

# Texas Jewish Historical Society



July 2016 News Magazine

## Frances Kallison to be Inducted as the First Jewish Member of the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame

By Hollace Weiner

*The TJHS News Magazine received official word that one of our founding members, Frances Rosenthal Kallison (1908-2004), will be tapped for membership in the National Museum and Cowgirl Hall of Fame. The induction luncheon will be in Fort Worth on October 27. The following article is an abridged version of the narrative on the Cowgirl Hall of Fame application, which was submitted by Hollace Weiner in 2008. Find more information and to attend the luncheon, go to [www.cowgirl.org](http://www.cowgirl.org).*

Frances Elaine Rosenthal Kallison was a horsewoman and a historian, a co-founder of both the Bexar County Sheriff's Posse Auxiliary and the Texas Jewish Historical Society. As comfortable with a lead rope as a fountain pen, Kallison wrote for the *Cattleman* magazine—with stories about palominos and Peruvians—and the *American Jewish Historical Quarterly* with a probing essay about Jewish acculturation in frontier Texas. She left her imprint on the land, helping manage the family ranch, which was ultimate-



*Frances Kallison. Photo courtesy of San Antonio Light, Photograph Collection. MS 350: L-3569-F, University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries Special Collection from the Institute of Texas Cultures, as seen in the book by her nephew, Nick Kotz, The Harness Makers' Dream.*

ly incorporated into a state park. She left her stamp at the Institute of Texan Cultures, where she was the primary researcher for its first exhibit about the Jews of Texas. Kallison's life and outlook spanned most of the twentieth century. Part western and part Victorian in her demeanor, until the day she died in 2004 at the age of 96, Frances Kallison had an assortment of leather work-gloves for the ranch and white-cotton gloves for the city.

Kallison was also a contemporary thinker, a New Deal advocate who argued for a minimum wage and established a prenatal clinic for the poor. As the forceful leader of the San Antonio section of the National Council of Jewish Women, she successfully lobbied the mayor to open a maternity ward at the city's public hospital. She spearheaded creation of a nursery for blind toddlers who lost their sight because of faulty incubators. She lobbied the Legislature to mainstream those blind children, and the school she established became part of the San An-

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# Message from the President

by David Beer

I wish all of you the start of a pleasant summer. May your travels be many and all of the recent rains for so many of us around the state be diminishing as the summer season begins.

Special thanks and gratitude go to Helen Wilk and Elaine Albin for the summer board meeting that was held in the lovely gulf-side town of Rockport. We spent a wonderful twenty-four hours there, and although our time together was short, the thirty-plus people that attended participated in the very important work beginning to implement the Five Year Plan that was presented by the



Long Range Planning Committee. We were sorry that the inclement weather prevented some folks who had planned to attend from coming. The agenda that is usually used for a quarterly meeting was modified so that more time

could be used to accommodate the discussion to put in place the plan that is going to shape the direction of TJHS as we move into the future. Significant progress was made, with good discussion on the part of all board members. The remaining part of the plan will be discussed at

our fall meeting in Kerrville October 21-23, 2016. This is a meeting that you will NOT want to miss. Start making your plans now to spend a wonderful weekend with TJHS in Kerrville, deep in the heart of the Texas Hill Country.

Saturday night a wonderful seafood and vegetarian dinner was held with everyone returning to the Pelican Bay Lodge and Resort for dessert and to hear Bryan Stone, Professor of History at Del Mar College (my alma mater) discuss his just published book, *Memories of Two Generations: A Yiddish Life in Russia and Texas*. This book is the story of TJHS Board Member Dr. Neil Gurwitz's grandfather, who at age 51, in 1910, moved his family from Russia to Texas as a part of the Galveston Movement. Alexander Gurwitz wrote the manuscript of his life, starting as a child, born in Minsk, and continuing as a Yeshiva student until and through his move to Texas. The document was written in Yiddish and Bryan found it when he was a graduate student at the University of Texas. The family had translated the manuscript into English and Bryan edited it for publication. But that's all I am going to tell you. To learn this fascinating story, you need to buy the

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## The Texas Jewish Historical Society July 2016 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 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.

**Editor** Davie Lou Solka

**Layout/Design Editor** Alexa Kirk

Note: The Texas Jewish Historical Society is unable to guarantee the safe receipt and/or return of documents and 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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# Historic Rockdale Cemetery Gets Cleanup with Fence Repairs, Rose Bushes

by Hollace Weiner

Milam County's Rockdale Jewish Cemetery, where twenty pioneer Texans were buried between 1877 and 1939, received a major cleanup on

Earth Day thanks to the sweat equity of two Girl Scout troops, the planning of a community volunteer, and funding from the TJHS Grant Committee.

Last April 20, Rockdale Girl Scout Troops 9603 and 9605 cleared the fence line of vines, raked the grounds, cleaned headstones, and trimmed trees, shrubbery, and grass. TJHS funding allowed for the purchase of headstone cleaner, chain-link fencing, a replacement drive gate, and related hardware. Rockdale Memorial Co., a second-generation family business operated by Paul, Linda, and Carol Luckey, donated time and expertise to level and repair headstones. The local memorial company also provided bagged-concrete mix for casting replacement bases for fallen headstones.

In the near future, damaged sections of fencing and gate will be replaced. After all physical repairs are complete, the Girl Scouts will plant knockout roses to beautify the grounds.

Overseeing the cemetery cleanup is Jack Brooks of the Milam County Historical Commission with the support of the Rockdale Cemetery Committee, the Rockdale Historical Society

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*Two Girl Scout troops pitched in for the Earth Day cleanup of the historic Rockdale Jewish Cemetery, which dates to 1877. The scouts were joined by siblings, friends, adult volunteers, and the owners of the Rockdale Memorial Co. to repair fences, clean headstones, clear vines, rake the grounds, and trim trees, shrubbery, and grass. Many of the young volunteers are pictured here on the grounds and gathered around the site's Texas Historic Cemetery Marker.*

*(Photo by Jack Brooks)*

## With Thanks

*Dear Fellow Members,*

Please permit this sincere though brief note of thanks to you, the TJHS, for having bestowed on me your first award presented for the *Extraordinary Preservation of Texas Jewish History*. Your honor is overwhelming.

I would pass these thanks through this posting to all who were involved, particularly the president,

David Beer, and the chair, Helen Wilk.

The past thirty-six years have been a wonderful experience. It has been like watching one of my kids grow and mature, but frankly with relatively less aggravation. The true blessing has been that with all the arguments and debates, all of us have participated in creating a recognized organization whose efforts will guarantee a record of Jewish life in Texas. Moreover,

our efforts have legitimized Texas Jewish life as an academic sub-field of study. That's an incredible achievement.

I do hope that with retirement, you will see more of me at meetings and we all will participate in even greater growth and achievement for TJHS.

