

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas  
Est. 1980

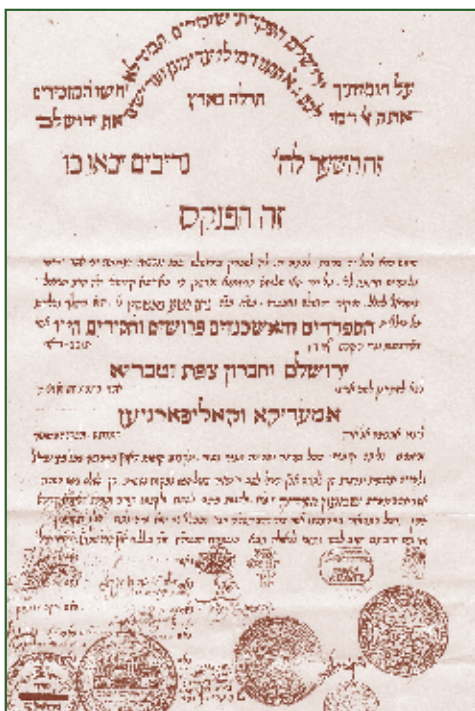


June, 2010

## TJHS Receives Documents of Mid-19th Century Palestine Visitors to Marshall and Galveston

by Sally Drayer

In November, 2009, I received an email from the Department of Manuscripts, National Library of Israel, stating that the library had come across a document that the Library thought TJHS would be interested in having. The document, seen here, is an itinerary notebook of Rabbi Nathan Natkin and his travels to the United States in January, 1868. The Jewish congregations of Galveston and Marshall, Texas were visited. As you



read the documents, you can see each person's name and the amount he or she donated. According to Louis and Audrey Kariel of Marshall, the donation made in Marshall was by a



man who visited Marshall quite frequently on business. Also, make note of the phonetic way in which California is spelled.

With the board's approval, we purchased the disc, which will be placed in the TJHS archives in Austin. The communities of Galveston and Marshall also have a disc of the documents.

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# — Message from the Outgoing President —

by Sally Drayer

I received an email from Rabbi Jimmy Kessler about two weeks ago during the blizzard of emails regarding an issue the board was discussing online. If I may quote, “You can’t say your last weeks as prez are uneventful.” And, to quote Past President



Helen Wilk, “Past president is such a nice sound.” I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been an exciting and personally fulfilling two years.

In my first president’s message, I paid tribute to a special person in my life—my late mother, may she rest in peace, Blanche Sheiness. Without

her prodding me to join, I would have never served as president, let alone other positions within the Society. I hope I have done justice to the position, the Society she loved so much,

and the purpose and the friends that she made.

I enjoyed traveling throughout the state to meetings, and hope those of you who attended feel the same. We met in San Angelo, El Paso, La Grange, and held the 30th Annual Gathering in College Station (Whoop—you’ll understand if you’re

an Aggie). We also met in Rockport; Austin; Tulsa, Oklahoma; and held our 31st Annual Gathering in Dallas. We met in El Paso for the joint meeting with the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society during the fall of 2008 and in Tulsa for our winter meeting in 2010 with the Tulsa Jewish Genealogical Society and at both meetings it was wonderful to meet new friends and play the genealogy game of “who do you know!?” As a personal experience, one of the ladies I met in Tulsa was a sorority sister to one of my favorite cousins many years ago. During my term of office, we have assisted with two grants, helped locate people who have moved to the U.S. from Latvia, helped with the initial showing of the film documentary *The Monster Among Us* for TJHS members Allen and Cynthia Mondell, edited papers for Texas History Day, participated in the Dallas Jewish Art Fest and the Austin Jewish community’s “J Fest,” and attended the Symposium at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum on its wonderful exhibit of *Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island*. The finding of documents in the National Library in Jerusalem documenting a rabbi’s visit to the Jewish communities of Galveston and Marshall in 1878

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## The Texas Jewish Historical Society June 2010 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](mailto: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).*



The newsletter of the Texas Jewish Historical Society (USPS) is published four times a year by the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193, Travis County. Periodical postage paid at Houston, Texas. Postmaster: send address changes to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193.  
[www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org)

# — Message from the Incoming President —

by Rusty Milstein

I wish to thank everyone who has shown confidence in my ability to preside over this grand organization. The Texas Jewish Historical Society has provided Mitzi and me with wonderful new friends and has allowed us to rekindle old acquaintances.

