

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Est. 1980



April 2014 News Magazine

The Story of the Jewish Institute for Medical Research at Baylor College of Medicine

Thank you to Baylor College of Medicine and its archives for the following article and photos.

Establishing the Jewish Institute for Medical Research was a defining moment in the history of Houston's Jewish community – and the history of Baylor College of Medicine. In 2013, the college and families of the project's original donors honored the 50th anniversary of a partnership that has made a lasting contribution to health in Houston and around the world.

"Today we are celebrating vision – the vision of the Houston Jewish community, which was inspired by the teachings of Moses Maimonides and others devoted to healing," said Dr. Barry H. Goodfriend, clinical associate professor of internal medicine, at the 50th anniversary event.

"This vision led to the establishment of a facility in the Texas Medical Center that would embody the Jewish concern for spiritual and physical well-being of all people. For 50 years now, a beautiful building with a Star of David on its exterior and a mezuzah on its doorpost has served as



Jewish Institute for Medical Research Groundbreaking, June 7, 1960. Left to right: Irvin Shlenker, M.M. Feld, Louis Pulaski, Melvin Silverman, and Dr. Bernard Farfel.

a research hub of the world-renowned Baylor College of Medicine."

The idea for the Jewish Institute for Medical Research began about 15 years after what was then called Baylor University College of Medicine relocated to Houston. Dr. Bernard Farfel, a clinical associate professor of

medicine, had been visiting Dr. Joseph Melnick, a pioneer of the oral polio vaccine, in his crowded lab. "He had his laboratory refrigerators out in the corridor of the Cullen Building, and you ... had to go sideways almost to get through the corridor ... I hated the idea that this fellow didn't have a place to work," Dr. Farfel later recounted. When he learned that matching grants from the Public Health Service were available for research initiatives, he decided to rally Houston's Jewish community, some 20,000 members strong, to build the first research institute in the Texas Medical Center.

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— Message from the Incoming President —

by Debra Winegarten

When Rusty Milstein called me from Longview a few months ago and asked if I would be willing to serve as the Second Vice-President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, I said, "Sure, why not?" After grilling him extensively on exactly what I was getting myself into, he informed me that I would be on the slow-track to the organization's presidency and not to worry, I'd get lots of training and have time to learn the different aspects of the job before it would be my turn in four years. Little did I know at the time that my term




would begin a lot sooner and instead of a slow-track, I'd be the proud recipient of on-the-job training.

I've known and been on the periphery of this organization since its inception some thirty years ago, when my mother, of blessed mem-

ory, Ruthe Winegarten, worked closely with Rabbi Jimmy Kessler to help get it off the ground. I like to think that if she were still around today, she would be proud of the role I have taken, and also caution me about giving the job its due consideration and time.

I've been working closely with TJHS members Hollace Weiner, Bryan Stone, Vickie Vogel, and Bob Lewis for several months on a five-year strategic plan for the Society. I hope, during my tenure, that together with each of you, we will be able to start and implement some of the plan's recommendations. I want to know as many of you as possible and hope you will make a commitment to attend at least one Society meeting in 2014. We will be meeting in Wichita Falls in June and in Austin in October.

I like starting new things. Transitions are a wonderful time because there's a chance to disrupt things a bit, bring new ideas to bear, and take things to a new level. My intention during my tenure is not only to grow our membership numbers, but to increase the participation of our current members. With your help, we will turn out a more excellent Texas Jewish history, create and sponsor events that increase participation statewide, fund some scholarly and not-so-scholarly works in different media and create an exciting buzz about what it means to be a Texas Jew.

I want to know your ideas, your dreams, your visions, and what you think is possible. Email me at president@txjhs.org. I'm excited to be on this adventure with you! 

The Texas Jewish Historical Society April 2014 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 scans at 300 dpi or greater, in .gif, .tif, or .jpg format, and send electronically to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka at davielou@solka.net or by 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
Photographers Sally Drayer, Marvin Rich, Davie Lou Solka, Marc Wormser

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.



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Message from Outgoing President

by Marc Wormser

As I retire from the office of the president, I cannot help but reflect on the accomplishments of TJHS over the last two years. We have created a new web site with a database of membership that has a record of dues, contributions, and other needed information about our members. Other activities include sending our traveling exhibits to many places to show the history of Jewish participation in the communities of Texas; taking a trip to Cuba to help the Jewish population of Cuba; adding to our archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas; and giving grants and financial contributions to further the recording and study of Jewish people and events in Texas.

Part of our mission has directed us not only to record but to witness the




Jewish history of the state. This has involved sojourns to places like Big Spring, Corsicana, Calvert, San Antonio, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, Longview, San Angelo, and Waco.

This most recent Annual Gathering in College Station presented a diversity of programs which interested all who attended. We had a tour of Temple Freda, a visit to the George Bush Presidential Library, a presentation by Rabbi Peter Tarlow on crypto-Judaism, an Open House at the lovely home of Paul and Tina Gardner, and an oral history program presented by Bob Lewis, better known as "Tumbleweed Smith."


While this outgoing president

would like to take credit for all these items, the real credit goes to the officers, board, and members of TJHS who gave of their time and energies to help make the last two years as successful as the past. I want to thank those who have served in my administration for their efforts in fulfilling our mission. A special "thank you" to all those who have corrected me, reminded me, and done so many things to make me look good.

Debbie Winegarten, as the incoming president, I know that you have the support of your elected officers and board, as well as the support of past officers, board members, and membership to help make your time in office a great success. The one thing I learned very early in my presidency is that everyone is willing to share and help if they are able. They just have to be asked. Good luck.

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as president, especially getting the opportunity to make new and lasting friends I would have never known otherwise. Thank you. 

The Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau of Texas Jewish Historical Society has been busy. On February 9, 2014, Davie Lou Solka spoke to Congregation Havurah Shalom in Georgetown, Texas. She presented the history of the Society, and the film "West of Hester Street" was shown. The following Sunday, February 16, 2014, Jan and Charles Hart and Davie Lou and Jack Solka traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to speak to the San Antonio Jewish Genealogical Society. They were very happy to see so many members of TJHS in attendance. Thanks to Congregation Havurah Shalom for the generous donation that was made to TJHS. 