*With warm affection, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler*



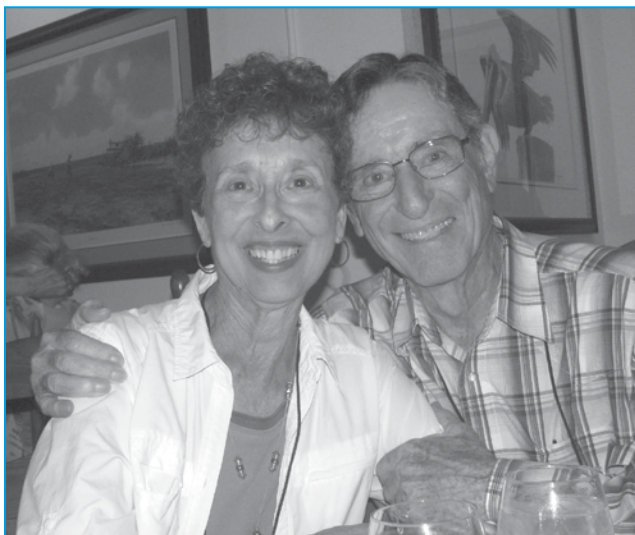
# — Summer Board Meeting In Rockport —



*Cottages at Pelican Bay Resort.*



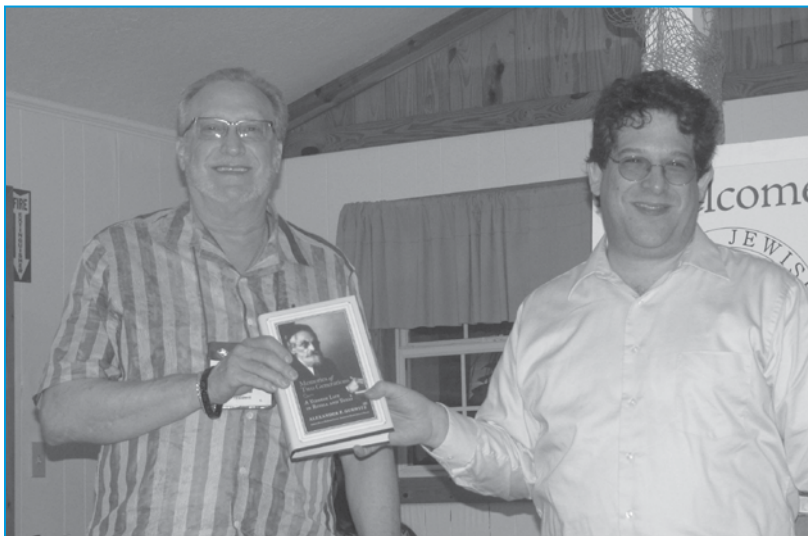
*Helen Wilk presented the Long Range Plan.*



*Jan & Charles Hart celebrate 55 years of marriage with TJHS!*



*Helen Wilk, Elaine Albin, Co-Chairs for the weekend.*



*President David Beer receives copy of Bryan Stone's book for TJHS archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.*

### Five-Year Plan is Discussed at Summer Board Meeting


by Helen Wilk

The 2016 summer board meeting is now history! As in the past, this particular meeting is used to assess where our organization is currently, what we have accomplished and where we want to go in the future. This year's workshop style meeting was based on the terrific work of the Long Range Planning Committee chaired by Hollace Weiner, along with committee members Bob Lewis, Bryan Stone, Vickie Vogel and Debbie Winegarten.

With printed copies of the five-year plan in the hands of the board members present, we began with a recap of past accomplishments. It is nice to remember the things that have been accomplished but more important is to use that knowledge to stake out future goals. We explored how the web site might be improved, what could be done to encourage greater use of our two traveling photo exhibits; new ideas for creating targeted grant applications; and began a project to identify people and places that might qualify for Texas Historical Markers. Most importantly, TJHS needs to be funding and encouraging those who are doing research about the Jewish experience in Texas and invite those people to speak at our meetings. Another goal is to use our resources to bring interesting, knowledgeable speakers to our meetings.

As is usually the case, we ran out of time before we ran out of more terrific ideas and suggestions. But this is really an ongoing effort and the plan is to continue to explore the other suggestions at future board meetings. We will need the active participation of many board members chairing committees and the hope is that each one will find a subject or project that they would like to work on.

This was a stimulating workshop. Now it is up to all of us to use the momentum to undertake the changes and move forward.

Hope every single member will be available for our "draft!" 



*Bryan Stone discussed his book, [Memories of Two Generations: A Yiddish Life in Russia and Texas](#).*



*The Alexander Gurwitz Family. Back: Stephen & Karen Kahan, great-great-grandson and great-granddaughter; Leslie & Anita Feigenbaum, great-granddaughter and great-grandson-in-law. Sitting: Neil & Betty Gurwitz, grandson and granddaughter-in-law.*





# 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 media. 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 [grantchair@txjhs.org](mailto:grantchair@txjhs.org).*

# New Photos of Rabbi Henry Cohen, *The Man Who Stayed in Texas*, and His Family

by Hollace Weiner

Millions of words have been written about Galveston's renowned Rabbi Henry Cohen, immortalized in the 1941 biography *The Man Who Stayed in Texas*. However, only a handful of photos illustrate those writings.

Now, a trove of Cohen-family pictures has come to light, thanks to TJHS Board member Lynna Kay Shuffield. While researching an article about Rabbi Cohen's daughter Ruth and her husband, San Antonio Rabbi Ephraim Frisch, for the Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society newsletter, Lynna Kay contacted Rabbi Cohen's descendants.

The rabbi's great-grandson Henry Frisch, a physics professor at the University of Chicago, began emailing

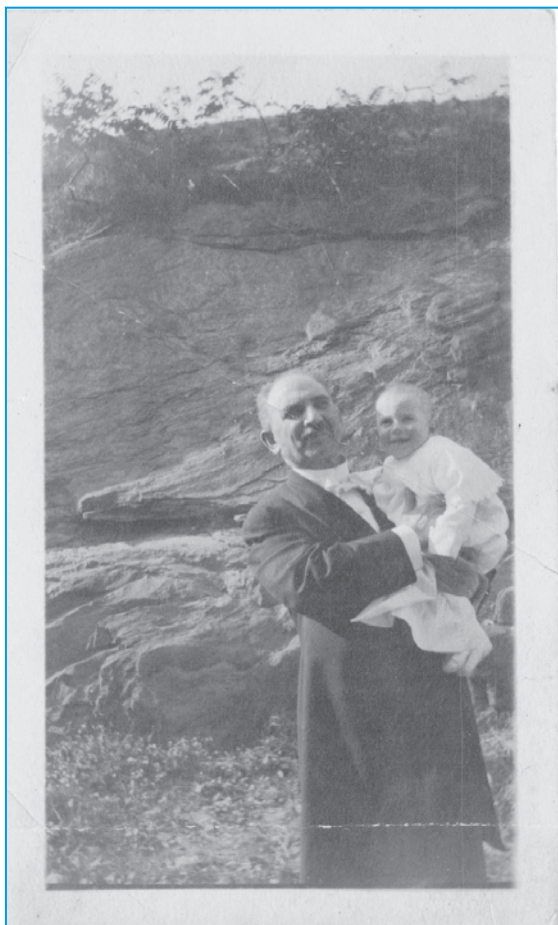
her never-before-published family photos. He gave permission to print several in the TJHS news magazine.

Rabbi Cohen's daughter, Ruth, had a radiant personality and was a talented pianist, educator, writer and speaker. She died in 1934 from Hodgkin's disease at the age of 44. Had she lived in the modern era, she might have been a rabbi of a leading congregation. Ruth's husband, Ephraim Frisch (1880-1957), was an intellectual and political idealist who inspired young adults in San Antonio toward social action. During his years as rabbi at Temple Beth-El from 1923 to 1942, Frisch preached ethics rather than piety,

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*Photo at top right: The extended family, ca. mid-1920s, with an American flag waving in the breeze, includes, from left, Rabbi Ephraim Frisch, Mollie Levy Cohen, Ruth Cohen Frisch, Rabbi Henry Cohen and grandson David Frisch in the center. Photo at left: Rabbi Henry Cohen holding grandson David Frisch when he was a toddler.*

*Photo at bottom right: Grandma Mollie Levy Cohen, seated in a rocking chair on her front porch in Galveston, cradling her infant grandson David in 1918.*



# 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 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.*

## Tri-County Jewish Community: Columbus, Hallettsville, La Grange, Schulenburg

Located midway between San Antonio and Houston, the three counties of Lavaca, Fayette, and Colorado have never had any settlement large enough to call a city. No town in these rural counties ever attracted more than a few thousand people, many of whom were of German or Czech descent. Nevertheless, a small number of Jews were scattered among such towns as Hallettsville, Schulenburg, Columbus and La Grange, and came together to establish a Jewish community that served the Tri-County area.