Many thanks, also, to our past presidents who have indicated that whenever I have a question or need advice, they will be there for me. Particular thanks to Sally Drayer who, several months ago, began to acclimate me to some of the duties that the President's office requires.

I will, however, ask the board and general membership to help find host cities for the upcoming

meetings. Thus far, I have arranged the summer meeting in Houston (with much help from Marvin Rich), and next year's Annual Gathering in Texarkana. The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society has asked us to join them in October in Las Vegas, New Mexico, and there is a good chance that we will accept their invitation. I hope to have our winter board meeting somewhere south of Interstate 10—still working on that. But—I do want to put everyone on notice—I will not plan these meetings alone. I would like to have full cooperation of the TJHS membership. After all, TJHS belongs to all of us.

Again, thank you for your con-

fidence in me, and I look forward to an enjoyable, informative and educational term for all of us.



Rusty Milstein  
President, 2010-2011

## Please Note:

*If you are sending a check to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, please indicate the purpose of the check—dues, gift, contribution, etc.*

### Message from the President, cont. from page 2

was a true historic day for the Society and the CD that has the documents scanned on them have been added to our archives. And finally, on a sad note, we reflect on the passing of TJHS members in the past two years, notably our beloved archivist Ima Joy Gandler.

TJHS is a volunteer organization and depends on each of us to participate. I hope that you become involved—either as board member or

by attending meetings if you haven't in a while. If called upon by Rusty during his presidency—or by any future presidents—to serve on the board or on a committee, I hope that you say "Yes."

I could not have served as President without the help of the Executive Board, the Board of Directors, and the group I named "The Wise Ones" (former presidents and Davie Lou Solka). Their sagely advice I value and appreciate, and I thank each of them for help-

ing me through my terms of office. Thank you, Rusty for your help as a sounding board in the past year and I wish you best of times as president of TJHS—watch out for the winds and wine!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Drayer".

President, 2008-2010

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



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# Tributes to Ima Joy Gandler

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Ima Joy Chodorow Gandler, TJHS Archivist for many years, and one of the founding members of the Society, died January 25, 2010, in her



home town of Waco, Texas. Ima Joy attended almost every meeting of TJHS since the beginning days of the organization. She married Jake Gandler and they lived in Waco with their three children. Her survivors include Michael and Michaela; Laura Gandler; Howard Gandler and partner, Karen Ireland; grandchildren, Eric and Dori Brown; sister-in-law, Sylvia Solomon; nine nieces and nephews and their families and numerous cousins.

An active member of TJHS, Ima Joy will be missed and remembered by many. The following tributes were received in her memory.

**By Robert H. Abzug.** “I was touched by the conversations I had with Ima Joy in Rockport, which was the first time I met her. I will be with you in spirit at her funeral.”

**By Norma Albert.** “I met Ima Joy when I joined TJHS in 1997. She was always upbeat about everything. She enjoyed making plans for the membership meeting. I think I attended all of them and we always had a great time. She will be missed by all.”

**By Sally Drayer.** “Ima Joy and I talked frequently about different things. It was a treat to pick her up and take her to a meeting—she

always took so much for such a short time! We would laugh about how much the rest of us in the car were taking compared to her amount. She has been an integral part of TJHS since its beginning and will be deeply missed by all.”

**By Audrey Kariel.** “Louis and I were saddened about Ima Joy’s death. She was so dedicated to our TJHS for so many years, and gave so unselfishly of her time and talent to our organization. She will remain in our hearts and will be missed by so many.”

**By Rabbi Jimmy Kessler.** “The Book of Ruth records Naomi describing Ruth as a woman of noble character. Those are wonderful words to describe Ima Joy. As much as she was a regular choice to be president of TJHS, so did she regularly decline. Yet, she was always willing to take on any task or project no matter how mundane or taxing.

One of our founders has left us in person and we will be less for her absence. May we continue to demonstrate the commitment to our Society that she so continually demonstrated.”

**By Abbi Michaelson.** “Ima Joy’s death seems so unbelievable. Such a beautiful and caring loss for all of us. My best to you.”

**By Cynthia Salzman Mondell.** “I will miss seeing Ima Joy at TJHS meetings. She was a beautiful woman with her dark hair, red lips, and warm smile. She was

always so interested in everyone and everything. She was never idle as she took on so many tasks that enriched the body of history that she collected, catalogued, and shared. Ima Joy will be missed.”