Jan & Charles Hart and Davie Lou & Jack Solka at the San Antonio Jewish Genealogical Society meeting.

Fill in the Blanks

This 1936 photo of Sunday School students and faculty at Temple Israel in Wichita Falls was submitted by TJHS member Enid Klass. She is appealing to readers to help identify the children and adults, including married names or corrections. If you can help, contact Davie Lou Solka at editor@txjhs.org.



Left to right, front row: _____, _____, Denna Levine, Enid Klass, Hannah Rabinowitz, Dorothy Perlman, Gerry Katz, Lottie Sepkowitz, Ruth Kelson, Rita Oberndorfer, Marcella Persky, _____.
Second row: Teacher _____ Ribnick, Larry Kriss, Sonny Fagadau, _____ Pink, Leo Fields, Marvin Zale, Stanley Kriss, Charles Emold, _____, _____, Rose Marion Levine.
Third row: teacher Renee Ribnick, Gloria Horwitz, Edna Dell Rosenblatt, Betty Perlman, Harold Pink, Philip Max, Lenore Perlman, Jackie Max, Freda Klass, Evelyn Blank, June Fagadau, _____, Louis Pink, _____, Rabbi Kelson.
Back row: Paul Goldstucker, Louis Pink, Lillian Klass, Esther Rose Persky, _____, Helen Sepkowitz, _____, Rosalie Emold, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.

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 news magazine. 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 genealogy for fu-

ture generations.

So what are you waiting for? Send your article to our assistant editor, Davie Lou Solka, at davilou@solka.net, mail it to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, or call her at 512-527-3799.

— Joseph and Rebecca Levine Foreman — of Vernon, Texas

by Morton Herman

with parts of the story taken from *The Historical Encyclopedia of Texas*, Ellis Arthur Davis, Editor

Joseph “Jake” Foreman came to the United States before his twelfth birthday, using his own funds, and his progress in the business world kept pace with the ambition to succeed that brought him across the Atlantic alone. He arrived in Vernon, Texas, in 1926 and established Foreman’s, a dry-goods store that has taken its place among the leading mercantile establishments of the city. He was allied with the group of businessmen that was largely responsible for progress in Vernon during the 1920s and 1930s.

Joseph Foreman was born May 12, 1886, in Kupel, Ukraine, Russia. His father, Charles Foreman, was a grain importer and died two years after Joseph’s birth. His mother, Sarah Cline Foreman, died the year after her son went to America, and before he was able to realize his hope to bring her to this country. He was reared in Ukraine and as a child, learned to speak four languages: Polish, Russian, German and the Slavic language of Ukraine, somewhat like Russian. Attracted to the United States, and the wonderful future it offered ambitious youth, young Joseph Foreman engaged in any kind of work he could find in various European countries in order to obtain passage money for the trip to New York. Upon his arrival, the twelve year old was able to secure his first job in three days. In addition to caring for the sample room of a shirt factory, he attended night school where he learned to read, write, and speak English. After three and a half years, he went to Dallas, Texas, and spent a year with a dry goods company. For the next three years, he worked for a kitchen cabinet concern, driving a hack with a span of fast-stepping ponies over



Joseph and Rebecca Levine Foreman

Indian Territory, now part of Oklahoma, with his sample cabinet on the back of his conveyance. While there, he added a sixth language to his polyglot achievements and was soon able to discourse with Choctaw squaws concerning the merits of his cabinets.

Jake had a push cart and travelled from town to town selling pots, pans, blankets and anything else he could carry. Michael Levine, who had a store in Valiant, Oklahoma, was his wholesaler. On one of his trips after Jake had ordered all of the merchandise he needed, he looked at Michael Levine and said, “I’ll also take that pretty little black-headed girl in the corner.” That was the future Rebecca Foreman. After three years, he had saved enough capital to enter business for himself. In 1909, he bought out the dry goods store in Valiant, Oklahoma, from his future father-in-law.

He operated that store as the Grand Leader, until they moved to Vernon, Texas, where they lived at 2400 Pease Street. Many years after Jake Foreman married Rebecca (Becky) Levine, her brothers approached Jake and asked for a loan to be used to open a low-end

clothing store. Jake loaned them the money, and they soon had stores all over Texas called “The Levine Stores.” Levine stores were subsequently sold to the Zale family of Dallas.

Jake Foreman’s hobby was baseball, and he was a popular member of the “brain trust” in the Vernon playground league. He was a 32nd degree Mason and a Shriner of Maskat Temple Shrine in Wichita Falls. He belonged to the House of Jacob Congregation in Wichita Falls. He took an active interest in political affairs

and from 1916 until 1920 was a member of the County Democratic Central Committee of Oklahoma. He belonged to the Lions Club in Vernon and was a Director of the Chamber of Commerce. He kept in close touch with topics of the day by reading editorials in the metropolitan newspapers.

Jake and Rebecca had three daughters: Sarah, Hannah, and Maxine. Sarah married Abe Herman, a prominent lawyer in Fort Worth, Texas, just one semester shy of obtaining a degree from the University of Oklahoma. They lived in Fort Worth the rest of their lives. Sarah and Abe had two sons, Don and Morton. Morton Herman is an attorney, who practiced law for twenty five years with his father and then moved to one of the larger firms in the city of Fort Worth.

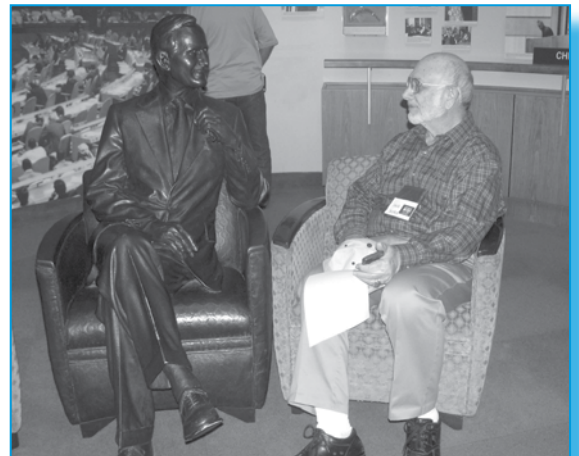
Hannah married Elliott Davis who was attending the University of Oklahoma. He was a geologist and obtained the status of Phi Beta Kappa during his tenure at Oklahoma. He and Hannah moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Hannah always commented that Elliott was

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TJHS Annual Gathering



Photo at left: in the back are Susan Lewis, Recording Secretary; David Beer, First Vice President; and Marc Wormser, Immediate Past President. In the front is Davie Lou Solka, Third Vice President; Ruth Nathan, Treasurer; Vickie



Vogel, Parliamentarian; Samylu Rubin, Corresponding Secretary; Debra Winegarten, President; and Sally Drayer, Historian. In the photo above, Jack Solka talked to President Bush. In the photo at left are members who attended the Annual Gathering.



