texas State Historical Association meeting in Austin, I was approached by the editor of Texas Tech University Press who asked if I would write a book about this firm and the three sisters who owned and ran it. Thus, I am searching for information, documents, and artifacts relating to Page Boy and would like to interview any family members or former employees connected with the business. I am asking your help to find descendants of Edna Frankfurt Ravkind, Louise Frankfurt Gartner, or even Elsie Frankfurt Pollock's step-son's family. Please contact me with their contact information. I have already interviewed Louise Gartner and her younger daughter, GiGi Gartner, but am looking for additional family members.

If you can help, please contact me at kgoldman@mail.bio.tamu.edu, 979-690-6427, or 979-845-7755. My mailing address is Kay Goldman, 4016 Stony Creek Ln., College Station, Texas, 77845. Thank you for any help you can provide.



## Save the Date

September 12-13, 2009

Board Meeting in Austin

January, 2010

Joint Board Meeting with Oklahoma Jewish Historical Society in Tulsa

April, 2010

Annual Gathering in Dallas

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

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## **Texas Jewish Historical Society New Membership and Information Update Form**

Join the Texas Jewish Historical Society today! Or use this form to update your contact information. Complete each section below. Clip out and mail this form with your check made payable to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. **Please PRINT.**

YES! Count me in! My dues are enclosed.     Please update my information

Check the Appropriate Box(es)

- New Member  
 Renewing Member  
 Updated Information Only

Gift Membership/Recipient's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Occasion: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category

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 \$50 Supporting Member

- \$100 Sponsor  
 \$250 Sustaining Member

- \$500 Benefactor  
 \$1,000 Patron

Donor or New Member's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(es): \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law.*