**By Lonnie Schooler.** “I was one of the lucky people who was there at the beginning when the Texas Jewish Historical Society was founded. One of the first people I met at our inaugural meeting was Ima Joy Gandler. Right from the beginning, Ima Joy made many, many contributions to the Society. She was always available to do “heavy lifting” on projects, counsel, and ideas. She was very modest about her contributions, and insistent that recognition of her accomplishments not be bestowed upon her, but upon the organization she supported. Her commitment to the Society was unswerving, and I will miss her tremendously.”

**By Hollace Weiner.** “Ima Joy attended meetings of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. I last saw her in New Orleans on Halloween. If the SJHS scheduled a pre-conference trip along some Southern-synagogue trail, Ima Joy signed up.

Ima Joy religiously gathered materials on Jews in Waco and throughout Texas. She made multiple copies and mailed off one batch to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati and delivered another batch to the Texas Collection at the Baylor University Archives and a third batch to the

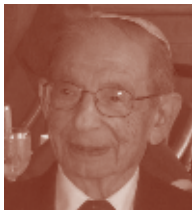
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## In Memoriam

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**Abe Blum**, TJHS member, died May, 2010, in Corpus Christi. He is survived by his children and step-children, Dr. Gary and Lois Blum, Lester Blum, Elaine Blum, Dr. Stanley and Wendy Rosenberg, Dr. Harold and Evelyn Gregg, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**Jack Friedman**, TJHS member, of Longview, died April 4, 2010. He is survived by his wife, Naomi, children, Barbara & Burton Rakover, and a brother and sister-in-law, Harold & Beverly Friedman.



**Peggy Aron Samet Fine**, TJHS member, died April 16, 2010 in Houston. She is survived by her children, Amelia and Joseph Kornfeld, Eric and Carol Samet, Helane and Harris Knecht, Jeffrey Samet and Michele Marram; her siblings, Merilee Weiner, Sidney and Betty Aron, Hertz and Dorita Aron, & Bernadean Rosenblatt and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



**Goldye Levi**, TJHS member, died in Dallas.

**Phil Hurwitz**, TJHS member, of Tyler and Houston, died December 20, 2009, in Houston. He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Sid & Bertha Hurwitz.



**Helen Greenberg Kasman**, TJHS member died in Midland on October 26, 2009, at the age of 93. She is survived by her children, Ann Kasman, Dr. Frank Kasman, Beverly and Robb Roth, Kenneth Kasman and his fiancé, Jaymie Fine; her siblings, Milton Greenberg and Henrietta Krumholtz; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Sarah Levine**, TJHS member, died April 4, 2010, in Waco. She is survived by her husband, Michael, and children and grandchildren.

**Dr. Maurice Nast**, TJHS member, died May, 2010 in Austin and was buried in Corpus Christi. He is survived by his wife, Katherine, his children, Dr. Jerome & Sona Nast, and David Nast, and his grandson, Daniel Rudyard Nast.

**Carol Starkschall**, TJHS member, died April, 2010 in Sugar Land. She is survived by her husband, George, and two daughters, Jessica and Andrea.

**Reuben Riskind**, TJHS member, died March, 2010, in Eagle Pass. Survivors include his wife, Esther, and daughter and son-in-law, Miriam and Marc Isenberg.



**Rabbi David Goldberg**, former Rabbi of Temple Beth El in Corsicana, Texas, and the first Jewish chaplain in the Navy, died November 15, 2009 at La Guardia Hospital in Forest Hills, Queens, New York. Rabbi Goldberg was born in Russia in 1886 and came to the United States when he was twenty-two years old, settling in Texas. He became Rabbi of Temple Beth El after his ordination.

Rabbi Goldberg was 91 at the time of his death, and was the only Rabbi to serve as chaplain in World War I, according to the National Jewish Welfare Board. At his own request, Rabbi Goldberg was allowed to wear a shepherd's insignia, instead of the Christian cross to signify his chaplaincy. He entered the United States Naval Reserve in 1925 and retired as a Lieutenant Commander.

In 1941, the two tablets of the Ten Commandments and the Star of David were adopted as insignia for the Jewish chaplaincy by both the Navy and the Army.

Rabbi Goldberg is survived by his wife, Clara, and his daughter, Mrs. Minna Yaffe of Brockton, Mass.

**May their memories be a blessing.**

## 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. Write your story, and if you have questions or need help,

call our Assistant Editor.