Back: Mitzi and Nelson Chafetz. Front: Tina Gardner; Joyce Wormser; Bobbi Wells

Dena Kahan and Anita Feigenbaum, co-chairs for the weekend.



In the photo at left, TJHS members watched a movie at the George Bush Presidential Library. In the photo at right, standing, Alana Weimer and Vickie Vogel; and seated, Claire Brooks, at Havdalah.



— College Station, March 21-23, 2014 —



Clockwise from top left: Marc Wormser gave his "outgoing" President's speech. Rabbi Peter Tarlow, Director of the Abe and Annie Seibel Center for Crypto-

Hispanic-Jewish Relations at Texas A&M University. Mayor of College Station, Texas, Nancy Berry, who is the first Jewish elected official in Brazos County. Bob Lewis, aka "Tumbleweed Smith" was the Saturday-night speaker. Cousins "gather" to discuss family history. In the back are Davie Lou Solka and Pacey



Laves. Seated are Jack Solka and Shirley Pollock.

Tina and Paul Gardner, who hosted the Open House. In the replica of the Oval Office in the George Bush Presidential Library, "President" Betty Gurwitz sits in the chair, while behind her stand Mitzi Milstein, Shirley Pollock, and Samylu Rubin.



Encyclopedia of Texas Jewish Communities

The Texas Jewish Historical Society awarded a grant to the Institute of Southern Jewish Life to research and publish the histories of Jews in Texas towns. These histories are available on the Institute's website and are called "Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities." We will adapt one of these histories in each issue of our News Magazine. Thanks to the History Department of the ISJL for permission to do so. To see other towns, go to the Institute's website, www.isjl.org, click on the "History Department" and look for "Encyclopedia" in the drop-down menu.

Wichita Falls

The few families who lived in remote Wichita County, just south of the Oklahoma border, lobbied hard to bring the Fort Worth and Denver Railroad to the area, offering major property concessions along with right-of-way. In 1882, their dream was achieved as the train tracks helped create a land boom and sparked economic development

in the area. In 1889, the settlement was incorporated as Wichita Falls. A year later, 2,000 people lived in the town. By the turn of the century, several more railroad lines had been built through Wichita Falls, which became a regional transportation and supply hub.

Perhaps the first Jews to settle in Wichita Falls were Albert and Rebecca Zundelowitz, who came to town in the late 1880s to open a clothing store. Both were born in Russia. Albert immigrated to the United States in 1865, with Rebecca following four years later. They married in 1873, and lived in Iowa before moving to Wichita Falls. Albert became one of the city's most prominent businessmen, helping to found City National Bank. By 1910,

he had retired and was living on his investments. He was also a rancher, owning property on the West Texas plains. Zundelowitz was very civically minded, serving as an alderman in the 1890s. He donated \$30,000 to help build a local public school, which was named in his honor. In 1924, the local newspaper recognized Albert and Rebecca as "pioneer residents" of Wichita Falls.

Following the arrival of Albert and Rebecca Zundelowitz, a handful of other Jews moved to Wichita Falls in the late nineteenth century. Alex Kahn moved to town around 1890 to work for Zundelowitz's store. Kahn later opened his own clothing store in town. Henry Kahn owned a furniture store in the 1890s while Max Marcus was a dry-

goods salesman in Wichita Falls by 1890. Gene Liepold, a German native, came to Wichita Falls in 1909 and opened the Loeb-Liepold clothing store, which he managed for forty-five years. Liepold became a beloved figure in town, carrying jelly beans in his pockets so he could give them to the children in town. A big sports fan, Liepold owned a local semi-pro

baseball team and often led parades and pep rallies for the local high school football team.

By 1910, there were only a handful of Jewish-owned stores in Wichita Falls, and the Jewish community was still fairly small. Things would change once oil was discovered in the area in 1911. A major oil strike in 1918 transformed Wichita Falls into a boomtown. The city grew from about 8,000 residents in 1910 to over 40,000 a decade later. By 1920, the city had nine oil refineries and forty-seven factories. Wichita Falls' emergence as an oil center attracted growing numbers of Jews to the city, most of whom opened retail stores. Louis Pink moved to Wichita



Map of Whichita Falls from 1890.

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Falls from Indianapolis in the 1910s to open the Palace Drug Store. Several other Jewish families moved to town as the ranks of Jewish-owned businesses swelled. By 1927, an estimated five-hundred and five Jews lived in Wichita Falls.

As the number of Jews grew, they slowly began to organize communal institutions. In 1910, the *Wichita Daily Times* noted that “several local establishments conducted by Jews” would be closed for Rosh Hashanah, although there was no mention of services being held in the city. In 1913, the newspaper reported that Jews had founded the city’s first Jewish congregation and would be holding religious services at Moose Hall. Rabbi Hoffman of Mineral Wells led the services, which were held for the traditional two days. They brought in a Torah from Dallas for the occasion. Leonard Art, a native of Holland, was the group’s leader. They did not plan to hold regular Shabbat services during the first year, yet still hoped to buy land for a synagogue as soon as they could. The paper noted, “There is now a considerable number of citizens of the Jewish faith in Wichita Falls and it is hoped to organize a flourishing congregation.”

In 1915, the *Wichita Daily Times* reported that local Jews had recently organized a congregation called Temple Israel. Rabbi George Fox of Beth-El Congregation in Fort Worth came to lead services that were held in the building owned by J. Art, Leonard’s son. That same year, Wichita Falls Jews organized a chapter of B’nai B’rith with twenty-five charter members.