La Grange, the seat of Fayette County, was the first to attract a significant Jewish presence. Seelig Alexander left Prussia in 1849. After a short time in New York City, Alexander moved to La Grange with his wife, Bettie, in 1851. After serving as a captain in the Confederate Army,

Alexander returned to La Grange and opened a successful dry goods store. By 1870, he owned \$5,000 in real estate and \$4,000 in personal estate. By 1860, a number of Jews lived in La Grange, most of whom, like Alexander, were Prussian-born and involved in retail trade. A. and M. Schwartz, most likely brothers, owned a retail business, as did William and Sam Friedlander. Sam Alexander owned a grocery store while Julius Cohen

was a peddler. Bernard Zander moved to La Grange in 1859, and opened a saddlery store that remained in business for several decades. Gabriel Friedberger owned a dry goods store on La Grange's downtown square in the 1850s. He was also involved in the cotton trade and even smuggled the cash crop to the Union during the Civil War.

Jews also

settled in the other small towns in the area. Michael Levey left Alsace Lorraine in 1857 and settled in Hallettsville in 1850. After serving in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, Levey opened a grocery business in Hallettsville.

By 1868, La Grange Jews had founded a Hebrew Benevolent Society which purchased land for a Jewish cemetery after two Jewish children

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*Homuth building during the 1950s. Downtown La Grange.  
Photo courtesy of [visitlagrangetx.com](http://visitlagrangetx.com).*





*The 1914 fair parade in La Grange. Photo courtesy of visitlagrangetx.com.*

died in late 1867. Gabriel Friedberger was its first president. Later, the cemetery came under the control of the women in the community, who formed the Ladies Hebrew Cemetery Association. Although the La Grange Jewish cemetery was never large, it contains thirty-two marked graves, and was the first effort of Jews in the Tri-County area to organize. A decade later, Jews in Columbus, the seat of Colorado County, established a Jewish cemetery in 1879. The following year Jews in Hallettsville did the same.

In 1879, journalist Charles Wesolowsky visited Columbus and

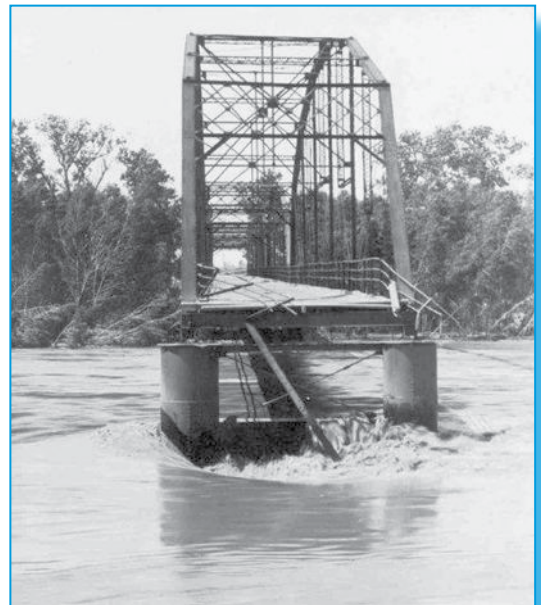
reported that the town had “twelve Jewish families and a number of young men.” Soon after, a B’nai B’rith Lodge was established, and it attracted members from other towns in the area including Hallettsville.

By 1880, Jews in Columbus had begun to meet together informally for prayer. Later, the Steiner family gave the group a Torah, which has been used by the Tri-County Jewish community ever since. Jews in Hallettsville established a Chevra Kadisha (burial

society) in 1890, which maintained the Jewish cemetery and gave out charity to Jews in need. By 1900, its fifteen members held services on the High Holidays, often at the home of Isaac Samusch. In 1904, the Jews of these various towns decided to establish a formal congregation. To raise money for the fledg-

ling group, members decided to auction off the naming rights of the congregation. Coleman Asher, a seventy-year-old widower who owned a grocery store in Hallettsville, made the winning bid and named the congregation “Beth Asher” after himself.

Beth Asher met in a rented room on Texana Street in Hallettsville, using the Torah that had been used by the group in Columbus. In 1907, the congregation had twenty members and held services on Friday nights and major holidays. A. Meyerhoff was its president. Albert Saft, a German-born book store owner, usually led the services, which used both Hebrew and English prayers. Beth Asher had a religious school with ten students in 1907. In 1905, Jewish women found-



*1935 Flood - Colorado River Bridge in Columbus, Texas. Photo courtesy Nesbitt Memorial Library 00160.*



*Colorado County Courthouse, Columbus, Texas 1906*

ed a Hebrew Ladies Aid Society. By 1907, it had twenty-five members. Bessie Landa was its president.

Most of the members of Beth Asher owned retail businesses. By

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1890, Jewish merchants dominated the downtown streets of Hallettsville, Columbus, and Schulenburg. That year in Hallettsville, Samuel Aronsohn and Louis Richman owned dry goods stores, Moritz Cohen owned a stove and tin ware business. Abraham Levytansky's store sold jewelry and musical instruments, and Isaac Samusch sold groceries.

Jewish women owned two businesses in Hallettsville in 1890. Fannie Schwartz owned a combination hat and grocery store, and Rosalie Schwartz had a general store. In Schulenburg, Hyman Goldstein, Max Green and Michael Levey owned a general store. Max Kalisky and Amelia Schwartz had grocery stores in 1890.

In 1887, brothers Max and Julius Schwartz opened a mule and horse barn in Schulenburg. They became one of the largest dealers in horse and mules in the Southwest, and remained in business for forty-two years. Both brothers were very involved civically in Schulenburg. Max Schwartz served on the City Council for many years and was a deputy sheriff. Julius Schwartz was president and longtime board member of the First National Bank of Schulenburg.

Michael Levey, who moved to Schulenburg from Hallettsville in 1880, quickly became involved in local politics, serving three terms as mayor of Schulenburg from 1883 to 1889. Isaac Rosenthal owned a mercantile store in La Grange and served as a city alderman from 1880 until his death in 1906. This civic involvement continued into the 20th century. Hirsch Schwartz, Julius' son,

was a lawyer and banker who became one of Schulenburg's most prominent citizens. He served as president or vice-president of the local Chamber of Commerce for twelve years, receiving their Outstanding Citizenship Award in 1955. Schwartz was also president of the First National Bank, and helped found a local industrial foundation that

ly held at the Steiner home. As the school grew, additional classes met at other homes. In 1938, Beth Asher celebrated its first Confirmation class in a ceremony at the Odd Fellows Hall led by Rabbi Robert Kahn of Houston's Congregation Beth Israel. Beth Asher would hold a Confirmation ceremony every other year for the next couple

of decades, often led by Rabbi Kahn. The Confirmation service, along with the involvement of a Reform rabbi, shows that Beth Asher had moved away from its more traditional roots.

The women of the congregation established a chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women in 1936, which functioned as the Sisterhood for Beth Asher. Clara

Stahl was the group's first president. By 1960, the NCJW chapter had thirty-seven members in seven different towns. The group did charity work, supported the congregation and national Jewish causes, and the larger

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*1881 Bird's-eye view of Schulenburg, Texas.*

sought to bring industry to Schulenburg. Schwartz capped off this long civic career by serving as mayor of Schulenburg from 1964 until his death in 1981.

Not much is known about the forty-year history of Beth Asher congregation. For many years, the group met in a rented room on the ground floor of the Odd Fellows Hall in Hallettsville. While most services were lay-led, occasionally the congregation would bring in a visiting Rabbi, who would usually stay at Fink's Hotel, owned by congregant Abraham Finkelstein. Around 1932, Susan Steiner, Irene Waldvogel, and Clara Klein created a new Sunday school for the congregation. The classes, taught by these three women, were initial-



*Schulenburg Railroad Depot. More Texas Depots  
Courtesy Fayette County Heritage Museum &  
Archives*



community of the region. They also held an annual community Seder at Passover.

