



NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

FALL 1992

GALVESTON PLAN DESCENDANTS



First Row (r to l): Adolph Shipman, Audrey Levy Given, Ginger Chesnick Jacobs, Judy Perlman, Lea Perlman, Lina Tapper Aron, Helen Yahr Bock. **Second Row (l to r):** Sylvia Yahr Schwartz, Paula Perlman Ayres, Ima Joy Chodorow Gandler, Herman Waldman, Jan Siegel Hart, Kathy Hart, Sam Abramson. **Third Row (r to l):** Sonya Raizes, Seline Seligman Kaplan, Mini Novit Siegel, Nathan Siegel, Shirley Mayer Rich, Peggy Aron Samet. **Fourth Row (l to r):** Maurice Hoffman, Alex Corman, Merilee Aron

Weiner, Florence Frosch Blum, Gertrude Moskowitz Teter. **Fifth Row (r to l):** Shirley Cushner Sheaffer, Doris Forman Pryzant, Nat Pryzant, Rosalie Cinnamon Alexander, Ruby Rachel Markman.

Copies of the group photograph of Galveston Plan descendants taken at the Gathering may be ordered from: Manny Chan, Creative Photography, 6428 Stewart Road, Galveston, TX 77551. (405) 740-3019. Cost is \$16.50 for each 8" x 10" photo shipping and tax included.

YANKEE STEERS WORK FOR HAMILTON LIBRARY

by Jon McConal

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HAMILTON — Dorothy Harelik knew a steer probably was a member of the cow family. But she knew little else about this member of the beef family. My gosh, she's from New York...like in Manhattan.

So when Rita Blackwell said, "I've got a steer I will give to you for the library fund," Harelik exclaimed: "My gosh, you are talking to a Yankee, you know. A steer?"

But in her manner, which is one shotgun burst of words after another, she fired back, "But I'll figure out something to do with her... it... him."

She did. She had it slaughtered and converted to ground meat. Then the packages were sold one at a time. "We raised \$350 for the new library," she gushed.

That is but one of the many things that local people have done to raise money for their new library. Construction is well under way, but Harelik and others are still looking for money to complete the

project. Harelik is enthusiastic about the library and other things here.

"A public library in a small town, well, to me, it is as important as a place of worship," she said.

We talked at the Leon River Trading Post, where she frequently stopped to speak to people coming in.

Some people might think that Harelik, who has lived here 20 years, might not be accepted. After all, she was reared in Brooklyn and still has that pinched accent. But she must be loved. She was recently named Citizen of the Year for Hamilton County. Her work for the library was cited. Harelik is emphatic about having a good library here.

"Our old library is like five or six rooms and when it rains, oh, my goodness, it is very holey and we have to use yards and yards of plastic to cover the books," she said.

Grant applications for the new library were rejected, she said. "So we just said we would raise the money ourselves." She is pleased with the results.

"This town is such a loving, accepting community. I think you could drop off from Mars and they'd bring you a peach pie and apple cobbler." Well, so far residents have contributed more than \$126,000 to the library fund in eight months.

The project started with a gift of land and \$25,000 from A. G. Thompson, she said. Then the fund raising projects began, like the recent one of selling \$100 paving bricks that have the buyers' names on them to be used in front of the library. "We have sold 260 of them so far," Harelik said.

But they need to sell more to complete the interior. Will they get it? I asked Harelik. The hands began waving. She again cited the need for a local library.

"Most people need an education, and I'm, a reader and I thought what better thing in which to get involved. I mean, our library is used constantly," she said.

"Yes, we will finish the library." And that's no bull.

Waco Board Meeting – September 13, 1992

The TJHS will have a Board meeting in Waco on Sept. 13 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Hilton Hotel, 113 South University Parks.

The Hilton is on the Brazos River, adjacent to the Waco Convention Center and across from the suspension bridge.

Sam Harelik and Ima Joy Gandler have arranged a special room rate of \$61.00 per night for us. If you plan to stay overnight at the Hilton, please

telephone 1 (800) 234-5244 or 1 (817) 754-8484 for a reservation. Be sure to mention that you are attending the Texas Jewish Historical Society Board meeting to get the reduced rate.

On Saturday evening, Sept. 12, Sam and Ima Joy have planned a get together at the Agudath Jacob Synagogue, 4925 Hillcrest at Lake Shore to begin at 7:30 p.m. for TJHS members and Wacoans. They have invited old-timers in Waco, each over 85 years old, to tell us their family stories, how they came to Waco, details of their family life and Jewish life in the heart of Texas. This

should be a fascinating evening.