By the late 1910s, after the oil boom, the Jewish community developed rather quickly. By 1917, local women founded a Hebrew Ladies Aid Society, which raised money for Jewish war sufferers. The following year, a chapter of Council of Jewish Women was established with Frieda Pink as its first president. Around the same time,

Frieda and her husband, Louis Pink, organized a religious school for Temple Israel. The congregation was meeting at First Presbyterian Church for Friday night services.

In 1919, Temple Israel was formally chartered. In April of that year, the congregation purchased land and began to raise money for a house of worship. In September, the congregation announced plans to hire a full-time rabbi and build a synagogue. Temple Israel quickly achieved these goals, hiring Rabbi David Goldberg in December. By May, 1920, Temple Israel had completed its building, which hosted the congregation’s first Confirmation ceremony that month. The new temple was not formally dedicated until January 1922. Over the dedication weekend, Rabbi David Lefkowitz of Dallas, Rabbi Martin Zielonka of El Paso, and Rabbi Maurice Farber of Tyler gave addresses. Temple Israel was Reform, joining the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in the early 1920s. By 1925, the congregation had forty contributing members. When Frieda Pink died in 1921, Temple Israel bought land for a Jewish cemetery.

Not all Wichita Falls Jews supported Reform Judaism. By 1917, a group of Orthodox Jews had organized and met at the home of B. Catch and begun to pray together. In 1920, the group was formally chartered as House of Jacob, with C. Capland as its first president. In its early years, House of Jacob held High Holiday services in various office buildings downtown. Soon, they began to build a synagogue on land selected by Albert Zundelowitz, who supported the Orthodox congregation even though he belonged to Temple Israel. Located on Lamar Street and costing only \$6,000, this modest synagogue served the forty-four families that belonged to House of Jacob when the building was dedicated in 1924.

Soon after forming, House of Jacob was able to hire a *chazzan* and *shochet* to lead services and provide

kosher meat for members. Reverends Joffe and Israel each served the congregation briefly in its early years. In 1922, House of Jacob hired Aaron Rabinowitz, who spent over twenty years as spiritual leader and *shochet*. The congregation was Orthodox initially, though by 1934, it was holding Shabbat services on Friday nights, rather than the traditional Saturday mornings since so many members had to keep their stores open on the Sabbath. Despite this compromise to traditional practice, the congregation remained Orthodox, even adding a *mikvah* to the building later on. Yet they did not insist on their own Orthodox burial ground. Members of House of Jacob were buried in the Temple Israel cemetery. Later, the two congregations created the Hebrew Rest Cemetery Corporation which oversaw the cemetery for the entire Wichita Falls Jewish community.

With the Wichita Falls Jewish community divided into two congregations, neither was very large. Temple Israel never grew much past the forty member families it had in 1925. Despite its small size, the Reform congregation was able to hire full-time rabbis in its early years. Rabbi David Goldberg led Temple Israel from 1920 to 1923. He was followed by Samuel Phillips from 1925 to 1927 and S. J. Schwab from 1927 until early 1930s. Not until 1936 did Temple Israel hire another full-time rabbi, Benjamin Kelson. Rabbi Kelson was replaced by Leo Lichtenberg in 1941, who left in 1943 to serve as a military chaplain. After Rabbi Lichtenberg left, Temple Israel never again had a full-time rabbi. During the years in which they did not have a spiritual leader, Temple Israel would bring in student rabbis from Hebrew Union College or Dr. Hyman Ettlinger, a math professor at the University of Texas, to lead High Holiday services. Rabbi David Lefkowitz of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas would come in to conduct confirmation services or officiate at life cycle events. Paul Goldstucker, who

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From Our Archives

This column is based on information in the TJHS Collection, housed at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas campus in Austin. It has been supplemented with online research. If you have corrections or additions, please submit them in writing to the TJHS editor at editor@txjhs.org. We want our archives to be as complete and accurate as possible.

The Sonnenthiel House by Vickie Vogel

A tragic fire in Galveston led to the construction of one of its landmark homes, the Sonnenthiel House.¹ Jacob Sonnenthiel² was born in Germany in December 1841. His parents were also born there.³ He came to America as a young man. After serving in the Confederate army, Jacob with his brother Julius became merchants in Galveston in the dry goods business as Sonnenthiel & Lion. Congregation B'Nai Israel was organized in 1868,⁴ and the brothers were members from at least 1869.

The Galveston City Directory of 1882-1883 boasts that the retail trade in that city had kept pace with the wholesale trade "swelling the city's substantial prosperity to greater proportions." Fashionable goods were available at the leading retail dry goods establishments, including L. Fellman, Sonnenthiel & Lion, J. B. Worhack, S. Levy, Meyer Schram, J. R. Seligman, and others.⁵

In 1884, Jacob and Julius Sonnenthiel expanded to form a wholesale dry goods supplier with partners Louis



The Sonnenthiel House. Photo by Vickie Vogel.

Block and Leopold Oppenheimer, called Block, Oppenheimer, and Co. Jacob invested in ventures such as the Jefferson-Hardin Oil Co. and Pivetot Oil Co., both of Galveston, to prospect for oil. Jacob was one of three directors for Pivetot.⁶

Jacob's wife, Sullie or Sallie, was born in Louisiana in February 1856. Her parents were also from Germany, with her mother, Elise Michael, having been born there in May 1839. Elise lived with the Sonnenthiels until a charming two-story house was built for her in 1890 at 1717 Postoffice Street.⁷

Jacob and Sallie's children were

born in Texas: Daniel in February 1875, Hellen in December 1879, and Louis in September 1884.⁸ Dan and Hellen graduated from Galveston's Ball High in 1890 and 1895 respectively.⁹ Louis, the youngest child, later lived in Dallas and married Julia Baum, daughter of Marx and Annie Marks Baum (both of Mississippi).

Louis died at the age of 48 in 1933.