In 1945, the Jews of the Tri-County area decided to reorganize the congregation with a new name and constitution. They based their new bylaws and constitution on those of the Reform Congregation Emanu-El in Houston. The members chose the name Temple Israel, and its first meeting was held in Hallettsville. The congregation had members in Columbus, Schulenburg, Edna, Cuero, La Grange, Weimar and Flatonia. In December, 1946, the congregation began

to discuss building the first synagogue in the Tri-County area. The Odd Fellows Lodge in Hallettsville, where the congre-

gation had been meeting, decided to move, further prompting Temple Israel to build a home of their own. The first question was where to build it since the members of Temple Israel were scattered in eight different towns. Congregation members voted overwhelmingly to build the synagogue in Schulenburg, since it was the geographic center of the region. Hirsh Schwartz was president of the congregation at the time, and donated land in Schulenburg for the new building. Schwartz also led the fundraising effort, which collected money from local gentiles as well as Jews in other cities.

In 1951, Temple Israel dedicated its first synagogue building on Baumgarten Street in Schulenburg, using the same Torah that had belonged

to Beth Asher in Hallettsville. Clergy from three different Houston congregations participated in the event. Rabbi Robert Kahn of Temple Emanu-El led the dedication service and gave the keynote address. Cantor George Wagner of Congregation Beth Yeshurun sang and Rabbi Robert Schur of Congregation Beth Israel gave the closing prayer. Oscar Brown, the mayor of Schulenburg, took part in the ceremony as did the pastor of the First Baptist Church.

The congregation was now Reform, using an organ during services and using student rabbis from Hebrew Union College for the High Holidays. Rabbi Robert Kahn of Houston would

come in to lead Confirmation services and the occasional Bar Mitzvah. By 1962,

Temple Israel had joined the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now Union for Reform Judaism). The congregation was small, numbering thirty-seven members in 1962. Services were held one Friday night a month, and on the High Holidays. Eli Rubin served as lay leader for the monthly services. In 1960, there were eight children in the religious school.

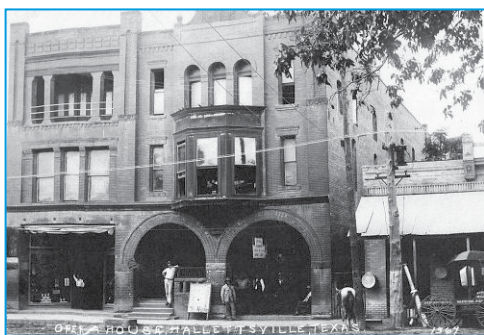
As in the early years, most members of Temple Israel remained in the retail business through the



*The Fink Hotel in Hallettsville. The Finksteins, along with their four children, started the business, around 1904,*

mid 20th century. The Klein family made their mark throughout the Tri-County area. Louis Klein moved to La Grange in 1923 from Austin, opening a dry goods store. Later, his son, Larry, took over the business,

*continued on page 16*



*Hallettsville Texas Opera House, built 1896  
Courtesy French Simpson Memorial Library,  
Hallettsville,*


## Guess This Member

Still no guesses—take a good look—this is a real stumper! This person has been involved with TJHS for a short time, but has contributed a great deal of herself to the organization. She



is an author among her many accomplishments, and teaches at the University of Texas. 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, July 18. 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 as possible.*

## Waul's Texas Legion

by Vickie Vogel

In the spring of 1862, the only true legion of Texas troops in the army of the Confederacy was mustered in and around Brenham by Thomas Neville Waul. The infantry companies were transferred to Mississippi and played a vital role in the defense of Vicksburg, repelling Grant's attack and forcing the Union Army to switch to a siege tactic. The Legion units were captured when the city fell in 1863. After their release, the men reorganized in Houston and were sent to Galveston to protect the Texas coast.<sup>1</sup>

In the Don Teter Papers recently donated to our archives by his wife, Gertrude, I found a copy of a letter dated May 17, 1894 from T. N. Waul to Leo N. Levi, a leader in the Jewish community of Galveston.<sup>2</sup>

"My attention having been called



*Caption: T. N. Waul, wault.jpg; Bruceyrocks632's Uploads; digital source Fold3.com.*

by you to the published remarks of a writer in disparagement of the patriotism and gallantry of the Jew as a soldier, and having had the honor to command a force composed to a considerable extent of Israelites, I feel impelled by this attempted injustice to the race to give my experience with them as soldiers."

Waul goes on to describe how he organized Waul's Texas Legion of ten

companies of infantry, five companies of cavalry and two companies of artillery.<sup>3</sup> Two of the infantry companies "had a large number of Jews in their ranks" and the largest company of 120 men "was officered by Jews, and three-fourths of the rank and file were of that faith." The other companies also contained Jewish soldiers. All were volunteers.

"As soldiers they were brave, orderly and well disciplined and in no respect inferior to the gallant body of which they formed a prominent part. Their behavior in the camp, as in the field, was exemplary." Waul praised their fewer applications for leave, and absence of any courts martial, and noted "...their regular habits caused very few of their names to appear

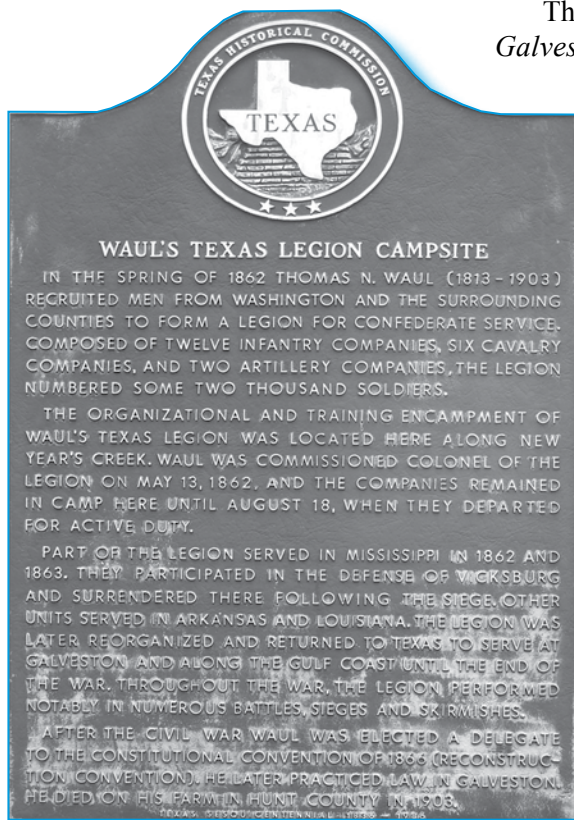
on hospital rolls." No Jew in his command shirked his duty and each fought bravely for the cause. Waul praised their "conduct, courage, and soldierly qualities. I state without hesitation that in no attribute suited to the soldier, whether as an officer or in the ranks, will the Jew suffer by comparison with the best and bravest of our army. As these happenings were before your time, I jot down these recollections that you may have



*Campsite of Waul's Texas Legion near Brenham. Photo by Vickie Vogel.*

*continued on page 13*





Waul's Texas Legion Campsite Historical Marker.  
Photo by Vickie Vogel.

the testimony of one Gentile to attest the courage, endurance and patriotism of the Jew as a soldier.”

Along with this letter, there is a list of selected names of Waul's Texas Legion roster from Harris County. These names include German and Jewish surnames without distinction, but Don had penciled dates next to the names of Adolfe Kramer, Alexander Fox (Fuchs), Henry Hoffman, Adolph Metzler, Otto Nathusius, J. Marks, I. C. Levy, Jacob Levy and Joseph Levy. Perhaps Don was researching which soldiers were Jews.