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 gene-

alogy 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.

# From Our Archives

by Vickie Vogel

*This is the sixth 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 Lauterstein Brothers Come to Texas— by Vickie Vogel

Solomon and Goldie Rose Lauterstein of Tilsit, East Prussia<sup>1</sup> had three sons who immigrated to the United States in the 1870s and settled in Texas: Max, Isidore,<sup>2</sup> and Israel. Max was born in 1856 and came to America at the age of 17, staying in Peoria, Illinois with distant relatives, the Finkelsteins. He and Israel became peddlers in Texas in the Weimar area,<sup>3</sup> along with Oscar Berman, who had married into the Finkelstein family. They were well received by the farmers who invited them to dine and overnight in their homes.<sup>4</sup> The three brothers were reunited when Isidore joined them there. Max's son Lewis was fond of saying, since all the family came to Texas, "There are no idiots in this family."<sup>6</sup>

Max settled in Llano and married Lizzie Rosenstein<sup>7</sup> two years after the last Indian battle there. They lived in Llano for some forty years operating a store, living in the back, and rearing five children: three sons, Lewis, Julian,<sup>8</sup> and Reuben, and two daughters<sup>9</sup> Jenny and Ida. When their first son, Lewis, was born, people came from miles around to see the little Jewish baby, the first ever born in Llano. The family moved to San Antonio in 1920.<sup>10</sup>

Lewis married Elsa Oberdorfer of New Orleans and they had two sons, Herbert (married Lorraine Pepper) and Malcolm (married Jane Meyer).

Max's son Julian married Bobette Marion Hart in Hearne and moved to Pearsall, Texas.

Julian and Bobette's daughter, Glenda, married Sylvan Alter and lived in San Antonio. They had four children: Lisa (Abramson), Larry, Nancy (Graff) and Bill. Glenda was the librarian at Cambridge Elementary School for twenty-one years and a member of the Texas Library Association Board.<sup>11</sup> Sylvan was an attorney in San Antonio who died in 2007.

Max's daughter Jenny married Abe Alperin and lived in Memphis, Tennessee with children Madelyn, Murray, and Marshall.

Ida married Leon Weiss. Ida and Leon had two sons, Stanley (who married Joan Silk) and Alvin (who married Thelma Lapin). Stanley and Joan had two sons, Alan and Mark.<sup>12</sup> Alvin and Thelma's children were Michael, Nelson, Leslie Jay, Anthony, and Robin.

Max's brother Israel married Bertha Gebert and had two sons: George (who married Marion Kahn Uhry) and Emanuel (who married Gertrude Kahn). George and Emanuel (Manny) operated retail stores in a thirty mile radius of La Grange. George had two sons, Marion Moise Lauterstein and George Israel Lauterstein. Marion Moise became a finance professor at New York University and City University of New York, and maintains the family home in La Grange. George Israel (d. 2003) had a career with GTE and was a noted photographer who married Cheryl Tilicek of Schulenburg. Manny and Gertrude adopted one daughter, Minnie Bertha Feinman



*Max Lauterstein*

of Galveston.

The third brother, Isidore, troubled Max by his "escapades." Max gave him \$500 and told him to leave Texas. Isidore moved to Chicago and Pennsylvania before settling down in New York<sup>13</sup> and becoming a bank president.<sup>14</sup> He married Anna Goldbass. They had a son, Leon, who married Margaret Weil. They had three children: Janet (who died young), Henry, and Lincoln (who married author Ingeborg Lauterstein).

In 1986, Glenda Lauterstein Alter, a past TJHS board member, wrote to the author of *Vienna Girl*, Ingeborg Lauterstein, to see if they were related. Ingeborg wrote back, and sent a copy to her brother-in-law Henry. Henry and Lincoln, Ingeborg's

*continued on page 7*



husband, were Isidore's grandsons. Ingeborg used her husband's name professionally, because her family in Vienna did not like her writing about Austria.<sup>15</sup> She was born in Vienna and lived there during some dark days in Austria's history. She came to the United States to study at Black Mountain College and studied writing at the New School in New York City.<sup>16</sup> Lincoln Lauterstein was an attorney for the Metropolitan Opera as had been his father, Leon.

Henry also answered Glenda's letter with more of the family history, stating Isidore had six children: Leon, Ben, Miriam, Theresa, Janet, and Harry.<sup>17</sup>

There were also, Henry said, some Lauterstein relatives in Edinburgh, Scotland. He thought the name translated to "pure stone," i.e. "without flaw" but said it might also mean "loud stone" or "all stone."

