

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas  
Est. 1980



March 2015 News Magazine

## Finger Farm Celebrates 100 Years in Shepherd

by Jacob McAdams

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One of the more prevalent names in Shepherd, Texas, is that of the Finger family. With a large entrepreneurial history that involves farm land, furniture stores and other businesses in and out of town, the Fingers are considered well-established in the area.

In May of 2014, Alan Finger, current owner of Finger Farms and grandson of Sam Finger, asked for a proclamation from the city of Shepherd to recognize the farm's 100th anniversary on April 13, 2015.

The story of the Finger Farm begins with the emigration of Sam Finger from Latvia to the United States. According to Alan Finger, he arrived in New York in the 1890s and worked in a hat shop with his uncle.

When his uncle let him go in order to bring his own son into the business, Sam Finger made his way to Texas. "No one knows how or why he came to Texas," said Alan Finger.

A 1900 census placed Sam Finger in Groveton, Texas, where he had begun making preparations to start what would be a successful business life for him. "He put out a word that he was looking for a little store," said Finger. The events leading up to the



*Sam Finger (right) with his wife Annie Finger (left) at their 50th wedding anniversary.*

purchase of Sam Finger's store are ambiguous, according to his grandson, but in 1901 he bought the store, one of the famous historical memories for Shepherd.

Sam Finger eventually brought the first one hundred acres for the farm on January 19, 1914, from a woman named Florrie Cravey, the surviving widow of C.H. Cravey. Since then, the property has expanded, with

Finger's cousin, Lawrence Finger, purchasing an extra 360 acres approximately five years ago. Currently, Finger Farm is approximately 620 acres in size and borders Big Creek and Mussel Shoals Creek.

In 1927, Sam Finger, along with his wife, Annie Finger, moved to Houston to retire, leaving the store in the care of his son, Bernice Finger, Alan Finger's uncle. Bernice Finger was seventeen at the time. According to Alan Finger, his uncle primarily used it to raise cattle.

After retiring, Sam Finger eventually went into business renting out appliances and furniture during the Depression. "That was when it started," said Finger, referring to Finger's Furniture, one of the family's more prominent

businesses.

The family endured a number of hardships as well. With the impact from the recession, Sam Finger kept the business from becoming bankrupt. Another challenge involved the original store burning down in 1929—a tragic loss for the family.

Socially, one of the Finger family's biggest challenges involved

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# Message from the President

by Debra Winegarten

Almost fifty members of TJHS met in Waco for the quarterly board meeting on January 23 through 25, 2015. One of the advantages of being your president is that I have a lot of input into these meetings. As I planned the winter meeting, I felt a bit like Tevye in *Fiddler on the*



*Roof*, as I imagined the ghost of my beloved mother, Ruthe Winegarten, may she rest in peace, visiting me in my dreams, and asking point-blank, "...and what exactly are you doing to fulfill the mission of the Texas Jewish Historical Society?"

Coupled with phone calls in one week from two octogenarian TJHS members whose health no longer enables them to attend our meetings, and realizing we had not yet captured their oral histories, I asked myself how I could leverage our membership,

many of whom are themselves retired, and unleash a contingent of well-trained oral historians to capture their stories.

I remembered years ago Mom and I attended a day-long oral history workshop given by Baylor University, so I contacted those folks and arranged to

have one of their staff members come train us. I'm happy to report that Lois Myers gave a terrific workshop and now, we have almost forty members from all corners of Texas trained and raring to go. If you have not yet told your family's history, or if you know someone whose Texas Jewish history should be in our archives, go to your computer right now and email the Committee Chair, Nelson Chafetz at [nelson.chafetz@gmail.com](mailto:nelson.chafetz@gmail.com), and he will help make the arrangements.

Temple Rodef Sholom opened their doors to us for Friday night services and sponsored a delicious oneg afterwards. Saturday afternoon, Harry Harelik met us at Jacob De Cordova's historical marker, which TJHS helped put in place in 1986, and told us the significance of De Cordova's role in helping plat Waco land tracts and donating land to the city, and how the marker came to be placed in its present location. We were impressed by the beautiful statues of the cattle and cowboys recognizing that Waco was a part of the Chisolm Trail.

We then visited the Texas Collection at Baylor, where a small exhibit of materials depicting the Jewish history of Waco was displayed. Many of these items were from the over one-hundred boxes of materials that Ima Joy

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## The Texas Jewish Historical Society March 2015 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](mailto: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](http://www.txjhs.org).**



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### *Finger Farm, continued from page 1*

their Jewish background, which placed them in conflict with the Ku Klux Klan. Alan Finger mentioned that his grandfather had even stood up to a member of the KKK.

The Fingers were also a charitable family, as they helped in the creation of Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services Center, and were known for giving to various

charities and individuals.


Sam Finger passed away in 1958 at the age of eighty-eight, and his wife, Annie Finger, died fourteen years later at the age of eighty-four. When Bernice Finger passed away, Alan Finger took over Finger Farm and has started using it to produce gourmet hay for horses.

With a rich history behind the

Finger Farm, as well as the family itself, Alan Finger carries on a proud name

*In large photos that are placed at McClain's Supermarket in Shepherd, Alan Finger points out his grandparents among the townfolk outside of one of the stores, Peter's Shoes. Alan Finger currently runs the Finger Farm in Shepherd.*


that holds to the value of respect. "They taught us to respect people, (and) to respect each other," said Finger. As for the farm, Finger sees it as another piece to their family's strong bond. "It truly was a family farm," he said.

*Editor's note: Sam and Annie Gordon Finger had six children: Hyman Edward, who married Bessie Kaplan; Aaron Leon, who married Dora Testa; Bernice, who married Sarah Lillian Goldberg; Rosella, who married Jacob Morris Glick; Samuel "Sammy" Paul, who married Florence Ruth Shapiro; and Alline Frieda, who married Joseph Phillip Kost. Larry Finger, Bernice's son, said that Bernice is the correct spelling of his father's name. Annie named him that, but he always preferred to be called "Mr. B." Thank you to Marvin Rich and Lynna Kay Shuffield, who cleared up some confusion with this article.)* 



### *President's Message, continued from page 2*

Gandler, long time TJHS archivist, had collected. We finished the day with a dinner and heard tales of growing up in Waco from long-time natives and residents, Arnold Miller, Leonard Englander, and Harry Harelik.

Please make your plans now to meet with us at the Annual Gathering in Dallas, April 24-26, 2015. This will be a Joint Meeting with the Dallas Jewish Historical Society and our chairs, David Beer and Jane Manaster, are hard at work on preparations. Watch your mailbox for a registration form in the next few weeks. (There is NOT a registration form in this issue). If you have not been to one of our meetings, the Annual Gathering is the perfect time to come connect with us. I look forward to seeing you there. 

## TJHS on facebook

Like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Jewish-Historical-Society/187629054741368>.

## Mazel Tov

to the following

### Texas Jewish Historical Society Members

**Marvin Rich**, who received the ADL Advocacy Award for his service to ADL and legislative advocacy at a luncheon on Legislative Day in Austin February 2, 2015.

**Jack Solka**, who received the Community Service Award from the JCC in Austin for his work on the relocation of B'nai Abraham Synagogue from Brenham to Austin.

**Debra Winegarten**, for receiving the 2015 Biography Award from the Texas Association of Authors for her book, *Oveta Culp Hobby: Colonel, Cabinet Member, Philanthropist*. Debra's company, Sociosights Press, published the winning *Meeting God at Midnight*, by Ahuva Batya Scharf, who received the 2015 Women's Poetry Award from the Texas Association of Authors.