Gary P. Whitfield, historian and TJHS Board member, identified some of the Jewish soldiers in Waul's Texas Legion as Isaac Block, A. Fox, Solomon Halff, Maj. Otto Nathusius, and Henry Stein. Simon Wolf, a prominent Washington Jewish lawyer, had previously named A. Levison and Paul Levison<sup>4</sup> in his list of Jewish soldiers published in 1895.

The Waul letter was carried in the *Galveston Daily News* on June 10, 1894 in response to a letter to the editor disparaging Jews as soldiers.<sup>5</sup> Waul's letter has been quoted in many scholarly works on Jewish soldiers, including Whitfield's article and Robert N. Rosen's 2000 publication, *The Jewish Confederates*.<sup>6</sup>

Rosen points out the difficulty of determining which names were Jewish and which were German non-Jewish. “A roster of the Legion contains many German-sounding names which may or may not be Jewish, and Waul probably did not know the difference.”<sup>7</sup> Wolf's 1895 study,<sup>8</sup> which came in response to anti-Semitic charges that Jews had not fought in the Civil War, was an attempt to list every Jew who

served in the North, the South, and previous wars. His list is considered seriously flawed, by both Rosen and Whitfield, undercounting Jews in Waul's Texas Legion.

The Hebrew Confederate Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia is the final resting place for thirty Jewish soldiers. Two Confederate military cemeteries, Spotsylvania Court House and Fredericksburg (Virginia), allegedly refused to bury “Jewish boys” in their cemeteries, so they were given a section in the larger Hebrew Cemetery. At least one Texas soldier rests there, but he was from the Texas Fourth.<sup>9</sup>


Paul Levyson served in Waul's Texas Legion. Levyson was the grandfather of Sidney Levyson, aka Stanley Stein, who was featured in the July 2013 TJHS news magazine. There is a list of Texas Jews who fought in the Civil War in the Octo-

ber 1997 edition of this magazine. It is taken from the Simon Wolf book.<sup>10</sup>

In the rolling countryside between Brenham and Somerville, near New Year's Creek, is a Texas historical marker for the gathering place of Waul's Texas Legion, which summarizes its formation and service. After the Civil War, Waul practiced law in Galveston and died in 1903.<sup>11</sup>

The copy of Waul's spirited defense of the Jews under his command, however many there were, is a welcome addition to our archives.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkw02>; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waul%27s\\_Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waul%27s_Legion).
- <sup>2</sup> Don Teter papers, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin. The papers are a recent donation and have not yet been catalogued. <http://www.isjl.org/texas-galveston-encyclopedia.html>.
- <sup>3</sup> A legion is a military unit composed of infantry, cavalry and artillery components. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qkw02>.
- <sup>4</sup> His name was actually Levyson. <http://us-census.mooseroots.com/d/b/Paul-Levyson>.
- <sup>5</sup> Gary P. Whitfield, “Confederate Stories: The Sanger Brothers of Weatherford, Dallas, and Waco,” *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, ed. Hollace Ava Weiner and Kenneth D. Roseman, (Brandeis University Press, 2007), Texas Jewish Historical Society, pp. 38-41.
- <sup>6</sup> Robert N. Rosen, *The Jewish Confederates* (University of South Carolina Press, 2000), p. 213.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 161.
- <sup>8</sup> Wolf, Simon. *The American Jew as a Patriot, Soldier and Citizen*. Philadelphia: Levy-type Co., 1895.
- <sup>9</sup> <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/RichmondHebCem.html>.
- <sup>10</sup> [http://www.txjhs.org/sites/default/files/1997\\_october.pdf](http://www.txjhs.org/sites/default/files/1997_october.pdf).
- <sup>11</sup> <http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=28314>. 

# 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 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.*

## Luling

When one drives through Luling, it doesn't take long to understand the origin of the town. The train tracks which bisect its downtown point to the crucial role of the railroad in the town's development. Luling was created when the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad terminated its line in a rural area not far from Plum Creek in 1874. Developers quickly swooped in, including Thomas Pierce of Boston, Massachusetts, who divided much of the land into lots and sold them to newly arriving settlers, many of whom came from nearby towns like Atlanta, Texas, that had been bypassed by the railroad. Luling quickly became a little boomtown, reaching a population of 2,000 by the end of 1874. Among the earliest settlers of Luling were a handful of Jewish merchants who set up shop along the newly formed streets flanking either side of the train tracks.

A list of people who bought Luling's original lots from Pierce contains several Jews, including Joseph Josey, who was perhaps the first Jew to live in the area. A native of Bavaria, Josey lived in Louisiana before moving to Texas in 1861. By 1870, Josey lived in Lockhart. Four years later he moved fifteen miles south to Luling and opened a grocery and hardware store. Polish-born B.J. Kamien and Prussian-native Louis Lichtenstein also bought lots from Pierce in 1874, with both opening retail stores in Luling. Lichtenstein had moved to Luling after living in Illinois. By 1878, there

were several Jewish-owned stores in the town, including Epstein & Miller, Nathan & Finkelstein, and Kleinsmith & Jacobs, who advertised that customers could find "everything from an elephant to a pin" at their stores. These Jewish-owned stores often advertised themselves as selling more fashionable and cosmopolitan merchandise for lower prices. An 1889 ad for Kleinsmith & Jacobs noted that one of the owners had recently returned from New York "and other trade centers of the East where he purchased a stock of goods that will charm all beholders," while promising prices that would make their competitors "turn pale with fear and shake with fright."

In 1879, Charles Wessolowsky, a correspondent for the *Jewish South* newspaper and an organizer for B'nai B'rith, visited Luling and reported that there were ten Jewish families living in the town, which he called "a small place of some importance." He remarked how quickly the town and its Jewish community had developed. Luling Jews established a Jewish cemetery in 1875; its first burial took place four years later after local peddler William Finkelstein was murdered while on the road. In 1879, a Hebrew Benevolent Society that oversaw the cemetery and dispensed charity to Jews in need was founded. The society also held services for the High Holidays. In 1878, the local newspaper noted that "the Hebrew merchants of Luling" would close their stores for two days for Rosh Hashanah and

would hold services in a building downtown. By 1888, Luling Jews were holding High Holidays services in the local opera house, which attracted numerous Jews from neighboring towns. Luling Jews continued to hold these services as late as 1900. These services were likely Orthodox since they celebrated Rosh Hashanah for two days, rather than the one day that Reform Jews observed. Nevertheless, these merchants regularly kept their stores open on Saturday, since that was their biggest day for business.

By the 1880s, Jews played a prominent role in the local economy. In 1882, Jews owned fourteen of Luling's sixty-nine businesses. Three of these retail businesses were run by women, including Rachel Finkelstein and Sarah Marx, who both owned grocery stores, and Sallie Cohn, who ran her family's general store. Of these fourteen businesses, half were grocery stores while four were general dry goods stores.

The Jewish community in Luling was close-knit, with many kinship ties among its members. According to the 1880 census, eighteen Jewish families lived in Luling, consisting of sixty-two Jews. Several of them lived on the same street. In 1880, Herman Joseph, Oscar Walcovich and the families of Reuben Jacobs, Abraham Mazur, Louis Lichtenstein, Hyman Kleinsmith, Marks Epstein and B.J. Kamien all lived on one block. Oscar Walcovich, whose family would remain in Luling

*continued on page 15*



well into the twentieth century, owned a livery stable and sold livestock. His son, Rube, took over the business and ran it until his death in 1946. Another of Oscar's sons, Ish Walcovich, owned a dry cleaning and tailor shop.