Rabbi Halpern will conduct Havdallah services. We will have time afterwards for visiting and eating cookies.

Please contact Sam Harelik at (817) 754-7323 or write him at 2517 North 42nd St., Waco, TX 76710, by Sept. 5 to let him know if you plan to attend the Board meeting, and if you want lunch during the meeting at a cost of \$7.95 per person.

Sam also informed us that Baylor is playing the Univ. of Colorado at 1:30 p.m. on that Saturday and that he's glad to assist members in getting tickets.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter is a publication of The Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. Fay Bruchman, Fort Worth, President
Ellen B. Kurtzman, Editor
Nell Hall, Fort Worth, Copy Editor

Report from the President...

It was thrilling to have the opportunity to have our recent board meeting in the 100 year old Brenham synagogue, B'nai Abraham. The building is in excellent condition - a testimony to the loving care and devotion given to its upkeep by Mimi and Leon Toubin of Brenham.

This synagogue is proven testimony to the Jewish community of Brenham that 'was'. Now that community numbers only five persons. If only the walls could speak... the stories they could tell!

We are very grateful to Mimi and Leon Toubin for all of their

efforts to make our brief visit to Brenham such a pleasant one.

My husband, Leon, and I have just returned from another visit to Israel to meet our newest granddaughter. And, also, to visit with her family.

While in Jerusalem we 'ran into' TJHS members Ima Joy Gandler and Cissy and Dean Milkes who were with a ZOA tour group from Dallas. Small world!

Also, we visited with old friends Rose (Friedman) and Dan Shimshoni. Rose is originally from Waco, and has promised to write an article for this Newsletter about 'growing up in Waco', and her adult life in Israel (since 1948). Rose has been a witness

to the development of the State of Israel since its infancy.

One other TJHS memory from our trip: Rabbi Shlomo Riskin - of Efrat, Israel and formerly from New York City - commented to me that he enjoys reading stories in *DEEP IN THE HEART* about early Jewish Texans. Therefore our fame has spread to Israel!

The plans for our next meeting in Waco are shaping up nicely under the guidance of Sam Harelik and Ima Joy Gandler. Hope to see you there on September 12 & 13th.

Fay Brachman

INFORMATION

By Don Teter

[Contact Gertrude and Don Teter at (713) 424-5829]

Report on Cemeteries

Very recently two more Jewish cemeteries have been located in North Texas. Both are in serious need of restoration. I hope that a group from a nearby city will undertake the restoration of the graves. The first one is in Denison at the east end of Walker Street where there are several burials in Oakwood Cemetery scattered among non-Jewish graves. I was told that this was originally a Jewish cemetery that has been taken over by the city.

Families interred there include the following: Proskauer, Hayes, Brenner, Orundstein, Bernhein, Ensel, Weil, Slutzky, Goldsoll, Mayer, Lichtenstein, Carr and Rosenstein. Additionally, there are some broken, unreadable markers.

The second cemetery is in Bonham across from the large Willow Wild cemetery located west of the city on Highway 121. Burials there include: Levine, Rhine, Brown, Klapphols, Rosenbaum and Levi.

Report on our TJHS Microfilming Project

Some of the most important sources of Texas Jewish history are the Jewish publications, such as *The Herald-Voice* published in Houston since 1908 and *The Texas Jewish Post* published in Fort Worth/Dallas since 1947.

There are also other papers no longer in publication which should be included if they can be located. These weekly newspapers contain a wealth of material on current and past family history, community activities, and general information regarding Texas, national, and world Jewry.

Please let me or TJHS know of other Jewish newspapers of Texas that should be considered for this project.

It is appalling that only a portion of *The Herald-Voice* and none of the other papers have been microfilmed. The older issues are in poor condition, paper turning brown and brittle. If they are not preserved by microfilming, they soon will be lost forever.

Fortunately, the Texas Newspaper

Project at the University of Texas Barker History Center is scheduling the microfilming of *The Herald-Voice* for 1993 and intends to eventually do all of the available Jewish newspapers in Texas. In order for this microfilming to be done, TJHS must pay part of the cost. This we will do with \$2,000 approved by our Board.



Can anyone identify these people?
Contact: R.D. Moses
3905 Acacia; Fort Worth, TX 76109
(817) 923-1670

IMMIGRANT RECIPE COOKBOOK

As the Texas summer begins to cool down (we hope), the thought of doing real cooking is more appealing.