Leon Weiss was a Polish immigrant who married Ida Lauterstein, Max's daughter. In 1950, Leon owned a leased military operation at Joske's in San Antonio. Businessmen of Killeen asked him to open a store in Killeen, which he did. He traveled there, leaving in shirt-sleeve weather, but en route to Blanco, an ice storm hit. The truck broke down. Leon made it to Killeen, but no lodgings were to be found. After trying to sleep in an empty unheated store, he wandered into the Killeen Reporter and helped the editor put out the paper, just to keep warm by the pot-bellied stove.<sup>18</sup> The Killeen store was sold in 1952. After Leon died in 1958, Ida opened a western store, Leon's. She married Joe Copelin in 1962 and they opened Copelin's Men's Store, operating both stores until 1970 when they sold them and moved back to San Antonio.<sup>19</sup>

Stanley Weiss, Leon and Ida's son, operated the Killeen Army Store

in the early 1950s. In 1953, the store was moved to Gray Street, just in time for the holiday business to be ruined by the street being torn up for repairs, coupled with heavy rainfall.



*Lauterstein; Max and Lizzie Lauterstein.*

Planks were put down for pedestrians to cross. The new Army Dress Blues finally brought the customers back. In 1957, the name was changed to Stanley Weiss Men's Store. From 1958

to 1980, the store sponsored a little league baseball team called the Stanley Weiss Arrows after Arrow shirts which they wore with blue jeans as a uniform. Stanley owned other retail

businesses until he went to work for A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. of Temple in 1981 as a stockbroker.

Stanley married Joan Silk, born in Kansas of Lithuanian stock. Her maternal grandfather, Joseph Jacobson, corresponded with Theodore Herzl for some twenty years about establishing a Jewish homeland. Joan's father, Albert Silk, crawled out of Lithuania to escape the Russians shortly before World War I and served in the American army. Albert used to say, "There is only one thing wrong with America—the Americans don't appreciate it!" Joan, a teacher, and Stanley were active in civic affairs. They became "adopted parents" for many of the foreign officers stationed at Ft. Hood.

Stanley's brother Alvin and his wife Thelma opened Killeen Janitorial Supply Company. Alvin left in 1961 to work for the Internal Revenue Service,<sup>20</sup> ultimately settling in San Antonio.<sup>21</sup>

In our archives box about the three Lauterstein brothers from Prussia are found other local histories and letters. Leo was en route to a refugee camp in Kitchener, Richborough-Kent, England before coming on to the United States. He was sending two trunks to his aunt, because they could not take luggage with them.<sup>22</sup> The aunt is not identified and there are no other clues to how Leo fits into the family, but Leo/Leon was a family name.

Thank goodness this much of the family history was written down and placed in our archives! When will you

*continued on page 8*

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Lauterstein Brothers, continued from page 7*

send your family papers? If you don't preserve your family stories, they will eventually be lost.

## *References*

<sup>1</sup>About 5500 Jews were murdered in the Tilsit District in the first four months of the German invasion of 1941. Ben Gurion, David. *Israel: A Personal History*, (Tel Aviv: American Israel Publishing Co. Ltd), 1971.

<sup>2</sup>Letter from Henry W. Lauterstein to Glenda Alter, 1986?, TJHS Records, Box 3A187, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Fax to author from Glenda Alter, March 7, 2010.

<sup>5</sup>Letter from Henry W. Lauterstein, op cit.

<sup>6</sup>Ibid.

<sup>7</sup>Email Glenda Alter, March 11, 2010.

<sup>8</sup><http://74.125.113.132/>

[search?q=cache:RyqI0\\_SEjsMJ:www.txjhs.org/Newsletters/1987%2520Spring.pdf](http://www.txjhs.org/Newsletters/1987%2520Spring.pdf)+max+lauterstein&cd=6&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=safari. This is Abby Lauterstein, 13, in her runner-up essay in the TJHS essay contest in 1986. Glenda Alter added to the family tree in a phone conversation March 5, 2010.

<sup>9</sup>There may have also been a daughter Adelaide, according to Lisa Alter Abramson.

<sup>10</sup>Abby Lauterstein, op cit.