One of the most colorful and prominent members of the Luling Jewish community was Reuben Jacobs, who had left his native Poland in 1867, when he was sixteen years old. After living with a cousin in upstate New York, Jacobs began to peddle his way southward, eventually settling in Atlanta, Texas. When Luling became the railroad terminus in 1874, Jacobs moved to the new town, opening a dry good store with another Jewish immigrant, Hyman Kleinsmith. Later, Jacobs took over sole control of the store, renaming it R. Jacobs.



*Reuben Jacobs*



*Ben Mark Jacobs*

According to family lore, Reuben once sold goods to the notorious outlaw, John Wesley Hardin, who paid him in gold. Jacobs had a reputation as a tough guy, and supposedly the local Ku Klux Klan would avoid marching in front of his store when they paraded in Luling. When Jacobs heard that the Klan was going to target a Catholic friend of his, he let it be known that he would be there with his shotgun and the Klan left his friend alone. Once when Reuben got into a fistfight, his opponent tried to pull a knife on him. Reuben's older brother, Gurshia, used

an ax handle to knock the man down. The man hit his head on the curb and died. Although a judge exonerated him, Gurshia still fled the city after the dead man's family vowed revenge.

Jacobs experienced tragedy within his own family in 1899. His nephew, Ben Jacobs, fell in love with Reuben's oldest daughter, Mamie, his first cousin. When she rejected his marriage proposal, Ben shot and killed Mamie in Reuben's store before killing himself. The local newspaper described the sad incident, concluding that Ben Jacobs "now lies cold in his grave while his crime-stricken soul is paying the penalty for the terrible vengeance he wreaked upon a family who had been his benefactors."

Despite these scandalous events, Reuben became a respected and successful local businessman. His department store occupied two buildings in downtown Luling. He owned other downtown properties, as well as twenty-two farms in the area. Reuben's son, Ben Mark Jacobs, joined his father in the store, which became known as R. Jacobs & Sons. Ben Mark Jacobs was elected mayor of Luling in the 1930s.

As longtime residents, Reuben Jacobs and Oscar Walcovich were the exceptions among the first wave of Jewish settlers in Luling, most of whom left the town within a few years. B.J. Kamien sold his store's merchandise in 1887, closed the business and left Luling. Nathan Marx owned a grocery store in 1880, but had left by 1890. By then, there were six Jewish businesses remaining in Luling, down from fourteen just eight years earlier. The great expectations for Luling's growth just after the railroad was built

did not pan out, as the town's population of 2,000 residents had begun to shrink by the turn of the twentieth century. The early 1880s would prove to be the apex of Luling's Jewish community, and for the next century, the Jewish population underwent a long, slow decline.

By 1900, eight Jewish families remained in Luling and by 1920, there were five families, representing twenty-three Jews. After oil was discovered in nearby fields, Luling experienced a brief boom in the 1920s, as its population jumped from 1,500 in 1925 to almost 6,000 in 1935. Its Jewish population grew as well, with eight families, most of whom were the children of Luling's old Jewish residents like Reuben Jacobs and Oscar Walcovich. This boom soon fizzled after the local oil refinery closed in 1939 and moved to Corpus Christi. Luling also lost its standing as a railroad center, as several lines discontinued their routes through the town. By the mid-twentieth century, four Jewish families still lived in Luling.

The few Jews who remained struggled to preserve their Jewish traditions. Reuben Jacobs tried to import kosher meat from San Antonio for a



*Goldye and Max Finkel*

while, but it was often spoiled by the time it arrived in Luling. He eventually decided to buy local non-kosher meat. By the early twentieth century, Luling Jews no longer held religious services; instead they would travel to nearby Lockhart for the

High Holidays through the 1930s. Some also joined congregations in Austin and San Antonio, though most of the Jewish children raised in Luling during the 1930s and 1940s did not

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

## *Tri-County, continued from page 11*

running it for several decades. Four of his other sons opened stores in other small towns in the area. Myke Klein had a store in Schulenburg, Charles Klein opened one in Columbus, Sid Klein owned a store in Smithville, and Moe Klein had one in Flatonia. The Klein family was very active in the larger community. Louis Klein served on the La Grange City Council while his son, Charles, was a founder and president of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and was named the town's "Citizen of the Year" in 1989. Polish-born Ike Lipman opened a dry goods store in Schulenburg in 1912. His son, Leslie, soon joined the business, which was called Ike Lippman & Sons Dry Goods. After Ike's death, Leslie ran the store until he closed it and retired in 1988. Leslie also owned a farm, raising cotton and cattle for many years. George Lauterstein

built La Grange's finest department store. He also owned a lower-end retail store called the Bargain Center. Lauterstein became a leader of the La Grange business community, serving as a director of the First National Bank of La Grange for fifty-four years. Lauterstein's Department Store was bought out by the Gindler family in 1968. Although most Jews in the area remained in business, a few had entered the professions. Norman Rubin was an optometrist in Hallettsville, and served as president of many civic organizations. He also served on the Hallettsville School Board for twenty-five years, which included a term as president. Armond Schwartz, a lawyer in Hallettsville, served as Lavaca County Attorney and later as a judge.

The Jewish communities in the Tri-County area were never large. In 1937, twenty-two Jews lived in Co-

lumbus, thirty in Hallettsville, twenty-three in La Grange, and twenty-four in Schulenburg. Temple Israel which had a peak membership of thirty-seven families in 1962, soon went into steep decline. The religious school, which had been run by the women of the congregation, closed by the early 1970s as there were not enough Jewish children to sustain it. The remaining Jewish children then attended religious school in Houston. By 1976, the congregation was down to twenty-three families, as many of the Jewish children raised in the area had moved away to larger cities. By 1995, the congregation had nine families.

Despite these declining numbers, Temple Israel has persevered. From 1978 to 1991, Rabbi Jerome Sherman led High Holiday services for the congregation. Leslie's wife, Sarah

*continued on page 18*



receive regular religious instruction.

Max and Goldye Finkel were among the last Jews to live in Luling. Max had left Lithuania in 1909, and spent time in New York City before moving to Texas in 1910. In 1917, he opened a small store in Luling, but quickly closed it to join the Army during World War I. While stationed in San Antonio, he married Goldye Walcovich, daughter of Oscar Walcovich. After the war, he opened another store in Luling. According to a feature in the local newspaper published in 1936, "the store grew in prominence and became one of Luling's better established firms." Finkel's department store flourished during Luling's oil boom. In 1934, Finkel became a founding board member of the First Federal Savings & Loan. He was also involved in civic affairs and supported many local causes with his time and money.

Finkel was joined in Luling by his older brother, Louis, and his family. Louis opened the Popular Dry Goods

Store, which he ran with his sons, Harry and Larry, who later took over the business. They operated it through the 1960s. Max Finkel's brother-in-law, James Suhler, became a partner in the department store for a time, before opening his own automobile service station during World War II.

Max Finkel was a longtime member of Congregation Agudas Achim in San Antonio. He was involved in the B'nai B'rith lodge that served Luling, Lockhart, Seguin, and Gonzales. During World War II, Finkel led Passover Seders for Jewish soldiers stationed at the San Marcos Army Airfield. When he died in 1975, he left money to both Congregation Agudas Achim and Temple Beth El in San Antonio. He also donated money to the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, the Jewish National Fund, and the B'nai B'rith Charity Fund. Finkel's will reflects the fact that although he lived in a tiny Jewish community that never had a synagogue or formal congregation, he still maintained a strong

Jewish identity and supported national Jewish causes.

Finkel continued to run his downtown store until his death, when the business closed. The closing of Finkel's, which was the town's last Jewish-owned business, marked the end of a century of Jewish merchants in Luling. His wife, Goldye, died three years later in 1978. The building that housed Finkel's burned in 2000, but the semi-enclosed lot is now used as an arena for the Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest held each year during the Watermelon Thump Festival.