It is difficult to imagine how women a century or even 75 years ago cooked without air conditioning, little or no refrigeration at home and no factory prepared meals available at the grocery store. Most women had large families to feed 2 or 3 meals per day every day of the year.

What recipes did Grandmother bring with her and how did she adapt them to the hot Texas

climate where food spoiled more quickly and she had new raw foods to choose from and couldn't buy the foods she grew up with? How have her descendants changed traditional recipes, perhaps chilies in her stew?

We need your family recipes that have been handed down through the generations of those who settled in Texas.

We can use recipes that are written in Yiddish or Ladino with or without translations. We will translate the recipes into English and publish the original as well as up-to-date versions.

Please send anecdotes and history about the recipes. All recipes will be acknowledged.

We need information on how the Kashruth or Jewish holidays were observed.

Please take a few minutes to send copies of your recipes with the cook's name, country of origin, town and year of arrival in Texas, and your own name to:

Naomi Friedman, R.D., L.D.
P. O. Box 2192
Longview, TX 75606
(903) 758-2524
FAX (903) 758-2265

WHO WAS HEIDENHEIMER?

While driving home from our board meeting in Brenham, Fay Brachman passed through the community of Heidenheimer.

A very long name for such a small town. Fay wondered if there was a connection with our TJHS members from Cisco, Ruth and Winston Heidenheimer.

Winston responded saying that his uncles Ike and Sampson Heidenheimer came to Galveston in the middle 1850's. They left Germany, as so many other young men did, before age 16 to escape the draft into the Kaiser's army.

They became successful in the wholesale produce business. In 1877 they, along with other local merchants, persuaded Moritz Kopperl to

rescue the Gulf Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad from bankruptcy. This railroad was organized in 1873 to bypass Houston's frequent and unwarranted quarantine of Galveston's inland freight shipments.

By 1879 the railroad was viable again and went as far north as Belton. *All new water stops on the line were named after members of the Board of Directors.* Some of these board members were: **Moritz Kopperl, Ike Heidenheimer, Leon Blum, I. H. Kemper and Harry Rosenberg.**

At a later date the line was combined with the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe with its headquarters at the Union Depot at 25th and Market Streets in Galveston, the present site of the Galveston Railroad Museum.

K'NESSETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

Sunday, March 22, 1992, was the celebration date of the dedication of a Texas State Historical Marker for the K'Nesseth Israel Synagogue in Baytown, Texas.

The ceremony was held in the 60 year old synagogue, the oldest building in continuous use as a house

of worship in Baytown.

Donald Teter is the President of the Congregation. **Mervin Rosenbaum** was the Chairman of the event. **Fay Brachman** participated in the service.

Pictured (l to r): Mervin Rosenbaum, Fay Brachman, Donald Teter.



Jacob Schmidt

by Leon Schmidt

Jacob Schmidt was born Jan. 30, 1890, in Bardejov, Czechoslovakia, formerly known as Bartfeld, Austria-Hungary. His parents were **Juda Schmidt** and **Ethel Reichman**, both natives of Bardejov and lived there all of their lives. Juda ran a small restaurant and beer parlor. Jacob's maternal grandfather, Herman Reichman, also of Bardejov, operated a small wholesale liquor business. To the best of our knowledge, the Schmidt and Reichman families had lived in Austria-Hungary for several hundred years. We do not know the origins of the family prior to their living in Austria-Hungary, but there is some indication that some of the family members might have migrated to Hungary from Spain during the Inquisition.

Jacob was the first of his family to emigrate to the United States. He arrived in New York in 1907, at age 17, spent a brief time in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and then migrated to Seguin, Texas. At age 18, he

began peddling clothing for men, women, and children in Central and South Texas. He traveled in a covered wagon pulled by two mules. He was supplied with merchandise by William Mendlovitz, who operated a small store in Seguin, and was a source of supply for several peddlers in the region. Before the emergence of gravel or hard-topped roads, peddlers followed well-known trails and delivered clothing to farmers and ranchers in the area, who considered them an important source of supply.

Although Jacob's headquarters were in Seguin, he traveled several hundred miles with his wagon through other counties to sell merchandise. Often his night's lodging consisted of a small area under his wagon. It was customary in those days always to carefully examine a bridge before crossing it, to determine its ability to support the weight of the mules and wagon

On June 16, 1912, Jacob married **Bertha Yahr**, also an immigrant

from Hungary. She came to Texas through the Galveston Movement. From Galveston, Bertha went to Seguin, where she and Jacob met and wed.