<sup>11</sup><http://74.125.113.132/search?q=cache:B2SqJnmiCqgJ:www.beth-elsa.org/September04.pdf+GLEND+A+alter+san+antonio&cd=7&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

<sup>12</sup>Hand-drawn family tree of Stanley and Joan Silk Weiss.

<sup>13</sup>Letter from Henry W. Lauterstein, op cit.

<sup>14</sup>Fax, op cit.

<sup>15</sup>Letter to Glenda Alter from Inge Lauterstein, October 3, 1986.

<sup>16</sup>[www.ingeborglauterstein.com/8373.html](http://www.ingeborglauterstein.com/8373.html). Other novels include *Shoreland* and *The Water Castle*.

<sup>17</sup>email Lisa Abramson April 8, 2010. Lisa supplied many names missing from the archives.

<sup>18</sup>Stanley & Joan Weiss family history, September 30, 1985.

<sup>19</sup>Story of Bell County, Texas, Volume II, Bell County Historical Commission, p. 983-4 photocopies in archives. Joe Copelin left Poland as a child, dressed as a girl, and came to the US with his mother "on borrowed passports."

<sup>20</sup>Ibid.

<sup>21</sup>email Lisa Abramson, April 8, 2010.

<sup>22</sup>letter from Leo Smoliansky of Munich dated May 17, 1939, to his "dear aunt."



# - By-Laws Changes at the - 2010 Annual Gathering

by Davie Lou Solka, By-Laws Chairperson

The Texas Jewish Historical Society's By-Laws were amended at the 2010 Annual Gathering, effective at that time. The By-Laws that are written in the 2010 Directory do not reflect these changes.

The changes add a Student Membership for \$18.00. A student is defined as "an individual enrolled in a public institution of higher learning." Also changed, was the annual General Membership amount from \$36.00 to \$35.00.

*Tributes to Ima Joy, continued from page 4*

Center for American History in Austin. In Waco, she started the archives at Rodef Sholom in 1972. She set up a model that many of us have attempted to follow—she tracked down pictures of every confirmation class and set about identifying the students; she found pictures of most of the city's rabbis going back a century, and placed everything in beautiful albums. She was responsible for the historic marker at the city's Jewish Cemetery. In 1986, she won the Waco-McLennan County Pathfinders Award for her work. Can anyone step up to the plate to replace her?

Part of the shock about Ima Joy's death is that she was bubbly, vivacious, and always looked healthy and trim. I can't believe we are talking about Ima Joy in the past tense."

**ZECHER TSADIK LEVRA-  
CHA—MAY HER MEMO-  
RY BE FOR A BLESSING.**

The job descriptions for the Corresponding Secretary and the Historian were clarified, as well as explaining that the Summer Board Meeting would include a Board Orientation. In addition, standing committees were updated.

The amended By-Laws will be printed in the next Directory that is published, and all Board Members will have a copy of the amended By-Laws.

## - Contributions -

### **In Memory of Ima Joy Gandler From**

*Elaine and Phil Albin  
Rowena and Steve Chodorow  
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Hersh  
Lorraine and David Hoppenstein  
Doris and Ed Katten  
Yetta and Marvin Leshin  
Mabel Massin  
Donna and Arthur Miller  
Mitzi and Rusty Milstein  
Charlene and Sam Segal  
Susan and Ed Septimus  
Beverly and Jake Trachtenburg  
Helen and Larry Wilk*

**In Memory of Raye Brown From** *Davie Lou and Jack Solka  
Beverly and Jake Trachtenburg  
Merilee Weiner*

**In Honor of a speedy recovery for Joyce Wormser From** *Mitzi and Rusty Milstein*

## Strangers in the Box

*The following poem was sent to the editor from Vickie Vogel, who received it from Glenda Alter. It certainly gives us all something to think about when we put away our photos.*

### **STRANGERS IN THE BOX**

*by Pamela A. Harazim*

Come look with me inside this drawer,  
In this box I've often seen,  
At the pictures, black and white,  
Faces proud, still, serene.

I wish I knew the people,  
These strangers in the box,  
Their names and all their memories  
Are lost among my socks.

I wonder what their lives were like.  
How did they spend their days?  
What about their special times?  
I'll never know their ways.

If only someone had taken time  
To tell who, what, where, when,  
These faces of my heritage  
Would come to life again.

Could this become the fate  
Of the pictures we take today?  
The faces and the memories  
Someday to be tossed away?

Make time to save your pictures,  
Seize the opportunity when it knocks,  
Or someday you and yours could be  
The strangers in the box.