In 2014, the Jewish cemetery north of downtown remains the only vestige of Jewish life in Luling. While Jews were among the earliest settlers in a town that seemed to hold such promise, most soon moved to other cities and towns that offered greater economic opportunity. The few that remained set down roots and became fixtures in the local community for a large part of the twentieth century. 🇺🇸

## CUBA!

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This mission is pursuant to a General License issued to the Texas Jewish Historical Society by the US Department of the Treasury.

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

book at your local bookseller or on Amazon. However, my recommendation would be for you to contact Bryan directly for a copy and receive an inscribed copy from the man responsible for getting this wonderful story published. Be sure and tell Bryan you are a TJHS member.

I would encourage members who have not yet attended one of our meetings, as well as board members we haven't seen in some time, to come to Kerrville in October and get reacquainted with your fellow TJHS members. Come new members, come old members, to see what we are all about, or to renew old friendships. I look forward to seeing you in Kerrville. 🇺🇸

## — 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! 🇺🇸



# Save the Date

**October 21-23, 2016**

Fall Board Meeting at the Y. O. Ranch  
Hotel in Kerrville, Texas

**November 12-13, 2016**

New Mexico Jewish Historical Society  
Fall Conference at the New Mexico  
Museum of History/Palace of the  
Governors & The Lodge at Santa Fe

**January 20-22, 2017**

Winter Board Meeting in Sherman,  
Texas

**January 23-30, 2017**

3rd TJHS trip to Cuba

*Tri-County, continued from page 16*

Lippman, was a longtime pillar of the congregation, and usually sang during services as a one-woman choir. After Rabbi Sherman died, the congregation continued to bring in visiting rabbis for the High Holidays. In the mid 1990s the remaining members began to discuss suspending services, but soon after Temple Israel experienced revitalization. David Vogel, who assumed the presidency of the congregation in 1994, along with his wife, Vickie, brought a new energy to the group. Rick Stein, the grandson of Lay Leader Eli Rubin agreed to drive in from Houston each year to lead Rosh Hashanah services. Stein and his wife, Paula, who was the daughter of longtime Schulenburg mayor, Hirsh Schwartz, continue to celebrate Rosh Hashanah at Temple Israel, which now numbers twenty-eight member families. In 2010, John Landa, Jr., took over the presidency from David Vogel. Today the remaining members of Temple Israel, several of whom live in Houston or other large cities, are committed to maintaining the "little shul in Schulenburg." 🇺🇸

## 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.*

*Rabbi Henry Cohen, continued from page 7*

backed unions over industry, predicted the rise of fascism in Europe, debated Clarence Darrow on the existence of God, advocated birth control, and officiated at interfaith marriages. 🇺🇸

*Ruth and Ephraim Frisch seated outside their home in San Antonio's Olmos Park, where they frequently hosted socials for Jewish teens in the Temple League.*



## Contributions

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

<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Raymond Ettelman	Evy & Ed Osofsky
	Pacey & Myra Laves
	sent to Davie Lou & Jack Solka

<b>In Honor of</b>	<b>From</b>
Rabbi Jimmy Kessler	Leslie, Sandy,
for receiving the	Rebecca, Edward,
award from TJHS	Jamie, Eliana, Isaiah,
for "Extraordinary	David, Stacy,
Preservation of Texas	Michael, Evan,
Jewish History"	Dina, Bryna Esther,
	Devorah Leah, and
	Yeshoshua Weiner
	Walter & Punkin Hecht




tonio public school system. Both pragmatic and idealistic, as a leader of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Bexar County Mounted Sheriff's Posse, Kallison saw to it that drill-team members were smartly groomed, but not flashy, and that their earnings underwrote medical equipment at the children's hospital.

Born and raised in Fort Worth, Kallison studied the classics at Vassar, economics at the University of Chicago, and history at San Antonio's Trinity University. To research her family's roots, she visited England and Europe. Those journeys led her back home, deep into the heart of Texas where she gradually realized the need for a

Texas Jewish historical society—"to show the non-Jewish world that we're not newcomers here, that we've been here since at least 1812." Her meticulously researched master's thesis on the history of the Jews of San Antonio concluded that "the arrival of Jews parallels the history of other ethnic groups in Texas cities."

Frances Kallison's accomplishments illustrate the mission statement of the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame. That institution "honors and documents the lives of women who have distinguished themselves while exemplifying the pioneer spirit of the American West." Everything

Frances Kallison did, from precision riding to grass-roots social work in San Antonio, demonstrate that she was a trailblazer forging a path for others. In the equestrian arena, she set high standards for dress, drill, and civic mindedness. At the Kallison Ranch, she opened the gates to hundreds of WWII soldiers eager for a taste of western heritage. Her penchant for writing for popular audiences as well as for academicians brought insights about ranch life, riding, and religion to the fore. Her scholarship as a Jewish historian predated the era of political correctness and multiculturalism. She was ahead of her time. Her legacy continues. 

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## Announcements

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- **ALAN J. TROST** is looking for information on Jewish athletes and/or Jews in Sports who are from or played in Southern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia). If you have any information that would help Mr. Trost, please contact him at 12301 Morning Light Terr; Gaithersburg, MD 20878. His phone number is 202-606-3435.

- **TJHS** board member and author Hollace Weiner spoke on a panel about Jewish migration to the Southwest during the spring conference of the Southwestern Society of Archivists in Oklahoma City. The panel, titled "Nativism, Nothing New (Nu!) Regarding Ethnic Immigration," also featured Abbie Weiser, archivist and assistant head of Special Collections Department, University of Texas at El Paso. Hollace's topic was "The Galveston Plan: From Peddlers to

Prostitutes, Persecuted Jews Reach the Southwest, 1907-1914." Weiser's talk was "Chosen Routes: Resources on Jewish Legal and Illegal Immigration in the University of Texas at El Paso Library."

- **The dedication** for the Zale Legacy historic marker was held on May 19, 2016, in Wichita Falls, Texas. Over the last three years, the exterior and interior of the building has been restored. The interior is awaiting new tenant specifications. 

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### *Rockdale Cemetery Cleanup, continued from page 3*

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(Depot), and the Milam County Genealogical Society.

Brooks had planned to complete the work during the previous calendar year, but disastrous weather intervened. The 2015 Central Texas Memorial Day floods diverted his attention to the needs of the living, specifically 56 families with dire needs in neighboring Williamson County.

Student groups—among them ten Jewish youths from New York—made mission trips to Central Texas to repaint houses, remove decayed wood, fix window sashes, and pitch in with repairs. When the Jewish

students representing the New York National Conference of Synagogue Youth arrived over Presidents' Day Weekend, it was front-page news in the *Taylor Daily Press*. The rabbi representing the New York group told the newspaper that these Jewish teens were implementing Jewish concepts of *gemiluth chasodim*, meaning deeds of loving kindness, and *tikun olam*, repairing the world.

Rockdale, located 40 miles west of College Station, has 5,800 residents and less than a handful of Jews. Jews were an integral part of its early history. In 1873, two Jewish merchants

set up business in a tent and awaited the 1874 arrival of the International & Great Northern Railroad. By the end of the decade and into the 1880s, the city was home to a thriving Jewish community that had a B'nai B'rith lodge, a Jewish school, more than 100 Jewish residents, and a Hebrew Benevolent Association. It was in 1877 that the benevolent association purchased land for the 2½ acre cemetery that the local citizenry still tends. According to the Texas historic marker at the cemetery, "The site is a reminder of Rockdale's diverse history." 