*Please send information for this column to  
Davie Lou Solka at [davielou@solka.net](mailto:davielou@solka.net).*



# TJHS Winter Meeting in Waco



*Havdalah with Rabbi Laura Harari and Tyler, Austin, and Chase Couch.*



*White Hat Guys: Leonard Englander, Charles Hart, David Picow, and Louis Katz.*



*Debra Winegarten, TJHS President.*



*Part of the "Cattle Drive on Chisolm Trail" sculpture located in Indian Spring Park in downtown Waco.*

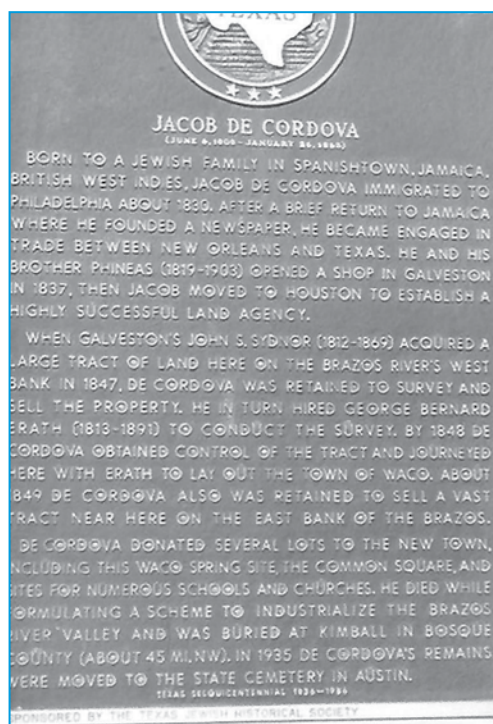


*The Saturday-night speakers were Arnold Miller, Leonard Englander, and Harry Harelik.*



*David Vogel, Rusty Milstein, and Nelson Chafetz viewed the Texas Collection at Baylor University.*





*The Jacob De Cordova historical marker. The bottom of the marker reads "Sponsored by the Texas Jewish Historical Society."*

*Samylu Rubin and Vickie Vogel.*



*TJHS meeting participants posed with the Jacob De Cordova historical marker.*

## Save Postage

Please notify TJHS when your address has changed or if you may be temporarily away from home

when the News Magazine is to be delivered. These issues are returned to us at a postage due return of \$1.52 (at

printing date) per Magazine. These amounts add up—it's your money we are trying to save!



# Texas Jewish Historical Society Grant Application

The mission of the Texas Jewish Historical Society is to expand and enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Jewish presence in Texas and the history of Jews from their first arrival in the State to the present.

We solicit applications for projects that are in that spirit.  
On the form below, please show how your project meets our mission.

## Application Form

The Texas Jewish Historical Society will consider applications from individuals and non-profit organizations in any written or visual medium. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

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

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

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

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

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

Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly outline personal and professional background information that support this application.

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Title and Description of project.

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What is the anticipated budget for the project? Are you seeking additional support from elsewhere?

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Please detail the timeline of your project.

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We would expect to receive a copy of the completed project with acknowledgement of TJHS support. Also, a copy or account of the completed project should be submitted to the Society's archive at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

*Send applications to: TJHS Grant Committee, P.O. Box 10193, Austin TX 78766-0193  
or email to [president@txjhs.org](mailto:president@txjhs.org).*

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I want to thank you for the article about my grandfather, Sam Neuman. I learned some of my family history. My husband, Irving Winter, and I often wish that we had asked our parents more about our families' histories. It was very good of you and Gloria (Novak) to have done this research. However, I do have a few corrections and some additions for the archives.

My Aunt Annie (Neuman) was married to Leo Feigenbaum, not Will.

My father, Ben Neuman, never had a ranch outside of Temple, Texas. He continued in the retail clothing business having stores in several central Texas cities and Austin. He also invested in land and rental properties. In 1930, he married Celia Diskin, and they had three children, Joseph, Sam, and me, Gay. In 1946, they moved from Georgetown to Austin where my parents became very active in the Jewish Community. Ben

was president of Congregation Agudas Achim for two terms, and Celia was president of the Sisterhood and Hadasah.

I married Michael Deutsch from Seguin, and we had three children. Our oldest is Barry Deutsch, who is married to Lynn Prager Deutsch, and they live in Atlanta, Georgia. They have three children: Ben, who is at Texas A&M; Michael, who is at Auburn University; and Rebecca. Our middle child is Cheryl Deutsch Colen, who is married to Randy Colen, and they live in Dallas. They have two children: Danielle at North Texas State and Clay at St. Edwards University. Our youngest is Diana Deutsch Hecht, who is married to Ronny Hecht, and they live in Houston. They have two children: Andrew, who lives in Austin, and Michelle, who is attending UT. My brother, Sam Neuman, married Paula Rubin, and they have one son, Will, who lives in New York

My Uncle Max (Neuman) married Lillian Lille, and they had two children: Gail Neuman Silver, who married Larry Silver, and they live in Houston and Hymie Sam Neuman, who lives in Fort Worth.

The youngest child of Sam and Eva was born after Sam died and was also named Sam. He married Harriet Levin, and they live in San Antonio and have four children: Brian Neuman, who has two children; Dr. Alan Neuman, who lives in Atlanta and has two children; Lori Neuman Schwartz, who is married to David Schwartz, who lives in Tampa, Florida and has two children; and Paige Neuman Weiner, who is married to Danny Weiner, and lives in San Antonio.

As you can tell, our little clan has grown a bit. Thank you again for your attention to my family.

Gay Neuman Deutsch Winter 

## Scholarship Fund Established


The family of Aaron Wechter, TJHS member, longtime El Paso resident and UTEP graduate, has established a scholarship in Aaron's memory to support students committed to strengthen the Jewish community in El Paso. Aaron was a well-respected real estate developer, community leader, and philanthropist. Through the accomplishments

of talented UTEP students, it is felt that the Aaron Wechter Memorial Scholarship will honor and perpetuate his life's work. Students interested in applying may request an application via email from the UTEP Scholarship Office at scholar@utep.edu or by logging on to www.utep.edu/scholarships and clicking on "Additional Scholarship Opportunities."

## Editor's Note:

*The following information was received by Ed Katten of Waco as corrections to the Encyclopedia of Texas Jewish Communities article on Waco in our last issue—December 2014. This information has been sent to the Institute of Southern Jewish Life so that they may make these corrections. Thank you, Ed, for this information.*

Aaron Goldstein was not the son of Isaac Goldstein. He was the husband of Lenore Hirschfeld Goldstein. Lenore's father was president of

Goldstein Migel after it was reorganized as a corporation. Aaron later served as president of Goldstein Migel until the corporation was again reorganized at which time Monte Lawrence, a nephew of Louis Migel became president. Isaac Goldstein did have two sons, I.A. and Moses. I.A. never married, but was a willing donor to many things in Waco. His brother, Moses II, left Waco. Aaron Goldstein was not related at all to the original Goldstein family. I have no idea how the information was obtained by the History Department of the ISJL, but it should be corrected there (information sent). 