He was survived

by his daughter Mary Anne, his son Louis C. Jr., and his mother.¹⁰

In November of 1885, on Friday the 13th, there was a disastrous fire in Galveston shortly after midnight at a foundry near the business district. High winds of 30 to 80 miles per hour swept the flames from rooftop to rooftop across a four block area from the Strand almost to the beach. The night sky was bright as day, and a thick pall of smoke hung over the city as people desperately tried to save what they could before the howling inferno reached them. By the time the winds died down at 6 AM, the newly

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created professional fire department had succeeded in getting the fire under control, but forty-two blocks (a hundred acres) and some 568 buildings including over 400 homes had been consumed. Fortunately, there were no fatalities. The Sonnenthiel home and that of William Ladd were among those in the wealthy and fashionable district that were destroyed. The two homes were less than a block from each other.¹¹

Before the end of the year, Jacob had purchased for \$5000 cash the two lots of land on which the Ladd home had stood. For \$14,000, Jacob built the home that stands today at 1828 Avenue I, still known as the Sonnenthiel House. It was completed in 1887 in the style called Carpenter Gothic.¹² Here, Jacob and Sallie lived until his death at age 67 in 1908. After Jacob's death, Sallie moved to the Hotel Ansonia in New York.¹³ The house was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Stubbs in 1911, where they lived for the next 41 years. The longest owners of the house, the Stubbs reportedly entertained famous guests like Theodore Roosevelt.

Carpenter Gothic means that carved wood was used for the gothic elements instead of the usual carved stone. Carpenter Gothic homes were considered well suited to the Galveston climate, making good use of Gulf breezes to cool the heat of summer. Some call its style the beginning of modern architecture. Most likely it was designed by the prominent architect Nicholas Clayton (1840-1916).¹⁴ This theory is bolstered by the discovery of a board from the bottom shelf of the butler's pantry during restoration signed by Colonel Daniel W. Ducie, 1887. Ducie was Clayton's building supervisor. Also, the house follows architectural designs favored by Clayton, such as identical upper and lower galleries.

There are pilasters with carved

heads representing different European monarchs, floor length windows, six-panel doors eleven-feet high, massive moldings and intricate woodwork. Some original furnishings remained in the house until recent times, such as a pier mirror in the upper hall, an original chandelier in the dining room, and a light fixture with Favrile shades in the entry hall.¹⁵ The house survived the 1900, 1915, 1943, and 1961 hurricanes, although it suffered damage in the 1943 hurricane when the roof of the carriage house/garage blew off. Five chimneys collapsed on the house and came through the roof. In addition, the doors of the west hall were blown in and one of the etched glass panels was found leaning precariously against the north wall.

One interesting feature of the home is the large closet in the master bedroom, as closets were not common at this time. Much of the interior moldings and flooring are made of imported woods such as mahogany and teak, most likely originating in the Far East and brought into Galveston Bay via Cape Horn. The house uses stained, bevelled and etched glass. The ceilings have pressed tin. A beautiful carved staircase contains a large landing with stained glass allowing natural light to flood in and illuminate the bronze violinist atop the newel post. The porch off the southwest and southeast bedrooms can be accessed through sixteen-foot windows, which were also helpful in drawing in and circulating cool air through the house. Windows like this were also used as a tax dodge, since there had been a "door tax" imposed by carpetbaggers after the Civil War.

In 1962, the Galveston Historical Foundation recognized the house officially as a historical building. The house returned to Jewish hands when Arthur "Butch" Schechter purchased it in November 1987 from H. L. Trentham, who had restored it. Schechter

used it as law offices, while continuing to emphasize the preservation of the structure. In one section where the original wallpaper was visible, he had new paper hand-painted to match the design. Where hand-carved pilasters of faces had deteriorated, Schechter had them replaced with identical fiberglass models.¹⁶ A special use permit was granted by the Galveston City Council to enable the house to be used as an office. Schechter and his law partner Harold Eisenman published a short work on the house, *Sonnenthiel House, 1888-1988*.¹⁷ Schechter has a photograph of Franklin Roosevelt and Galveston Mayor Adrian Levy in a car in front of the house with Congressman Lyndon B. Johnson leaning into the picture.¹⁸

The house has been featured in many periodicals, including *Life* magazine around 1952, and is often mentioned in architectural books and journals. A short film used the Sonnenthiel house as a setting in 2012.¹⁹ Schechter sold the house to John R. and Dee Dee Elliott,²⁰ whose 0.2 acres of land were valued in 2013 at \$516,670.²¹ Because of the house, the Sonnenthiel name lives on in Galveston.

Endnotes

¹ In some sources, it is spelled Sonnenthiel and in others, Sonnentheil.

² Unless otherwise noted, all information is from Box 4T140, Family History M-Z, an unsigned article titled "Brief History," or Box 3A171, the Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

³ <http://www.usgwcensus.org/cenfiles/tx/galveston/1900/ed117/ed117p05.txt>

⁴ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation_B'nai_Israel_\(Galveston,_Texas\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congregation_B'nai_Israel_(Galveston,_Texas))

⁵ <http://www.natchezbelle.org/galveston/1882-directory29.htm> Ellen Pack

⁶ p 21-22 Iron and Machinery World, volume 89, 1901 http://books.google.com/books?id=Y3QgAQAAMAAJ&dq=sonnenthiel&source=gbs_navlinks_s



Resolution presented to the Jewish Institute for Medical Research by the Texas Medical Center, June 19, 1967.

Left to right, front row: Irvin H. Shlenker, Dr. Bernard Farfel; middle row: Dr. Joseph L. Melnick, Dr. Louis H. Green, Leon Jaworski, W. Leland Anderson, Joe L. Allbritton, Dr. Raymond D. Pruitt; back row: W. Carlos Morris, Jr., Richard T. Eastwood, Albert Goldstein, M.M. Schwartz, Frank H. Newman, Jr.

In 1958, Dr. Farfel organized a group that included his brother Aaron, a successful businessman; Irvin Shlenker, a banker and community leader; Albert Goldstein, director of the Jewish Community Council; David H. White, publisher of the *Jewish Herald-Voice*; Melvin Silverman, a builder; and Joseph Krakower, an architect. Their goal was to raise \$450,000 for a four-story Jewish Institute for Medical Research. By the time they broke ground June 7, 1960, the committee had raised \$550,000 from 1,200 families for the project, which had grown to be a nine-story building on land donated by the M. D. Anderson Foundation.

Dr. Raymond Pruitt, chair of the department of medicine at Baylor, endorsed the fundraising campaign, noting, "Here for the first time in the

history of this college of medicine, the clinician will have space thoughtfully designed and properly equipped to permit study of those problems which spring directly from his experience at the bedside of his patients."