# Alpha Epsilon Phi, Omega Chapter, 1933




*Bottom row: Mary Hirsch, Audrey Levy, Marcan Deutser, Harriet Schoenmann, Marie Bernheim, Pauline Straus, Helen Sylvia Levenson. Second row: Bernice Rosenwasser, Jean Nussbaum Schwartz, Myra Coplin, Gladys Rosenwasser Schaffer, Lois Schwartz, Else Sanger, Ruth Levy Kempner, Harriet Garonzik. Third row: Frances Levy, Hattie Hirsch, Jean Levy, Evelyn Handelman, Evelyn Wortzman, Ruth Mellinger, Sara Lynn Hart, Helen Ruth Stern. Top row: Margaret Brin, Elizabeth Jacobs, Bernadine Golden, Gladys Adele Garonzik. Thanks to Marcus F. Schwartz who sent this photo and identification.*

## Does TJHS Have Your Current Email Address?

Is your email address current? Has it changed since the 2015 directory was printed? Have you changed email providers? If so, please send Marc Wormser an email at [c2aggie@gmail.com](mailto:c2aggie@gmail.com) so that he can update your information in the database. To reduce postage cost and printing delays,



we are going to be electronically sending as much mail as possible, so don't be left out or behind—send your current information today!

Please put “email change” in the subject line and with your name in the text of your message, send it today! Thank you. 



## In Memoriam



**Ginger C. Jacobs**, TJHS past president and a founding member of TJHS, died June 16, 2016, in Dallas. She was 86. An avid historian, Ginger led tours of Jewish South Dallas for many years

and along with her husband, Mike Jacobs, who died in 2014, developed the Dallas Memorial Center for Holocaust Studies. She was also a founder and past president of the Dallas Jewish Historical Society. She is survived by her sons, Mark, Reuben, and Andy Jacobs, her daughter, Deborah Linksman; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



**Maurine Genecov Muntz**, TJHS member, died April 12, 2016, in Tyler. She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Linda & Paul Lynn, Terry & Dennis Darryl, and Debbie & Al

Janelle; her son, Martin Muntz; two granddaughters; two grandsons; two great-grandchildren; her sister-in-law, Evelyn Muntz; and numerous nieces and nephews.

**Muriel Selber Folloder-Phillips**, TJHS member, died on May 5, 2016, in Houston. She is survived by her children, Linda Armstrong, Brian Folloder, Larry Folloder, and Mark Folloder; twelve grandchildren; and numerous great-and-great-great grandchildren.



**Kenneth Baum**, TJHS member, died on March 24, 2016, in Fort Worth. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Howard Baum & Joy Allington-Baum; his daughters

and son-in-law, Alissa Baum & Lloyd Katz and Mindy & Norman Lindsey; three grandchildren and their spouses; his sisters Lila Berlin and Freda Gail Stern; his brother, Lester Baum; and nieces and nephews and their families.



**Herbert Arthur Lesser**, TJHS member, died on May 5, 2016 in Houston. He is survived by his wife, Linda; his son and daughter-in-law, Larry Lesser & Laurie Davis; his daughter and son-in-law, Lori Lesser & Daniel Shuchman; three grandchildren; and his brother and sister-in-law, Marvin & Norma Lesser.



**Tina Smith Gardner**, TJHS member, died April 23, 2016, in Bryan-College Station. She is survived by her husband, Paul; her son and daughter-in-law Todd & Stacey

Gardner; three grandchildren; and her sister, Lonnie Karotkin-Taub.

**May their memories be a blessing.**

**The deadline  
for the November 2016 TJHS  
News Magazine  
is Friday,  
October 14.**

## TJHS on facebook

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**If you need TJHS membership applications for an event,  
program, personal use, etc., please contact Rusty Milstein at  
[hrmilstein@prodigy.net](mailto:hrmilstein@prodigy.net)**

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

## Welcome New Members!

### **Ron Bernstein**

Kibbutz Yahel  
O.N. Eilat, Israel 88850  
972-53-8284408  
pomelobernstein@gmail.com

### **Marc & Lena (Bluestein) Malacoff**

5621 Pine St.  
Houston, TX 77081-7309  
713-981-6252  
Lena Cell: 713-899-1763  
Marc Cell: 281-686-5067  
lena@malacoff.com  
marc@malacoff.com

### **Michael & Sheila (Wilk) Rosenberg**

3113 Vidalia Ln.  
Plano, TX 75025  
972-339-0040  
srosietx@gmail.com

### **Marcus & Amy Schwartz**

P. O. Box 385  
Hallettsville, TX 77964  
361-798-3668  
Fax: 361-798-5163

## Directory Changes

### **Nelson Chafetz**

Remove 512-699-4247  
Add 512-426-8656

### **Rebecca Gale**

1014-A Choctaw Ridge Rd.  
Prattville, AL 36067

### **Ruth Heidenheimer**

2208 Wisteria Way  
McKinney, TX 75071

### **Dr. & Mrs. Walter Rosen**

42 Sokokis Dr.  
Dayton, ME 04005-7606  
832-288-3494

If you have any changes in your information, please contact

**Marc Wormser, 1601 S. Riviera Ct.,  
Pearland, TX 77581, 832-288-3494  
c2aggie@gmail.com**

## Committee Chairs

### *Award Committee*

Helen Wilk, Chair  
(hkwilk48@gmail.com),  
Elaine Albin, Sally Drayer,  
Ruth Nathan, Hollace Weiner

### *Cemeteries*

Rusty Milstein  
(milstein@prodigy.com)

### *Cemetery Photographs*

Gordon Cizon (gcizon@swbell.net)

### *Education Committee*

Bobbi Wells (bj.wells@verizon.net)

### *Grant Committee*

Hollace Weiner, Chair  
(hollaceava@gmail.com), Sonny  
Gerber, Guy Manaster, Jack Solka,  
Michael Wolf

### *Meeting Committee*

Charles Hart, Chair  
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Chavetz, Sally Drayer, Amy Manual

### *Membership Committee*

Marc Wormser  
(c2aggie@gmail.com)

### *Publicity Committee*

Bob Lewis (ts@crcom.net)

### *Speakers Bureau*

Jan Hart (jshauthor@sbcglobal.net)  
Davie Lou Solka  
(davielou@solka.net)

### *Travel Committee*

Vickie Vogel (vvogel@cvctx.com)

### *Traveling Exhibit*

Sally Drayer  
(sallyedraye@gmail.com) or Marc  
Wormser (c2aggie@gmail.com)

## Mazel Tov to the following TJHS Members

**David Beer**, TJHS President, who received a Certificate of Achievement from Century 21 on his ten-year anniversary. David was also recognized as a Top Producer and Top Units Sold for the month of March, 2016.

**Cynthia Salzman Mondell**, who was a recipient of SMU's 2016 Profiles in Leadership Award at the 35th Annual Women's Symposium in Dallas. The award recognizes the accomplishments of women who have made a significant impact on the city of Dallas and on the quality of life for women over-all.

**Lynna Kay Shuffield** for receiving the City of Houston's BRAVO Award given by the mayor for Public Service Recognition Week. The BRAVO Award is the highest recognition program for City of Houston employees who do outstanding work and contribute to their communities. Lynna Kay spearheaded a \$100,000 drive to commission a statue of John Kirby Allen and Augustus Chapman Allen, founders of the city of Houston. Architect Joseph Finger was the architect for the Houston City Hall and wanted to include statues of the Allen brothers in his design, but there was not enough money at the time to do so. Thanks to Lynna Kay, the statues are now in place and Mr. Finger's work has received more attention.

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





# TJHS Board of Directors 2015-2016

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Sally Drayer (Dallas)

Helen Wilk (Corpus Christi)

Rusty Milstein (Longview)

Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth)

Marc Wormser (Pearland)

Debbie Winegarten (Austin)

## TJHS Traveling Exhibit

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has compiled two museum-quality photo exhibits, which 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 exhibit, and they will be shipped, prepaid freight via UPS in waterproof boxes, to your location. The only expense to the borrower will be shipping 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 214-244-6234 or [sallyedraye@gmail.com](mailto:sallyedraye@gmail.com) or contact Marc Wormser at 832-288-3494 or [c2aggie@gmail.com](mailto:c2aggie@gmail.com).

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