## Contributions

The following donations have been received by the Texas Jewish Historical Society:

### In Honor of

Esther Shelby, on her 90th birthday  
TJHS

### From

Beverly & Ellis Rudy  
Peachy Rudberg, per her husband,  
Morton "Morty" Rudberg's will

### In Memory of

Zelma Koenigsberg Berk  
Sidney Schwartz  
Jacob Trachtenberg

### From

Amy Milstein  
Bette Jean Cohen  
Shirley & Marvin Rich



# 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 TJHS website at [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org), or the Institute's website, [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org), click on the "History Department" and look for "Encyclopedia" in the drop-down menu.*

## Dallas

Chartered in 1856, Dallas got its start as a frontier trading town. With the rise of plantation agriculture in northeast Texas, Dallas emerged as a regional center for the cotton trade. But it was not until 1872, when town leaders convinced the Houston & Texas Central Railroad to build their tracks one mile east of the courthouse that the town

started down the path to becoming "Big D"—one of the largest cities in the South. The Texas & Pacific Railroad came in 1873, giving the town both a north-south and east-west line, and helped transform Dallas from a small frontier outpost to a major cotton shipping nexus and thriving city.

Jews were among the earliest settlers in Dallas. By the time of the Civil War, a small number of Jews owned stores along Main Street. Some, like Polish-born Alex Simon, did not stay in town very long.

By 1858, Simon owned a store



*The Katy approaches Dallas. This spot would be near Mockingbird Lane and Greenville today. It was taken about 1908. (Photo and caption from "Dallas, The Deciding Years," by A. C. Greene (Austin: Encino Press, 1973).)*

in town, but moved to Brenham in 1863. Once the railroad came to town, Dallas became a much more attractive place to open a business and the town's Jewish population began to grow quickly. By 1873, Jews owned twelve of the city's twenty-nine dry good stores.

Starting in Millican, Texas, the German-born Sanger brothers followed the progress of the Houston & Texas Central Railroad, opening a new dry goods store in each town as the tracks moved northward. In 1872, they opened a branch in Dallas, with

Alex Sanger coming to manage it. The store was a huge success and a year later Alex moved to a new 10,000 square foot location, reportedly the largest store in the state at the time. Brother Philip Sanger soon came to help Alex with the business and they opened a wholesale operation, which supplied small town stores and peddlers

throughout the area. In 1879, traveling journalist Charles Wessolowsky called the Sanger Brothers store "an establishment of grandeur, taste, and elegance equal to any in the South," and likened it to the leading stores in New York City. By 1890, the business employed 250 people and later moved into an eight-story building at Main & Lamar Streets.

The Sangers were not alone in finding economic opportunity in Dallas. E.M. Tillman and Moses Ullman owned a grocery, liquor, and tobacco

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business. E.M. Kahn opened a men's clothing store in 1872 that soon grew into a Dallas institution, remaining in business over a century. These early Jewish merchants were closely involved in Dallas's public life as their commercial role opened the door to positions of civic leadership. E.M.

in the 1910s. When Alex Sanger died in 1925, the *Dallas Morning News* eulogized him as a builder of Dallas, writing that "the city that mourns his death is in truth a monument to him." After Alex's death, the family sold the store, although it retained the Sanger name.



*The Sanger-Harris department store, circa 1965.*

Tillman was elected alderman in 1880 and later served on the city's first school board. E. M. Kahn was president of the local Masonic Lodge and served on the board of the State Fair Association. Alex Sanger was elected alderman in 1873, only a year after he arrived in Dallas. Two years later, Sanger became president of the local volunteer fire department, and seventeen Jews volunteered to serve in the fire department in 1873. Sanger also helped organize the Dallas State Fair and Exposition Association, which created the State Fair of Texas. He became one of Dallas' most prominent citizens and served on the Board of Regents of the University of Texas

By 1872, an estimated sixty to seventy Jews lived in Dallas. That summer, eleven men founded the city's first Jewish organization, the Hebrew Benevolent Association, with Moses Ullman as president and Alex Sanger as vice-president. Among their first actions were to plan High Holiday services and buy land for a cemetery. For Rosh Hashanah in 1872, the group held services at the local Masonic temple. Using a Torah borrowed from a New Orleans congregation, Aaron Miller acted as lay leader for the service. In 1873, the group purchased their own Torah. That same year, Dallas Jews established a chapter of B'nai B'rith.

In 1874, forty members of the Hebrew Benevolent Association founded Congregation Emanu-El. They met in the B'nai B'rith hall above the Sanger Brothers store. David Goslin was the congregation's first president, with Philip Sanger serving as vice-president. The congregation took over the management of the Hebrew Benevolent Association's cemetery. The Jewish women in Dallas established the Ladies Benevolent Society in 1875, which was affiliated with Emanu-El and at their first meeting voted "to induce the Hebrew gentlemen to procure a place of worship." The members of Emanu-El acted quickly and constructed a synagogue in 1876 on land owned by the B'nai B'rith lodge. Costing \$15,000, the Moorish revival synagogue included classrooms and a meeting space for local Jewish lodges. Initially the classrooms housed a secular, non-sectarian elementary school during the week, while Alice Levy ran the Sunday School for the congregation. From the outset, Emanu-El was a Reform congregation and voted to adopt Isaac Mayer Wise's *Minhag America* prayer book in 1874. In 1875, they hired Aron Suhler as their first full-time Rabbi. For their first decade, Emanu-El had several short-term rabbis. Rabbi Edward Chapman led the congregation from 1885-1897. In 1882, a group of disgruntled members created Congregation Ahavas Shalom. By 1884, the breakaway group had returned to Emanu-El, and the congregation steadily grew. Soon, they outgrew their building, leading Emanu-El's one-hundred members to construct a new temple on South Ervay Street in 1899. They stayed in this building for eighteen years, and since the congregation had doubled in size by 1917, they built a new larger synagogue, which featured a gym, on South Boulevard.

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In the late 19th century, growing numbers of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe moved to Dallas, with many opening small retail stores and pawn shops on Elm Street in the predominately African American area around the railroad depot known as “Deep Ellum.” Many of these Jews initially lived above their stores. It was on Elm Street that these newly arrived immigrants created their own Orthodox congregation, Shaareth Israel (later changed to Shearith Israel) in 1884. Josiah Emin and L. Levy met at Michael Wasserman’s store on Elm Street to discuss the founding of a congregation. Previously the city’s small number of Orthodox Jews had met together informally to worship on the High Holidays. Wasserman acquired a Torah for the small group, which numbered no more than twelve men. The young congregation held weekly services on the second floor above Bradford’s Grocery Store. In 1886, Shaareth Israel was officially chartered with twenty members, with most of these being recent arrivals in Dallas. Only one of the twenty, congregation president Sam Iralson, lived in Dallas. Several of these founding members, including Michael Wasserman and Josiah Emin, had left Russia for the United States in 1881 or 1882.

Under the leadership of Charles Goldstein, Shaareth Israel built a red brick synagogue on Jackson Street in 1892. The following year, the congregation hired a full-time rabbi, Nehemiah Mosesshon, who led Shaareth Israel for the next five years. By 1900, Shaareth Israel had fifty-five members, and the congregation grew tremendously in the early twentieth century. With one-hundred-fifty members by 1919, the congregation, which was nominally Orthodox, began to adjust its practices to reflect the assimilation of its members. Mixed-gender seating was introduced and in 1913, Rabbi Louis Epstein, a graduate

of the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary, was hired.