## 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 ar-

rive 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.)

# TJHS GOES TO INDIA!

## MARCH 11, 2011 - FIFTEEN DAYS

GO AHEAD TOURS - 1 (800) 242-4686

GOAHEADTOURS.COM



### Price from Austin, Dallas or Houston

\$3859 + \$95 Departure Fee - Includes international airfare!

Price from San Antonio \$3854 + \$95 Departure Fee

Other Departure Cities available by request

<http://www.goaheadtours.com/tours/CTI/north-to-south-grand-tour-of-india.aspx>

- Visit the historic Paradesi Synagogue in Cochin built in 1568 (pictured above right)
- Guided sightseeing of New and Old Delhi
- Guided sightseeing of Agra, including a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal
- Guided sightseeing of Jaipur and Cochin
- Game drives in Ranthambore National Park
- Kerala Canal houseboat cruise
- Optional excursions also available

- TJHS travelers will get a further discount with 6 bookings, and even more with 8!

### Price includes

Round trip air with a major airline and airport transfers

Services of a bilingual Tour Director

10 nights accommodations in well-located hotels and 1 night aboard a luxury river houseboat

All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes

Buffet breakfast daily; 5 lunches; 8 three-course dinners

Private deluxe motorcoach

Sightseeing tours and entrance fees to select sights as described



VICKIE VOGEL, TJHS TRAVEL CHAIR  
PHONE: 979.247.4504  
FOR DISCOUNT INFORMATION  
Email: [vvogel@cvetx.com](mailto:vvogel@cvetx.com)

When you book with Go Ahead, be sure to say you are with the Vickie Vogel Group, or the TJHS Group to receive your group discount

Go Ahead Tours  
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Cambridge, Ma 02141

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# TJHS goes to Cochin, India

## March, 11, 2011

by Vickie Vogel

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Of all the exotic locations at which Jews have landed and made homes for themselves, none surpasses the sub-continent of India. Dating back, according to some accounts, to the time of Solomon, Jewish history is tied to the spice trade of the Malabar Coast on the lower southwestern reaches of India, in and around the city of Cochin (Kochi).

Cochin is made up of islands and peninsulas, with many canals and bridges. *World Travel & Tourism Council* and *National Geographic Traveler* have praised it as a major tourist destination and one of the “fifty great places of a lifetime.”

Spices are well suited to the area with its warm climate and good soil. The spice trade here may go back as far as ancient Greece—or at least to Arabia and China at the beginning of the common era. Evidence shows that Jews have lived here for some two thousand years. The earliest Jewish settlers were known as the “Black Jews.” The “White Jews” (Pardesi) arrived when persecution in 16th century Europe forced them to flee. Finding tolerance and acceptance, the community grew and from “Jew Town,” came to dominate the spice trade. Baghdadi Jews arrived in the 18th century. Cochin Jews became so well integrated into



their Indian community that they came to form their own caste in the complex social structure, which created rivalries resulting in decline in dominating the spice trade.

Once numbering in the thousands, the Jews of Cochin made *aliyah* upon the establishment of Israel, and only a handful remain, along with the Pardesi Synagogue, Jew Town, and the historic spice market. The first synagogue built was destroyed by the Portuguese. The Pardesi is the oldest synagogue in India—and in the former British Empire—built in 1568 on land donated by the Raja and under his protection. It is the only one of the seven area synagogues that is still in use. There has never been a rabbi; the community is led by elders. In 1968, when it celebrated its 400th anniversary, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi attended the ceremony.

The Pardesi Synagogue still

holds the copper plates of privileges given to Joseph Rabban, the earliest known Cochin Jew, dating from the tenth century. From the 18th century porcelain Chinese tile floor to its Belgian glass chandeliers, its 18th century clock tower, and its oriental rug (a gift from Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia), the synagogue is a building to

remember.

Come with us to see this exotic piece of Jewish history, not to mention the Taj Mahal and other India marvels (see page 10) on March 11, 2011. For more information, contact TJHS Travel Chair, Vickie Vogel at [vvogel@cvctx.com](mailto:vvogel@cvctx.com) or phone her at 979-247-4504. You can review the entire two-week tour at the following web site: <http://www.goaheadtours.com/tours/GTI/north-to-south-grand-tour-of-india.aspx>.