When it opened October 20, 1963, the Jewish Institute for Medical Research became home to studies in ophthalmology, psychiatry, pharmacology, virology, urology and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Melnick and renowned heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey established labs in the building, as did Dr. Roger Guillemin, whose research on the synthesis of brain hormones won the 1977 Nobel Prize in Medicine.

Gerald Rauch, president of the Jewish Community Council, described the Jewish Institute for Medical Research as "a signal contribution to the Texas Medical Center." It was one of

four new buildings that together added more than 350,000 square feet to the Baylor campus in the early 1960s, as the college became the epicenter for biomedical research in Houston, fueled by philanthropy and the National Institutes of Health.

Once the building was completed, the Jewish Institute for Medical Research's board, which originally included Ben Taub, Alvin Romansky, Simon Sakowitz, Abe Weingarten, Dr. Melnick and Dr.

Farfel, focused its efforts on research projects, fellowships and scholarships in the Texas Medical Center, contributing more than \$620,000.


Through the years, research conducted in the building has led to important advances in our understanding of cancer, polio, hepatitis, gastrointestinal disease, atherosclerosis, mental health and AIDS. In 1988, the Jewish Institute for Medical Research supported B'nai B'rith Women, Jewish Family Service and the Jewish Community Council in organizing a groundbreaking city-wide Tay-Sachs screening program, led by Dr. C. Thomas Caskey, then head of medical genetics at Baylor.

Today some of the most innovative programs at the college, including the Dan L. Duncan Institute for Clinical

continued on page 13

Jewish Institute for Medical Research, continued from page 12

and Translational Research, the Alkek Center for Molecular Discovery, the Cardiovascular Research Institute, the Influenza Research Center and the Center for Medical Ethics, are based in the Jewish Institute for Medical Research. And Baylor College of Medicine continues to be a research powerhouse, receiving more NIH funding than any other institution in the state.

"What has been done here . . . defines the meaning of compassion and love of humanity, said Dr. Farfel at the building's rededication in 1993. "In Hebrew, one prays, *Chazak, chazak, v'nitchazek*—may it go from strength to strength." 

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.

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Did you know that TJHS has a facebook page? Like us at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Jewish-Historical-Society/187629054741368>.



The Sonnenthiel House, continued from page 11

⁷ Jodi Wright-Gidley and Jennifer Marines. Galveston: A City on Stilts, Arcadia Publishing (Charleston SC) 2008. The 1900 census, however, shows Elise Michael living with the Sonnenthiels.

⁸ <http://www.usgwcensus.org/cenfiles/tx/galveston/1900/ed117/ed117p05.txt>

⁹ <http://www.natchezbelle.org/galveston/students.htm>

¹⁰ [http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=sonnenthiel&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=63473188&df=all& , http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=39074964](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=sonnenthiel&GSbyrel=all&GSdyrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=63473188&df=all&http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=39074964) and <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=39075065>

¹¹ <http://gravematters-greg.blogspot.com/2009/05/galveston-fire-of-1885.html> <http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=F60D15F6345F10728DDDAD0994D9415B8584F0D3>, the New York Times, November 14, 1885. Among prominent citizens who lost their residences were Julius Runge of Kauffman & Runge; Leon Blum of L & H Blum; Samson Heidenheimer; Moritz Lasker; Albert Weis of Halff, Weis & Co.; and H. Fellman of Fellman & Grunbach.

¹² <http://www.islandofgalveston.com/Streets/STRISonnenheil.shtml>

¹³ Natalie Ornish, *Pioneer Jewish Texans*. Texas A&M University Press, 2011. Pp. 139-140.

¹⁴ http://quod.lib.umich.edu/u/ummu/x-02-08083/*

¹⁵ Favrite is a kind of iridescent art glass designed by Louis Tiffany. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Favrile_glass


¹⁶ Telephone conversation with Arthur Schechter, February 10, 2014.

¹⁷ http://books.google.com/books/about/Sonnen-thiel_House_1888_1888.html?id=zoYctwAACAAJ

¹⁸ Schechter, *ibid*. The photo was not available for this article.

¹⁹ The trailer has brief images of the interior. <http://vimeo.com/44832031>

²⁰ Schechter, *op cit*.

²¹ <http://www.galvestoncad.org/appraisal/publicaccess/PropertySearchResults.aspx> 

In Memoriam



Roy Arthur Elsner, TJHS Board Member, died February 28, 2014, in Dallas. He was a long time resident of Odessa

before moving to Dallas. He was born August 24, 1924. He is survived by his son and his son's fiancée, Phil Elsner and Pam Hiller; and his daughter, Susan Elsner Furman; and five grandchildren.

Benjamin Morris Moskowitz,



TJHS member, died January 19, 2014 at the age of 84. He was a long-time resident of Baytown before

moving to Austin in 1992. He is survived by his son, Joe Moskowitz; his daughters and sons-in-law, Melanie and Marshall Snyder and Bonnie and David Cohen; his son and daughter-in-law, David and Jennifer Moskowitz; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; his sister, Gertrude Teter; and his sister and brother-in-law, Dolly and Ed Golden.

May their memories be a blessing.



Joseph and Rebecca Levine Foreman

probably the only gas station employee with a Phi Beta Kappa, who oiled and greased cars at his first job. Hannah and Elliott Davis had three sons: Barry, Lee, and Mark. She and Elliott decided they would try one more time in the hopes that a fourth child would be a girl. Tim Davis was born as the fourth child of the Davis family. Hannah was finally rewarded as all of their sons had girls, except for the last child born to Tim Davis. Finally a Davis male, Ben, was born.

Maxine, sixteen years younger than Sarah and the baby of the family, graduated from the University of Texas. She met her husband, Jack Zarrow, there, and they moved to Jack's home town of Tulsa, Oklahoma. They had three children, Gail, Cathy, and Scott. In 2014, the only surviving daughter of Joseph and Rebecca Foreman is Maxine Zarrow of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Joseph Foreman had quite a wit on him and was very popular with the local business community of Vernon, since he had the only dry goods store in town. As with most small Texas towns, it was on the town square in a prime location. Rebecca and all of the girls worked in the store. The girls began when they could reach the cash register and "retired" when they went to college. The Foreman family was the only Jewish family in Vernon and required a great deal of finesse and quick thinking in order to survive. While the City of Vernon did not have a branch of the KKK, it did have what was called the "White Citizens League" which had the same underlying

thought process and principles of the KKK. Fortunately, Jake and his family were not targets of those particular ideals and objectives and maintained their status in the community as it should have been.