Rabbi Epstein introduced such innovations as a modern Sunday School, Friday night services, and confirmation. Although Rabbi Epstein only stayed for two years, the changes he introduced fit the members of Shaareth Israel, whom the congregation’s president, Louis Kleinman, described in 1913 as “comparatively well-to-do Americanized Jews.” Other Eastern European Jewish immigrants settled in the area of north Dallas known as Goose Valley. Bounded by railroad tracks, Goose Valley offered cheap housing and economic opportunity. Many of these Polish and Russian Jews opened small stores in the neighborhood, which became Dallas’s version of a Jewish immigrant enclave.

In 1890, an Orthodox congregation, Tiferet Israel, was established by a group of eleven Goose Valley Jews. They met at the home of member, Jake Donsky, and in 1893 bought a house which was converted to a synagogue. By 1900, they had thirty-five members and in 1902 the house was razed and a new synagogue building was built on the same lot. Holding daily worship services, Tiferet Israel was strictly Orthodox, with their new synagogue including a *mikvah* and separate seating for men and women. From 1900 to 1906, Tiferet Israel shared a rabbi with Shearith Israel, but then hired their own spiritual



*A look at the 1700 block of Elm Street in downtown Dallas circa 1960. Nearby establishments included the Apollo Hotel, Shaw’s Jewelers, Lee Optical, Johnny Miranda Shoes, Majestic Steaks, Ben Morris Jewelry Company, Majestic Hotel, Askin’s Credit Clothing, Hall’s Credit Clothiers, and Titcher-Goettinger department store (later just Titcher’s). (Photo: Hank Tenny Illustrative Photography)*

leader, David Bernstein. When he died in 1919, Meyer Shwiff was hired and led the congregation as rabbi, cantor, *shochet*, and *mohel* for the next twelve years.

Retail stores flourished among Dallas Jews—by 1900, Jews owned ten grocery stores, fourteen dry goods stores, twenty-five clothing stores, eight saloons, six tobacco stores, and nine tailoring shops. Only a few Dallas Jews worked in professions, with four Jewish lawyers in 1900. Others were involved in regional cotton trade, with three Jews serving as president of the Dallas Cotton Exchange. Joseph Linz and his two brothers opened a jewelry store in 1891 and became a quick success. Eight years later, the Linz brothers constructed the tallest building in Dallas for their growing business.

The best known Dallas Jews were the ones who built several of the city’s large department stores. Prussian-born Adolph Harris who had opened a

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Dallas branch of a Galveston store in 1887, bought out his partners in 1892, and renamed the store A. Harris & Co. It became a successful department store, and when Harris died in 1912, Arthur Kramer took over as president. A. Harris & Co. was sold to Federated Stores in 1961 and then merged with Sanger Bros. Across the street from A. Harris & Co., Ed Titcher and Max Goettinger opened a store in 1902. Titcher-Goettinger & Co. grew quickly with 600 employees in 1929.

The partners did not have children and decided to retire at this time and sold the business. The new owners kept the name and the store remained in business until 1979.

The city's most famous store was Neiman-Marcus, which came to symbolize Dallas-style luxury and opulence. Born in Louisville, Herbert Marcus moved to Dallas in 1897 and worked as a clerk at the Sanger Brothers store. His sister, Carrie, followed him two years later and went to work for A. Harris & Co. Carrie later married Abraham Lincoln (Al) Neiman. In 1907, the three of them opened Neiman-Marcus, a high fashion, ready-to-wear women's clothing store. Specializing in the latest New York fashions, the store was a quick success and soon moved to a much larger space. Herbert's sons later joined the business, with Stanley Marcus becoming president of the company after his father, who served as president for forty-three years, died in 1950. Neiman-Marcus thrived along with the East Texas oil boom as Stanley built the store into the institution that it is today. Stanley's son, Richard, later took over the business, though he left in 1988, a year after the store was



*Madame Koneman's fashion emporium, 1912. It was located in the Oriental Hotel building at 110 N. Ervay Street. Ad is from "The Standard Blue Book of Dallas, 1912-1914" (Dallas: A. J. Peeler & Co.).*

sold to General Cinemas.

In the early 20th century, Dallas developed its own garment manufacturing industry, fueled by cheap labor and a non-unionized workforce. Soon the Dallas Market developed in which store buyers from around the region would come to the Dallas convention to order their merchandise for the upcoming season. By the 1950s, Dallas was the third largest producers of clothing in the United States. Leo Fife and Esir Aronofsky opened a tailor shop in Deep Ellum and sold their own suits. In 1901 August Lorch established the Lorch Manufacturing Company, which initially sold ready-made clothing from New York. Soon the company began to make their own clothing and remained in business until it was sold in 1989.

Other Dallas-based clothing companies included a maternity clothing company, Page Boy, Inc., that was established by Elsie Frankfurt and her sisters, Edna and Louise. Ed Byer and Harry Rolnick founded Byer-Rolnick in 1928 and it eventually became one of the country's largest producers of men's hats. Known for their Resistol brand hats, Byer-Rolnick

manufactured the famous ranch hat worn by President Lyndon Johnson. When Ed Byer died, he left the bulk of this estate to the United Jewish Appeal which at that time was the largest gift ever received by UJA.

The Jewish population of Dallas grew steadily in the early 20th century with an estimated 4,000 Jews in 1907. In 1906 Anshe Sphard Congregation was founded in the Goose Valley area. The group met in private homes and in 1913 bought a house and

converted it into a synagogue. When most of the members moved out of the neighborhood, the congregation moved to a house in South Dallas. Known informally as the Roumanishe Shul, Anshe Sphard moved to a new building in 1936 but never had a rabbi or religious school. Charles Kaplan served as lay leader for many years and in 1956 the congregation merged with Shearith Israel.

Orthodox Jews in South Dallas established Agudas Achim in 1925 and bought a two-story house on Forest Avenue to serve as their synagogue. They hired Rabbi Jonathan Abramowitz, who served the congregation for twenty-six years. As they grew, the house was torn down and was replaced with a larger building in 1926. In 1939, a building was constructed for their Talmud Torah. By the 1950s many members began to move out of the neighborhood so the synagogue building was sold in 1957 with the congregation meeting in the Talmud Torah building. It was then decided to disband, with proceeds from the sale of both buildings going to the city's first Jewish Day School,

*continued on page 12*

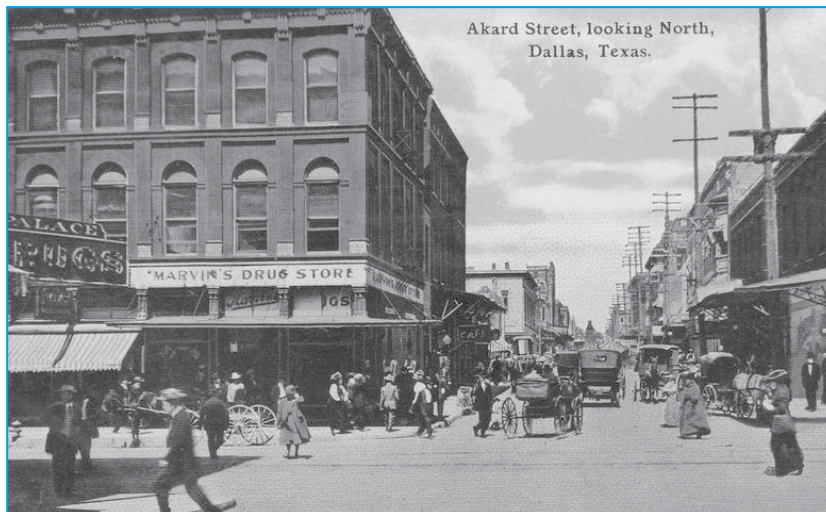
the Akiba Academy, which had been founded in 1962.