### References

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cochin\\_Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cochin_Jews)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardesi\\_Synagogue](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pardesi_Synagogue)  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_est\\_synagogues\\_in\\_the\\_world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_est_synagogues_in_the_world)  
<http://www.confluence.org.uk/2008/11/28/jewish-identity-in-independent-india-the-cochin-jews-jews-in-india/>



# TJHS 31st Annual Gathering

The 31st Annual Gathering was held in Dallas at the Doubletree Hotel on the weekend of April 23-25. The host committee was comprised of members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and the Dallas Jewish Historical Society. Those members were: Roy Elsner, Cynthia and Allen Mondell, Sally Drayer, Jane Guzman, Amy Milstein, Samylu Rubin, Flora Herbert, Ginger Jacobs, Gordon Cizon, Norma Albert, Sherry Zander, Elya Naxon, and Clint Risner.

The weekend began with a Board of Directors meeting Friday afternoon. Members attended Friday night services at Congregation Shearith Israel, where Jan Hart delivered a historical lesson about the importance of documenting our Jewish heritage. Services were followed by dinner hosted by TJHS/DJHS members Gordon and Deidre Cizon at their home.

On Saturday morning, members and guests had breakfast and listened to our two guest speakers: Lynna Kay Shuffield, genealogist, historian, and author who discussed Major Leon Dyer, a Texas hero. TJHS donated to the historical marker that will be erected in Galveston honoring Major Dyer. Our keynote speaker was the Honorable State Senator Florence Shapiro of Plano who discussed her Jewish heritage and its impact on her life. On Saturday afternoon, members were offered two tours: a guided bus tour of the old Jewish area of South Dallas led by Ginger Jacobs, and a tour of the Rachofsky House, a Roger Meier home of contemporary art. Members attending the tours had a wonderful time. Members who did not go on either tour enjoyed a day of shopping, sightseeing, and visiting with family and friends.

Saturday evening Havdalah services were led by Roy Elsner, and were followed by our dinner banquet at the Doubletree. The documentary "A Dallas Jewish Journey" was presented by filmmakers TJHS/DJHS members Allen and Cynthia Salzman Mondell. Cynthia and Allen led a panel discussion with guest panelists Andrea Gordon, Walter J. Levy, and Simon Sargon. A question-and-answer-time followed the discussion.



*Jane Manaster, Cynthia Mondell, Ruth Heidenheimer, and Lynelle Bond at Shabbat dinner at Cizon home.*



*Tour of Rachofsky House—Samylu Rubin, Thomas Feulmer, the Director of Educational Programming at the House, Susan Lewis, and Gordon Cizon*

Sunday morning's board meeting closed out the 31st Annual Gathering with the installation of the new Executive Board and Board of Directors. Thanks again to all the former TJHS presidents who attended.

Thanks to Debbie Tobias, Executive Director and the Dallas Jewish Historical Society for planning the Gathering with us and for hosting the hospitality room.



## **Dallas, Texas, April 23-25, 2010**



*Vickie & David Vogel, Lynelle Bond, and Marilyn Jorrie on South Boulevard during a tour of Jewish South Dallas.*



*Roy Elsner during Havdalah Service.*



*Jack Gerrick, Bette Jean Cohen, and Marilyn Jorrie at Shabbat dinner at the Cizon home.*



*Joyce Wormser, Jan Hart, Ruth Nthan, Dr. Stanley Hordes, and Sally Drayer in the hospitality room.*



# TJHS 31st Annual Gathering



*Historian and guest speaker Lynna Kay Shuffield accepts a copy of Lone Stars of David from TJHS member Hollace Weiner.*



*Dr. Neil and Betty Gurwitz with the "Tower of Babel" at the Rachofsky House.*



*In the photo at left, Samylu Rubin and Rusty Milstein study the art at the Rachofsky House. In the photo below, TJHS members and filmmakers Allen and Cynthia Salzman Mondell present their documentary, A Dallas Jewish Journey.*



## Has Your Address Changed?

If you have any changes in your information, please send those changes to: **Marc Wormser, 4301 Boros Dr., Corpus Christi, TX 78413; 361-854-4209; [mwormser@grandecom.net](mailto:mwormser@grandecom.net)**

**The deadline for the July, 2010  
TJHS Newsletter is June 4.**





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Sherry Zander (Dallas)

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## Save the Date

**June 12-13, 2010**

Summer Board Meeting in  
Houston

**October**

Fall Board Meeting

**January**

Winter Board Meeting

## 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

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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 ☐ Donor: \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law.*