One story that has become popular, not only in the Foreman family but in the local community and has been passed from generation to generation, is the time when Jake found out that the local church needed a podium and could not afford to have it built. Upon learning of this, Jake went to the local lumber yard and told them to build a nice podium and deliver it to the church as soon as it was finished. The church was extremely gratified and appreciative of his efforts and asked him to come to a Sunday morning service so they could honor him. During the service, he was asked to say a few words, and he said, "Vell, since my people done founded the Bible that you folks use, the least I could do was give you something to put it on."


This statement was typical of the humor that Jake Foreman had throughout his life. Another story is told which reflects an opposing view of his humor. Several years after Jake Foreman died in 1968, Becky who was just the opposite of Jake in that she was very quiet, polite and spoke barely over a whisper, was sitting with the family in the living room. Maxine said, "Mama, you never talk or laugh much and we all wonder why or how anyone could live with Grandpa all the years you did and not have a more gregarious sense of humor." In response, Rebecca looked at Maxine and in her slow, methodical voice said, "Well, I never really thought he was all that funny." This, of course, brought a horrendous laugh from all of the family. Becky Foreman died in 1980.

Joseph Foreman had an interesting relative in New York by the name of Sarah Foreman, coincidentally the same name as his oldest daughter. She was a teacher in New York and moved to Israel in 1948, for reasons unknown. There she met a young lawyer by the name

of Yakov Solomon, who was a fourth generation Sabra and whose rabbinical father established the first Orthodox Synagogue in the State of Israel. Yakov Solomon, during this lifetime, was the most famous and successful non-political individual in the State of Israel. He was an attorney who was educated at Kings College in London, and later moved back to Israel to begin his practice. Sarah and Yakov fought in the 1948 War and were both members of the Haganah. Yakov had a price on his head that fortunately, was never paid.

One time, when Israel had purchased four battleships from France, the French reneged upon the deal and would not comply with the agreement since they did not want to be politically associated with Israel. The ships were placed in the name of Yakov and did get to Israel.

Sometime after the 1948 War, the Israeli Government captured and arrested an English spy who was the first English spy to be put on trial in the newly created State of Israel. In order for the Israeli Government to show the world that Israel was a Democratic country and afforded all democratic rights to any persons in the State, they appointed Yakov Solomon to represent the spy. Yakov Solomon did represent the spy and, notwithstanding the political fallout, bad publicity on his daring to represent an enemy of the State, and even death threats in connection with the same, the spy was not convicted.

During his lifetime, Yakov Solomon was the highest individual wage earner in the State of Israel. He had houses in Tel Aviv and Haifa and the artifacts and original paintings in his home resembled that of any large museum in Israel. After Yakov's death, Sarah remained politically active and anytime any of Jake's grandchildren went to Israel, she immediately swooped them up and gave them a tour of the city that most tourists do not get to see. The relatives in the United States still maintain a relationship with the Solomon family, many of whom are practicing lawyers in Israel and also in prominent business activities. 

had studied to be a rabbi at HUC, often led services as well. Louis Pink spent many years as president of Temple Israel and was named Life President in the late 1930s.

The members of both congregations continued to be concentrated in



Enid Klass at the Jubilee in Wichita Falls, Texas in 1940, holding a 1902 silver mesh bag belonging to her mother, Sarah Klass. The bag is in the TJHS Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History in Austin.

retail trade. In 1939, Jewish-owned stores were located in downtown Wichita Falls. These included the Fair, a clothing store owned by Julius and Melvin Augustus; the Hub, a clothing

store owned by Sol Laski; Levine's Department Store, opened by Morris and William Levine in 1934, which later grew into a regional chain of one hundred fifty stores; Baum's Drug Store, owned by Marie and Chess Baum; the Popular Furniture, owned by Leo Schusterman; a used clothing store owned by Fannie Meyer, and others. Jews were also involved in the jewelry business in Wichita Falls. Joseph Art owned a jewelry store for many years. He was known for helping soldiers stationed at nearby Sheppard Field, making loans to them that he never expected to be repaid. Sam Kruger owned a jewelry store in 1912, which remained in business for well over half a century. His nephew, Max Kruger, ran the store into the 1980s. Max became involved in local politics and he served as mayor of Wichita Falls from 1972 until 1975.

One of America's best known jewelry-store chains got its start in Wichita Falls. Russian immigrants Morris and William Zale, whose family settled in Fort Worth, moved as teenagers to Wichita Falls to help their uncle, jeweler Sam Kruger. In 1924, the Zale brothers opened the nation's first credit jewelers, with terms as low as a dollar a week. From this modest start, the Zale Jewelry Co. grew, bringing jewelry to the masses and transforming an industry that had previously catered to the economic elite. At its peak, the Zale Jewelry Corporation employed 20,000 people. Although Morris moved the operation to Dallas in 1946, the foundation he created has been very philanthropic in the city where the business began. When Morris Zale died in 1995, his foundation donated \$400,000 to help build a family health center in Wichita Falls.

Not all Wichita Falls Jews were preoccupied with business. Fania Kruger, the wife of jewelry merchant, Sam Kruger, became a celebrated poet. Kruger had left Russia as a young teenager in 1908 after her family grew concerned that her involvement with the revolutionary movements put their lives in danger. The family first settled in Fort Worth, where Fania met and married Sam. Once she moved to Wichita Falls, Fania began writing poems in English about Jewish life in Russia and America that were published in several periodicals. In 1946, she was given the highest award by the Poetry Society of America. During her career, Kruger published three collections of poetry: *The Tenth Jew*, *Cossack Laughter*, and *All Seeds Blended*. Fania Kruger's papers are held at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, one of the leading humanities archives in the country.