When Agudas Achim fired Rabbi Milton Rosen as principal of the Talmud Torah in 1942, a disgruntled group broke away to form Congregation Ohave Shalom with Rabbi Rosen as their spiritual leader. They met in a house on South Boulevard, but when they could no longer afford to pay Rabbi Rosen's salary, he left in 1944. Ohave Shalom began to evolve into a Jewish Home for the Aged. Old men began to live on the second floor of the house, leading services and helping make a minyan every day. Ohave Shalom showed the need for a Jewish old age home in Dallas, and in 1953 the Dallas Jewish Federation established the Dallas Home for the Jewish Aged. Ohave Shalom donated its building to the Home.

Shearith Israel continued to thrive, and in 1920 the congregation dedicated a new synagogue across from City Park. The Ladies Auxiliary, which had been formed in 1913, helped raise money, holding a series of fifty-cent chicken dinners on Sunday nights and a downtown bazaar in 1917. Rabbi H. Raphael Gold was hired in 1928, and he stayed until 1942. Rabbi Hillel Silverman was hired in 1954, and two years later the congregation joined the Conservative movement.

Other Jewish organizations were established, including a Young Men's Hebrew Association in 1879. Unfortunately, they disbanded in 1890 and sold their building to a Jewish social club, the Phoenix Club.

It was not until 1919 that the



*Vintage postcard from the early 1900s showing Akard Street in Dallas, looking north.*

YMHA reorganized, and this time they were the recipients of another struggling organization, the Parkview Club. The Parkview Club gave its building to the YMHA if they agreed to take over the mortgage. The YMHA moved in, built a gym, and in 1924 the Dallas Jewish Federation of Social Services, which had been founded in 1911, took the YMHA under its wing and moved its offices to the Y. In 1927, the YMHA deeded its building to the Federation and changed its name to the Jewish Community Center.

The National Council of Jewish Women founded a chapter in 1898, but it became inactive a few years later. The group reformed in 1913 and opened a free lunch clinic and instituted a penny lunch and free milk program in a school in a poor immigrant neighborhood. In 1918, the Dallas Board of Education took over the school lunch program and expanded it to other schools in the city.

Jewish religious education centered on the community Hebrew School, established in 1924. Although not affiliated with any congregation, the Hebrew School was largely supported by the members of Shearith Israel. Most of the Orthodox congre-

gations did not have Hebrew schools, using the community school instead. The school, run by Jacob Levin from 1929 to 1946, owned a bus which would pick up students after school four days a week. However, the school began to struggle in the 1940s and in 1946, merged with Agudas Achim's Talmud Torah. When Shearith Israel established its own He-

brew School in 1956 the community school closed, and each congregation became responsible for the religious education of its own children.

By the 1930s, all congregations were located in South Dallas as well as Workmen's Circle School and the Hebrew School. However, in the 1940s, when the Jews began to leave South Dallas for the northern part of the city, the Jewish institutions were forced to follow their members. In 1955, Temple Emanu-El moved north, with Shearith Israel and Tifereth Israel following. The Jewish Community Center bought land on Northaven Road in 1954 and dedicated a new building there eight years later. Because of the construction of freeways through the South Dallas Jewish area, there is little evidence of the Jewish presence that was once there.

Generally, Jews enjoyed tremendous acceptance in Dallas. While they were excluded from certain elite clubs, prominent Jews were welcomed into the city's power structure, and they helped build the city into an economic and cultural center. Jews became major patrons of the arts. Arthur Kramer of A. Harris & Co. founded the Dallas Grand Op-

*continued on page 13*



era Association and served as president of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Ed Titcher served on the board of the State Fair Association and of several hospitals. Titcher helped found the local chapter of the Red Cross and donated a large mansion to the chapter in 1943 for use as headquarters. Herbert Marcus helped establish Southern Methodist University. His wife, Minnie, was a founder of the Dallas Garden Center and worked to beautify the city. Louis Jules Hexter helped found the Dallas Little Theater and later founded the Dallas Negro Players theater group. John Rosenfield served as the theater and culture critic for the *Dallas Morning News* from 1925 until his death in 1966.

Julius Schepps and Fred Florence were longtime members of the Dallas Citizens Council, as was Stanley Marcus. Schepps made his fortune in the wholesale liquor and insurance business. He was involved in many charities and in the Jewish community, serving as head of the Jewish Federation and the Dallas Home for the Aged. When the JCC built a new facility in 1962, it was named after Schepps. He served eighteen years on the Dallas Park Board and was named Dallas' most outstanding citizen in 1954. To honor his civic contributions, a section of Interstate 45 in Dallas was named the Julius Schepps Freeway. Fred Florence was the longtime President of Republic National Bank from 1929 to 1957. Both Schepps and Florence helped bring the Texas Centennial Celebration to the city in 1936.

When the federal courts enforced integration, Jewish merchants were quick to change. Stanley Marcus integrated Neiman-Marcus in 1961, and Sam Bloom, the head of a large advertising agency, put together a public relations campaign designed to convince white Dallasites to accept integration. His film, "Dallas at the Crossroads," contrasted the violence of the Little Rock school integration crisis with tranquil images of Dallas life. Julius Schepps was in charge of the Citizens Council Committee to Work with Negro Leaders.

Among the loudest voices for social and racial justice in Dallas was Rabbi Levi Olan, spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El. He came to Dallas in 1949, replacing the temple's longtime rabbi, David Lefkowitz, who had fought against the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s. Like his predecessor, Rabbi Olan had a weekly radio show on Sunday mornings, in which he addressed controversial topics. After the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Rabbi Olan helped found Dallas Citizens for Peaceful Integration. He regularly spoke at black churches, and in 1962 he was appointed to the University of

Texas Board of Regents. As head of the Dallas Housing Authority, Rabbi Olan was well aware of the problems that blacks in public housing faced, especially the children who entered school behind other students academically. Under his leadership, Temple Emanu-El opened the Rhoads Terrace Housing Project Pre-School in 1965 and pushed for free kindergarten, which was begun in 1971.

Civic roles are not new

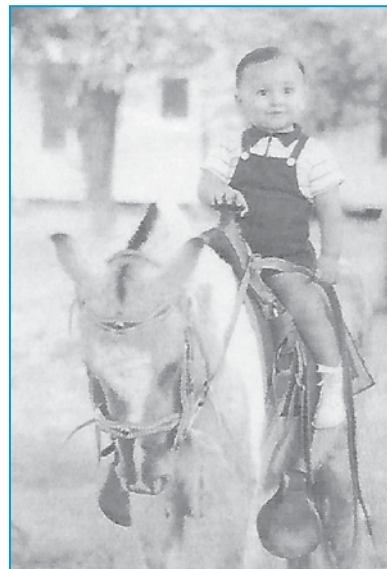
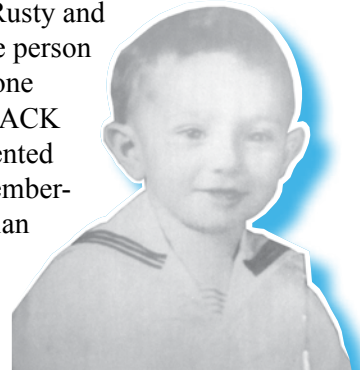
for Dallas Jews. Since 1873 when Alex Sanger was elected alderman, Jews have been involved in local politics. Sigmund Loeb served as alderman from 1883 to 1892, and in recent decades a growing number of Dallas Jews have been elected to office. Joe Golman served in the Texas legislature from 1969 to 1973. Al Granoff and Steve Wolens served in the Texas House of Representa-

*continued on page 22*

## — Can You Guess — This Member?

We finally had a winner! Rusty and Mitzi Milstein guessed that the person who has been stumping everyone for the past few months was JACK SOLKA! The Milsteins presented their award of a free year's membership to Joe & Barbara McClellan of Longview. Welcome to the McClellans and thank you to the Milsteins.