Jacob eventually moved to Yorktown, where he opened his first real store. Subsequently, he opened stores in Beeville and San Marcos. In 1930 he moved his family to Austin. Jacob died Nov. 15, 1965.

The business he started in a wagon is now operated by his son, **Leon Schmidt**, and his grandson, **Robert Schmidt**, the third generation. The name of the business is **Yaring's** and now includes ten ladies specialty stores. The name *Yaring's* was a contraction of and derivation from Mrs. Bertha Schmidt's family name—Yahr.

TJHS Oral History Chairman is Helen Wilk, 260 Cape Aron, Corpus Christi, TX 78412 (512) 991-1118 (home) (512) 853-0237 (office)

TJHS PARTICIPATION IN NACOGDOCHES HISTORICAL MEETING

The East Texas Historical Association will have their fall meeting this year in Nacogdoches, Texas, on Friday and Saturday, September 18 & 19, 1992. It will be held in the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has been invited by Dr. Ray Stephens, Program Commit-

tee Chairman for the fall meeting, to chair a session on Saturday morning, September 19. Jane Guzman, a PhD candidate in history at the University of North Texas will chair this session and has chosen "Jewish History in East Texas" as its theme.

Presenters will include: Keith Rosen, another PhD candidate in history at UNT, presenting a paper, "Early

Days in Jefferson"; B.J. Herz, a member of the Galveston Historical Society, who will discuss Jewish Galveston Immigration; and Shirlee Rich of Dallas, a member of a pioneer family who will discuss Jewish settlers in Palestine.

We hope many of our members will be able to attend this session.

Newsletter Publication Schedule

Issue Month

November
February 1993
May 1993

Deadline

October 1, 1992
January 1, 1993
April 1, 1993

Please send materials to be considered for the Newsletter to:

Ellen Kurtzman (817) 292-3491
4801 Willow Run Court FAX (817) 870-9888
Fort Worth, TX 76132-1518

Unless specified in a cover letter and a return envelop with postage is included, all materials submitted will be forwarded to the Barker Texas History Center and will become the property of that library.

When items are valuable, one-of-a-kind or fragile, please submit copies only. We cannot be responsible for items lost in shipment or

slept upon by the Editor's cat.

Please assume that your Editor knows absolutely nothing about the information and photographs you are submitting when preparing your items.

We promise there will be no hurt feelings! It will help if you print key names in the margin close to where they appear in the text. There are many close variations of family names.

The TJHS Newsletter is catalogued by several university libraries and is recognized as a research guide. We all can be proud of this status.

Remember: DO NOT SEND US YOUR ONLY COPY OF A PRECIOUS PHOTOGRAPH. HAVE A DUPLICATE MADE AND SEND IT.

Thanks To...

Ruth Ginsburg

Patiently, quietly for two years, Ruth Ginsburg of Austin, has been sorting and cataloging at the Barker Library, University of Texas, our treasure trove of photos, books, oral histories and other important items. You may find her there on Friday afternoons.

State of Texas and Federal budget cuts have been felt at the Barker. Without Ruth, our collection would have to wait its

turn with many others for professional attention, greatly extending the length of time before it would be accessible to researchers.

Thank you, Ruth, for aiding the Texas Jewish Historical Society in achieving one of our most important goals: preserving what we have and what we know for the scholars of the generations and centuries to come.

Alex Corman

Alex Corman, Houston, is a longtime and very dedicated member of TJHS. He has donated copies of *DEEP IN THE HEART*, TJHS's own publication, to fifteen libraries in the Houston area.

Thank you, Alex, for such a generous and thoughtful gift to researchers and readers in Texas.

Welcome New Members

Mrs. Isidor (Dorothy) Cohen, Dallas
Mrs. Sara Gen, Cranford, N.J.
Mr. and Mrs. David Goldstein, Austin
Mrs. Marilyn Brachman Hoffman, Washington, D.C.
Mr. and Mrs. David Klimist, Ft. Worth
Mr. and Mrs. J. Livingston Kosberg, Houston

Dr. and Mrs. Peter Lazarus, Ft. Worth
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Rakover, Ft. Worth
Keith Glenn Rosen, Denton
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Rosenthal, Austin
Kay Schachter, Dallas
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Swartz, Houston

MEMBERS' PUBLICATIONS

Please make orders to the addresses listed with each book or video.