Wichita Falls entered another boom period after World War II with the construction of Sheppard Air Force Base in 1945. The city's population doubled from 55,000 people in 1940 to 110,000 in 1955. Despite this, the Jewish community did not grow significantly. After shrinking from 385 Jews in 1937 to 276 in 1948, the Jewish community remained at a plateau of around 250 people for the next few decades. These demographic trends affected the city's two Jewish congregations.

In 1948, House of Jacob reached its peak in membership. Three years earlier, they had hired Orthodox Rabbi Morris Goodman to lead them, and Aaron Rabinowitz, who was not ordained, was given the title, "Associate Rabbi." House of Jacob had a Hebrew School and a Sunday School and held services on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. In 1957, House of Jacob moved its wood-clad building to a new location on Kemp Road. There they added new school rooms and bricked the exterior. The *mikvah* was not moved to the new


continued on page 16

location. Although the congregation was still nominally Orthodox, it was moving toward Conservative Judaism. At the time of the move, House of Jacob had one hundred member families and about fifty children in its religious school. Rabbi Goodman remained at House of Jacob until 1968.

While House of Jacob grew along with the city, Temple Israel's membership declined significantly. Between 1945 and 1965, the Reform congregation shrank from forty contributing members to seventeen. The congregation no longer had a full-time rabbi after 1945, with member Paul Goldstucker usually leading services. In 1975, the remaining fifteen member families of Temple Israel decided to sell the building. The congregation was too small to maintain it, and its many steps made the Temple inaccessible for elderly members. The City of Wichita Falls bought the building, and it became a senior citizen center. After the sale, the congregation met for services in a rented building for a while, but soon disbanded with the remaining members joining House of Jacob, which became the city's sole Jewish congregation. By the time Temple Israel disbanded, House of Jacob had become a Conservative congregation. Once the remaining members of Temple Israel joined House of Jacob, the congregation adapted to accommodate both Reform and Conservative Judaism. Today, the congregation uses both Reform and Conservative prayerbooks but maintains a kosher kitchen.

The oil industry had left Wichita Falls by the early 1960s. In response, city leaders worked successfully to attract new manufacturing to the city. But by the 1980s, many of these factories had also left, and the city's economy and population stagnated. The Jewish community began to decline as children raised in Wichita Falls moved away to larger cities. By 1975, House of Jacob had dropped to fifty member families. Nevertheless, the congregation was able to hire full-time rabbis.

In 1979, Rabbi Israel Silver came to House of Jacob, the congregation's first rabbi on staff in eleven years. He was followed by Rabbi Hershel Remer, but by the mid 1980s the congregation no longer had a rabbi. Abraham Julius and Abe Kaufman served as lay leaders. Visiting rabbis would come for the High Holiday services. Maxine Simpson, who moved to Wichita Falls, in the early 1980s, became an important leader of the congregation, using her energy and enthusiasm to help carry House of Jacob through the lean years of the 1980s and 1990s.

In the twenty-first century, House of Jacob has experienced something of resurgence. Rabbi Ira Flax was stationed at Sheppard Air Force Base and worked to revitalize the Wichita Falls Jewish community, urging them to hold weekly Shabbat services. Danny Kislin, who had spent a few years in rabbinic school, moved to Wichita Falls to manage a store. He took on the duties of lay leader and then decided to pursue ordination. In 2011, Rabbi Danny Kislin led weekly Friday night services for the congregation. A handful of Jewish doctors have moved to town with their families while Sheppard Air Force Base continues to draw a few Jewish military families. In 2011, House of Jacob had between thirty and forty families and an active religious school with seven students. W. B. Marks, who came back to Wichita Falls to take over the family flooring business, serves as president of the congregation. In recent years, the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation has helped House of Jacob by donating money to repair the roof and refurbish other features of the building. They have recently repurposed the old stained glass windows from Temple Israel's building which had been in storage, using portions of them to decorate both the sanctuary and the social hall. These beautiful windows are a fitting symbol of a Jewish community in touch with its historic roots that continues to keep Jewish life alive in Wichita Falls, Texas. 

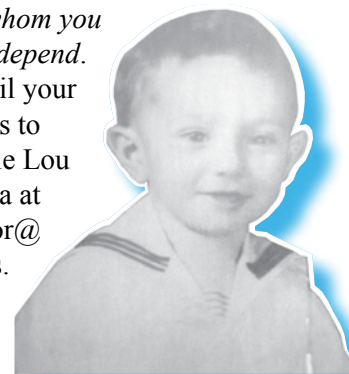
—Can You— Guess This Member?

Congratulations to **Marilyn Lippman** from Dallas, who guessed that the serious, pretty, dark-haired girl pictured in our last two issues is TJHS Past President **Vickie Vogel**.



Now, see how many of you can guess this one! Your clue is: *This guy is someone on whom you can depend.*

Email your guess to Davie Lou Solka at editor@txjhs.org any time beginning **Thursday, May 1**. Entries received before that date will not be considered. Previous winners and family members are not eligible to participate. Good luck! 



**The deadline for
the July 2014 TJHS
News Magazine is
Friday, June 20.**

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, or occasion—birthday, anniversary, award, new child or grandchild, etc.) and your name, along with a check in the amount of your choice, to

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to the following

Texas Jewish Historical Society Members

Helen Wilk, who will be one of three recipients of the Dan Kilgore Award presented by the Nueces County Historical Society on May 2, 2014, for her contributions to historic preservation..

Debra Winegarten on the publication of her book, *Oveta Culp Hobby: Colonel, Cabinet Member, Philanthropist*, which was published in March, 2014.

*Please send information for this column to
Davie Lou Solka at davielou@solka.net.*

Welcome New Members!

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TJHS will be updating the Membership Directory this summer. Please check your listing and if it needs correcting, contact Marc Wormser at c2aggie@gmail.com.

Correction

Our sincere apologies to **Mimi Toubin** of Brenham, Texas. On page 1 of our February 2014 issue, she was referred to as "Mitzi." Mimi and her

husband, Leon, have been the longtime caretakers of the Congregation B'nai Abraham building in Brenham and were very instrumental in the reloca-

tion of the building to the Dell-JCC campus in Austin. B'nai Abraham is the oldest Orthodox Synagogue in Texas. Again, our apologies to Mimi.

Visit us on the web at www.txjhs.org.



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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 be either 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@charter.net.

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