The next person for you to try your hand at is also an



Aggie—guess there are a lot of them around. Have fun and remember, the winner will receive a year's free membership to TJHS. Email your guess to Davie Lou Solka at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org) any time beginning **Monday, March 16**. Entries received before that date will not be considered. Previous winners and family members are not eligible to participate. Good luck! 🇺🇸



# 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](mailto:editor@txjhs.org). We want our archives to be as complete and accurate as possible.*

## Ima Joy's Waco by Vickie Vogel

Many of you will remember Ima Joy Gandler of Waco. She was a TJHS board member and the elected archivist for a number of years. Ima Joy was diligent in recording Texas Jewish history, and especially the history of Jewish Waco. There are many Waco photographs in our archives at the Briscoe Center for American History, largely as a result of Ima Joy's efforts.<sup>1</sup>

There are a few notes and labels of the photographs, in Ima Joy's handwriting. The Walgreen Drug Store was on the first floor of the Liberty Building (entrance on North 6th Street). Ima Joy's father, Nate Chodorow,<sup>2</sup> owned the Liberty Building at one point. He was born around 1899 in Russia and arrived in Texas at an early age. He married Miriam Borschow,

who was born around 1903. Nate died in 1985 and Miriam in 1998.<sup>3</sup>

There is a photo of the Ramblers of Waco, with the notation that it is not the entire group picture of the organization, in the late 1930s or early 1940s. There have been country bands out of Waco named the Ramblers, but there are no clues as to whether this group was a band or a social organization. In any event, standing are Robert Hoffman, Ben Reed, Sam Aronson (1913-1986),<sup>4</sup> and seated are Barney

Bahme (1912-2013),<sup>5</sup> Asher Joseph "Jem" Englander (1913-1945),<sup>6</sup> and Sam "Steve" Chazanow.

A photograph (c.1913) shows the interior of Congregation Agudath Jacob Synagogue in Waco, located on the southeast corner of Columbus at N. 7th. On the right side on the back row facing the camera is Leizer Levy (1873-1952).<sup>7</sup>

In the next row forward facing the camera is Israel. Standing

facing the camera is Hymie Hoffman. Sam Baume is on the right side but more left, next to the columns. No one else is labeled.

The photo of the L&M Cafe in Waco is from 1946. Named for Louis (1876-1952)<sup>8</sup> and Mary (1867-1951)<sup>9</sup> Meinstein, the first owners, it was started after the Great Depression by Mary and her daughter Sarah. Louis had the liquor store next door. Pictured on the top row, third from left



*Walgreen Drug Store.*

*Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.*

*continued on page 15*



*The Ramblers of Waco. Standing: Robert Hoffman, Ben Reed, Sam Aronson. Seated: Barney Bahme, Asher Joseph "Jem" Englander, Sam "Steve" Chazanow. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.*

is "Blackie," the cook, then Abe and Minnie Schikman Meinstein. Abe was Sarah's brother. On the bottom row in the middle is Leon Meinstein, son of Abe and Minnie. There are some handwritten notes with the photograph, stating Mary taught Blackie how to cook. After Sarah's divorce, she moved to Hearne. The handwriting is small and cramped and difficult to read. It says during the war, soldiers and doctors from Marlin came to eat here. The notes say Leon and his wife had four boys, and list three: Eddie, Charles, and Marvin.<sup>10</sup>

According to Ancestry.com, Louis Meinstein was born in Warsaw on December 25, 1876, to Meyer Yechiel Meinstein and Hannah Finkelstein. He and Mary had four children, all born in Warsaw before 1907: Frances, Sarah, Saul, and Abe. Sarah was born in 1903. She married Charles Greenberg; they had one child. Charles died in Israel, date unknown. Saul married Fannie Shub, and they had one child.

Ima Joy's notes say Estella Maxey played the L&M on Saturday nights. Maxey grew up loving the music she heard at Second Baptist Church and was declared a prodigy by her music teacher. During the Depression, Maxey organized an orchestra, "Stella and Her Boys," which performed at parties and clubs. As a local tour company puts it, "Stella bridged the gap between the races, and was well respected by the entire Waco commu-

*continued on page 16*

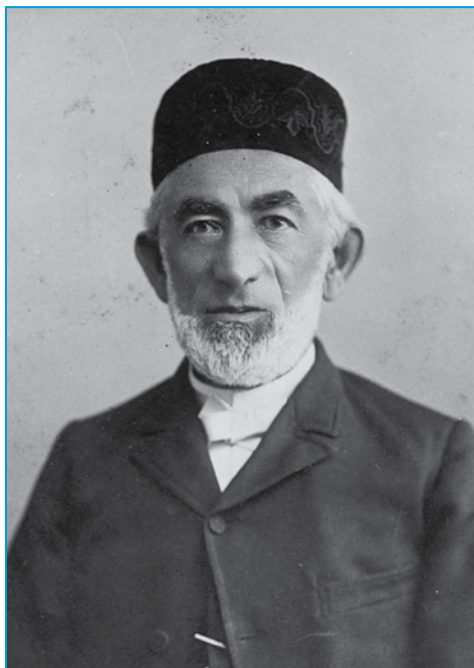


*Congregation Agudath Jacob Synagogue. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.*





*Purim, Agudath Jacob, undated. Left to right: Roddy Sanger, ?, Leon Zlotowicz, Morrie Fred, last two unlabeled. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.*



*Rabbi Henrich Schwarz. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.*

nity.”<sup>11</sup> Abe and Minnie ran the cafe after Mary and Sarah.

The last file in the box has photos of Temple Rodef Sholom. Rabbi Henrich Schwarz came from Hempstead to dedicate Rodef Sholom. There is an undated photo from a Purim celebration taken in the temple basement. Left to right are Roddy Sanger, ?, Leon Zlotowicz, Morrie Fred, ? and ?

Morris Aaron Fred, a jeweler, was born in 1890 in Lithuania. He died in Waco in 1946. A photocopy of the picture has the names written on it.

Also in this file are letters from Ima Joy trying to collect addresses for an invitation list for the Rodef Shalom 125th anniversary celebration in 2004. She chaired the celebration committee.

In a separate box,<sup>12</sup> the bulletins of Congregation Rodef Shalom

can be found, some from 1961-62 when Amiel Wohl was the abbi, and 1965 when Mordecai Podet was rabbi and Bernard Rapoport was president. The bulletins are quite impressive, with news items and articles of interest, including one titled “Baylor University and the Jews.”

“Very often we hear very uncomplimentary remarks from our people about Baylor... It may not be the world’s greatest university, but it is an impressive school... But we should remember particularly as Jews who supposedly have a great reverence and respect for learning that rather than tear

down this wonderful institution by our negative attitude, that we ought to be encouraging Jewish students from all over to come to Baylor. Now some people thing [sic] that it is terrible that Baylor has certain required religious courses—but why shouldn’t they? After all they are supported by the Baptist Church, and this is within their rights... We hope that every one of us will be Baylor Boosters, because this great university does deserve our support. It is an old adage: ‘One should never knock any institution or anything in one’s own city that helps one make his living, or that makes his city something.’”