Many prices are special to TJHS members.

Members wishing to add their publications to this list may do so by sending necessary information to the Editor.

HANNA, THE IMMIGRANT, by Jan Siegel Hart, book, tax & postage \$16.00: 2509 Redwing Drive, Temple, TX 76502 (817) 778-2676.

HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF TEXAS MIDDLE CORRIDOR, by William J. Munter, book, tax & postage \$2.50: Border Studies Publishing, P.O. Box 3063, Laredo, TX 78044.

OLEANDER ODYSSEY, THE KEMPER OF GALVESTON, TEXAS 1854-1980, by Harold M. Hyman, book, tax & postage \$45.00: Texas A&M Univ. Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843 or (800) 826-8911.

WEST OF HESTER STREET, video (VHS only) of a film by Allen Mondell & Cynthia Salzman Mondell, video, tax & shipping, \$32.00: 5215 Homer St., Dallas, TX 75206.

GALVESTON, ELLIS ISLAND OF THE WEST, by Bernard Marinbach, book, tax & postage, \$19.00: SUNY Press, c/o CUP Services, P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851(mention TJHS to get discounted price).

REFLECTIONS OF SOUTHERN JEWRY, THE LETTERS OF CHARLES WESSOLOWSKY (1878-1979) edited by Louis Schmier, book, tax & postage \$7.50: TJHS, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193.

THE LEVIN YEARS—A GOLDEN ERA: 1929-1951, by Ginger C. Jacobs, book & postage \$29.95. Make out checks to and send orders to The Dallas Jewish Historical Society, 7900 Northaven Rd., Dallas TX 75230.

DEEP IN THE HEART, THE LIVES & LEGENDS OF TEXAS JEWS, A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY, book, tax & shipping, \$20.00: TJHS, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193.

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

I am enclosing my contribution of \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000
to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for the 1992 membership year.

Classification of membership: \$25 - Annual Member; \$50 - Supporting Member;
\$100 - Sponsor and Organization; \$250 - Sustaining member;
\$500- Benefactor; \$1,000 - Patron

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

My areas of interest are: _____

Please furnish us with a brief family history/or our archives.

Clip and send to address below.

Contributions to TJHS are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

REQUESTS TO AID IN SEARCHES

From: **Alan W. Katzenstein**, 51 Rockwood Drive,
Larchmont, NY 10538

Person or family sought: **Sam Katzenstein**, (his grandfather) who was brought to Galveston from Frankenberg in Hesse Cassel (c. 1887), by his cousin **Leon Lewis**, a cotton merchant.

Leon Lewis opened a dry goods store in Bremond and put **Sam Katzenstein** in charge. Sam then married **Celia**, one of the 8 daughters of **Isaac Loewenstein** of Waco.

Sam moved his family first to Germany and then to New York. One of his daughters, **Nadine Katzenstein Bracker**, married in New York, moved to Shreveport, LA and is now living in Houston. Alan's mother **Gladys**, (b. 1898, Bremond, maiden name **Katzenstein**) married a **Mr. Katzenstein**, adding a bit of confusion to the family genealogy.

From: **Thomas C. Sokolosky-Wixon**, 1803 Jackson Avenue, Pascagoula, MS 39567

Person or family sought: **The William Sokolosky Family** including wife **Flora** and two sons **Marks** (b. 1890) and **Henry** (b. 1892).

This family is said to have lived in Fort Worth prior to being listed in the 1900 census as residing in Corsicana. **William** died in 1903 and no record has been found of this family after that year.

From: **The Australian Jewish Welfare Society**
Trish Ward, Search and Locate Dept.
140-146 Darlinghurst Road
P. O. Box 634
Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010 Australia

Person or family sought: **Joseph Howard Buchwalter**, about 70 years old if still living and/or any of his relatives or descendants.

Last known U.S. location: McAllen, TX.

Person requesting information: **Joseph Howard Sanders**, his son. **Mr. Sanders** was born in Sydney, Australia, during World War II.

He was told after his mother's death that his father, a Jew, as an American serving in the U.S. Army or Navy and in some way connected to the U.S.S. Missouri. His mother, maiden name **Juneanne Puller**, and father wanted to marry, but as his mother was only 19, her mother refused permission. His mother later married a **Mr. Sanders** who adopted her son. The seeker knows that his American grandmother-and other relatives corresponded with his Australian grandmother for a number of years.

*Do you have queries of your own?
The Texas Jewish Historical Society
will be happy to publish them for you.*

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