There are also two bulletins from 2009, but they are shorter and have much less news in them.

This file reminds us how important it is to label our photographs right away. As time passes, the informa-

*continued on page 17*





*LM Cafe, 1946. Top row, third from left is "Blackie," the cook, then Abe and Minnie Meinstein. Bottom row middle is Leon Meinstein. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.*

tion of who, what, where, when gets lost. Use an archival pen, or to avoid writing on the photo or its back, you can make a photocopy of the picture and label it. You can also lay a piece of thin paper over the group photo and lightly circle the heads with a pencil, then label your drawn heads. The most important thing is to label them in some way, because eventually, no one will be left who remembers who they are. As for Ima Joy Gandler, she died in Waco in 2010, age 80, but will long be remembered by the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all photographs and notes are from Box 2F511, file Labeled Photographs 2012-181 or file Photographs from Temple Rodef

Sholom, Texas Jewish Historical Society Records, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. Thanks go to Dr. Don Carleton, Hal Richardson, Cindy Taylor and Amy Bowman for help with the photographs.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=gandler&GSfn=ima&GSmn=joy&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=2674&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=47227387&df=all&>

<sup>3</sup> <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/ssse.dll?gl=allgs&gsfn=Nate&gsln=C&hodorow&gss=seo&ghc=20>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=aronson&GSfn=sam&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95737048&df=all&>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=bahme&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=105433336&df=all&>

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=englander&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95315009&df=all&>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=englander&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95315009&df=all&>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Meinstein&GSfn=Louis&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95635451&df=all&>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Meinstein&GSfn=Louis&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95635451&df=all&>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Meinstein&GSfn=Louis&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95635488&>

*continued on page 18*





Rodef Shalom. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

8X11  
 (48) page 2  
 LEFT TO RIGHT ON LEDGE?  
 TEMPLE RODEF SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, 924 WASHINGTON, WACO, TEXAS  
 MAY 1961

ZIG ZAG 1. JOEL FLORSHEIM 2. DEBBIE CHERNOFF 3. FRANCES SCHEINBAUM (TALL) 4. MARTY FRIEDMAN 5. PAULA LEVINE 6. STEVE BARSHOP 7. MRS. LOU Y. FEINSTEIN (CETHEL LIVINGSTON) (IN GLASSES) 8. BARBARA SCRINOPSKIE 9. MAURY HARRIS 10. MIKE LEVINE (PLAID SHIRT) 11. (HIDDEN) 12. (ADULT) 13. LEON ZLOTOWICZ 14. JODY ROTTNER 15. ELLEN ROSS (IN GLASSES) 16. RONNIE RAPAPORT (IN GLASSES) 17. ELLEN FAULE 18. NEAL ARNET (IN FRONT OF RONNIE) 19. STEPHAN GOLDSTEIN (ADULT) 20. LORRAINE "BOBBY" GINSBURG 21. RABBI AMIEL WOHL (IN SUIT) 22. MRS. JAY ARNET (MURIEL) (IN FRONT OF RABBI WOHL) 23. JOAN KUCHMAN (IN WHITE DRESS) 24. MRS. NATHAN BRICKMAN (GLORIA FEINSTEIN) (IN PLAID BLOUSE) 25. MRS. JAY ARNET (MURIEL) (IN DARK DRESS)

NEXT ROW 1. MARK MILES (TALL) 2. GINSBURG 3. MRS. LEONARD ENGLANDER (ELYSE GOLDSTRICH) 4. KAY FERNALD 5. CAROL ANN LEWIS 6. STANLEY 7. BEVERLY BRICKMAN (IN PLAID DRESS) 8. LORIE SCHEINBAUM 9. SHARLANE MICHAEL GANDLER (IN GLASSES) 10. JACK KESTNER, JR. 11. JANIS UNELL 12. LINDA SCRINOPSKIE

NEXT ROW 1. 2. 3. HANK HENRIQUES 4. GENE ANN ELLIS 5. ELLAN FREED 6. MARILYN BRICKMAN 7. MARY LYNN ZIGEL 8. CRAIG BEASLEY 9. SYLVAN "YOGI" FLORSHEIM 10. LAURA BETH GANDLER (IN STRIPE DRESS) 11. LAUREN FREED 12. MRS. AL JOSEPH (ROSALIE LEVINSON) 13. JO ANN ROSENFELD (BEING HELD BY MRS. JOSEPH) 14. THEN ZIG 2. 2. 14. MAURY KLEIMAN 15. SYDNEY DAY HENRIQUES 16. MARY LYNN ZIGEL 17. KAREN MILLER (BLACK HAIR) 18. LYNN ROSENFELD 19. GAIL FRED (IN WHITE) 20. PAT ROTTNER (IN GLASSES) 21. JUDY BERNSTEIN 22.

BOTTOM ROW 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. MARY FRIEDMAN 6. KLEIMAN 7. 8. KLEIMAN 9. HOWARD IRWIN GANDLER 10. 11. SHE KATTEN


Back of the Rodef Shalom group photo above. Many are identified. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

continued on page 19

*Ima Joy's Waco, continued  
from page 18*

<sup>10</sup> This information cannot be verified on ancestry.com as it is marked "private." [http://records.ancestry.com/leon\\_s\\_meinstein\\_records.ashx?pid=193514042](http://records.ancestry.com/leon_s_meinstein_records.ashx?pid=193514042)  
Only three Meinsteins are buried in Agudath Jacob Cemetery: Louis, Mary, and Frances, and family relationships are not clarified. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GSiman=1&GScid=1979161&GSfn=&GSln=meinstein>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.snobbytours.com/wacotours.html>

<sup>12</sup> Box 2.325/c44, Texas Jewish Historical Society Records, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. 

## Save the Date

**March 17, 2015**

Dedication of a Historic Marker for Rabbi Sidney Wolf, Corpus Christi, Texas

**April 24-26, 2015**

Annual Gathering  
(joint meeting with Dallas Jewish Historical Society)  
Dallas, Texas

**June 8-15, 2015**

TJHS Mission to Cuba

# Proposed Slate of Officers, TJHS 2015-2016

## Officers

<i>President</i>	David Beer (Dallas)
<i>1st Vice-President</i>	Susan Lewis (Big Spring)
<i>2nd Vice-President</i>	Davie Lou Solka (Austin)
<i>3rd Vice-President</i>	Jane Manaster (Dallas)
<i>Treasurer</i>	Ben Rosenberg (Sugar Land)
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Daniel Weinbaum (Beaumont)
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Claire Brooks (Houston)
<i>Historian</i>	Sally Drayer (Dallas)
<i>Archivist</i>	Samylu Rubin (Dallas)
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Vickie Vogel (La Grange)

## Board Members 2014-2016 *to complete term*

Kay Krause (Dallas)  
Jerry Wells (Plano)

## Board Members 2015-2017

Elaine Albin (Rockport)	Amy Milstein (Frisco)
Douglas Braudaway (Del Rio)	Allen Mondell (Dallas)
Dick Brooks (Houston)	Ruth Nathan (Houston)
Suzanne Campbell (San Angelo)	Shirley Rich (Houston)
Brad Greenblum (Austin)	Lynna Kay Shuffield (Houston)
Jan Hart (Temple)	Larry Simpson (Wichita Falls)
Harold "Pacey" Laves (Austin)	Rosalie Weisfeld (McAllen)
Marilyn Lippman (Dallas)	Bobbi Wells (Plano)
Amy Manuel (Denton)	Gary Whitfield (Fort Worth)
Abbi Michelson (Lockhart)	Joyce Wormser (Pearland)

## *Nominating Committee*

Marc Wormser, Chair; Sally Drayer; Jan Hart; Rusty Milstein; Helen Wilk




# Historical Marker Dedication for Rabbi Sidney Wolf, Corpus Christi, Texas

A Historical Marker dedication will take place on **Tuesday, March 17, 2015**, at the Temple Beth El section of Seaside Memorial Cemetery in Corpus Christi, Texas, at 1:30 PM. The marker honoring Rabbi Sidney Wolf will be placed at his grave.

The Nueces County Historical Commission will conduct the unveiling and dedication of the marker for Rabbi Wolf, who served in the pulpit of Temple Beth El from 1932-1972. Rabbi Wolf, in conjunction with Reverend William Caper Munds, initiated the joint Thanksgiving service with the Church of Good Shepherd, Episcopal, in 1933. That event, which continues to this day, was so unusual in its day, that it was noted in the 1936 issue of *Time* magazine under the heading "Love in Corpus Christi." Again, reaching across cultural divides, Rabbi Wolf invited black minister Reverend Sidney Smith to speak from the

pulpit of Temple Beth El in 1950. He continued that tradition for a number of years in spite of the racial segregation that existed in Corpus Christi at that time. The Hispanic community also felt his assistance when, as a member of the Parks and Recreation Board, he insisted on equal access for all citizens of the community to all community recre-

ational facilities. Organizing the city's first symphony orchestra in 1945 is also credited to Rabbi Wolf, who served as the founding president of the Corpus Christi Symphony Society.

Helen Wilk, a past president of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, applied for the marker and will speak at the dedication. 

## Cuba Trip

The TJHS trip to Cuba on June 8-15, 2015 has closed at near capacity. We are looking forward to visiting the island with the new guidelines from the United States. A report and photos on the trip will be in our next issues. Safe travels to all!

**The deadline for the May 2015 TJHS News Magazine is Friday, April 24.**

## In Memoriam



**Betty Frances Aron**, TJHS member, died on December 17, 2014, in Houston. She is survived by her husband, Sidney Aron; her daughter, Sondra

Rosenthal, her daughters and sons-in-law, Lisa & Elliot Finkelstein and Diane & Lewis Reich; her son, Howard Aron; eight grandchildren and their spouses; and six great-grandchildren.



**Dr. Donald M. Cohen**, TJHS member, died on December 2, 2014, in Fort Worth. He is survived by his wife, Judith; his sons and daughters-in-law, Dr.

Daniel & Jane Cohen and Steven & Amy Cohen; his daughters and sons-in-law, Diana "Dede" and Dr. Brian Kaplan and Dr. Jordana "Dana" Cohen-Paine & Bill Paine; and nine grandchildren.



**Harold Vexler**, TJHS member died on January 25, 2015 in San Antonio. He was 100 years old, and is sur-

vived by his wife, Esther; his sons and daughters-in-law, Jack & Bette Vexler and Dr. Stuart Vexler & Dr. Cari Kahn; his daughter, Dr. Jill Vexler; seven grandchildren; and 2 great-grandchildren.



**Bernard L. Weingarten**, TJHS

member, died on January 20, 2015 in Houston. He is survived by his daughters and

sons-in-law; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and his brother and sister-in-law, Jack & Elizabeth Weingarten.

**May their memories be a blessing.**

# 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

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

Your support of the 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## *Donor Information:*

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

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

## Welcome New Members!

**David & Bayla Cotlar**  
777 Southwest Fwy., #946  
Houston, TX 77074-1813  
713-776-3045  
david77074@yahoo.com

**Jeff Lefkowitz**  
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713-661-1001

**Joseph Macias**  
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starofjoseph@hotmail.com

**Joe & Barbara McClellan**  
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903-653-4650  
956-245-4023 Cell

**Bertha Miller**  
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roses4uandu@gmail.com

**Larry & Cindy (Miller) Nale**  
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512-476-9296  
ianle@austin.rr.com

**Helen Schlam**  
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Columbus, OH 43214  
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614-395-5044 Cell  
helenaschlam@aol.com

**Alison Schottenstein**  
6260 Park Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45243  
617-233-9659  
alleys@utexas.edu

## Has Your Address Changed?

If you have any changes in your information, please send them to: **Marc Wormser**  
**1601 S. Riviera Ct., Pearland, TX 77581**  
**832-288-3494, or c2aggie@gmail.com.**



tives in the 1980s and 1990s. Florence Shapiro represented the northern suburb of Plano in the state senate after serving as mayor of the town. Martin Frost served in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 2004. Three Jewish women have served as mayor of Dallas—Adlene Harrison, a city councilwoman, became interim mayor in 1976, when the sitting

lobbying the Texas legislature to grant legal equality to married women. When both houses of the legislature passed the constitutional amendment in 1971, it was overwhelmingly approved by Texas voters the following year. She was elected to the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1986.

The Dallas Jewish community has changed significantly

Israel has over 1,000 members today, and Temple Emanu-El grew to over 2,500 members by 2010. New congregations were formed all over the city in the last few decades. Rabbi Levi Olan of Temple Emanu-El helped establish a second Reform congregation in 1965. Temple Shalom initially met at the Southern Methodist University Chapel, and Shearith Israel

lent them a Torah to use. Rabbi Saul Besser was hired in 1969, and in 1974 Temple Shalom built a new synagogue on Alpha Road. Jews in Richardson founded the Conservative congregation, Beth Torah in 1974, and Anshei




**Prominent Dallas Jews.** Left to right: Annette Strauss, the first woman to be elected mayor of the city of Dallas; Florence Shapiro, Texas State Senator from the Dallas area from 1993 to 2013; and Martin Frost, who served the Dallas area in the U. S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 2004.

mayor resigned. In 1987, Annette Strauss was elected to her first of two terms as mayor, and in 2002, Laura Miller was elected mayor serving until 2007. Others never served in elected office but were influential in many ways. Robert Strauss served as chairman of the National Democratic Party from 1972 to 1977 and was appointed ambassador to the Soviet Union by President George H. W. Bush in 1991. Hermine Tobolowsky was a lawyer who drafted and led the fight to pass the Equal Legal Rights Amendment in Texas. She spent thirteen years

in the last several decades. The great Jewish-owned department stores have either closed or been sold to national chains. As in the rest of the Sunbelt South, the Dallas Jewish community has moved out of the retail business and into the professions and corporate world.

After World War II, the city emerged as one of America's largest cities. As the city grew, so did the Jewish community. In 2000, an estimated 47,000 Jews lived in the city and its suburbs. This growth had a huge impact on the city's Jewish congregations. Shearith

Emet was founded in Plano in 1979. Ner Tamid began in 1984 in Carrollton as Conservative, but joined the Union for Reform Judaism in 1989. In recent years, several Orthodox congregations have been founded, including Young Israel, Ohev Shalom and Shaare Tefilla. Beth El-Bimah, founded in 1985, caters to gay and lesbian Jews. By the 21st century, Dallas' Jewish community offered congregational options and educational resources for everyone, and continues to thrive as a leading Jewish center in the United States. 

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



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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 Sally Drayer at 214-458-7298 or email her at [sdrayer@yahoo.com](mailto:sdrayer@yahoo.com) or Marc Wormser at 832-288-3494 or [c2aggie@gmail.com](mailto:c2aggie@gmail.com).





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