

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980



February, 2002

Jack Gerrick, President



Mark Your Calendars:

Annual Gathering of TJHS

Date: April 19-21, 2002

Location: Houston, TX

Joint Meeting with SJHS

Date: Oct. 24-27, 2002

Location: Shreveport, LA



From the TJHS President

Normally, most interim Board Meetings are a one-day affair to conduct the business of the Society and advise board members as to the status and to vote on new business. Last January 25-27, the Board met in Corpus Christi for a two-day meeting with speakers telling us about some of the accomplishments of local Jewish leaders and the growth of the local area.

We heard about Mr. Abe Katz from his daughter Sharon. She spoke about Mr. Katz starting with very little as an immigrant to become one of the largest onion growers in the world. In 1948, Mr. Katz aided in the development of Israel and was instrumental in providing arms to the IDF. We saw pictures of him with the leaders of Israel sharing their gratitude. His story is on page 16.

Second, Mr. Sam Kane, also a resident of Corpus Christi, started much in the same way as Abe Katz and built

some Kosher meat production. Both of these outstanding individuals are and were very charitable in keeping the Jewish Heritage alive in Corpus Christi.

A real treat was meeting and hearing Mr. Joe Jessel tell about his efforts along with his committee on obtaining the aircraft carrier "Lexington" (the Blue Ghost) as a museum of World War II and docked at the waterfront in Corpus Christi. Many communities around the United States were in competition for getting the Lexington, however, this former naval flyer convinced the Navy that Corpus was the place. Even the IMAX



*Speaker: Joe Jessel
He was instrumental in bringing the aircraft carrier "Lexington" to Corpus Christi as a museum.*

Theater aboard the ship is named for Mr. Joe Jessel.

I want to personally thank Marvin and Yetta Leshin and Helen Wilk for doing all the planning for the hotel, meals, meeting rooms, speakers and above all, the devotion to our Society.

Our Society now has over 1,000 members due to the efforts of Leon and Fay Brachman, however,



Blanche Sheiness (Alice)

the main problem seems to be the reading of the illegible handwriting of names, addresses and e-mail addresses on the remittance envelopes. We're sorry if a mistake is made, however, in some cases, we take a guess if the telephone number or name cannot be verified. The new directory is in process, so we cannot guarantee the accuracy.

One last item. I am very excited about the new Sylvia Wolens Jewish Heritage Writing Competition for individuals over 50, which should inspire some family histories and stories to further our research. Contest rules are available in this newsletter for those interested in competing for the monetary rewards.

Jack Henrich

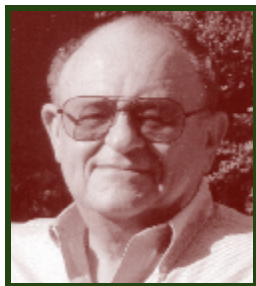


*Left to Right: Carol Fisherman (Houston), Sharon Katz (Houston)
Daughters of Abe Katz with Pictorial History of their father.*

his meat packing business from almost nothing into a major corporation now employing some 900 people in the Corpus Christi area. His business is very diversified including feed lots and



Speaker Panel on "Living History of Corpus Christi," moderated by Helen Wilk. Left to Right: Leonard Nisenson (Corpus Christi), Dottie Heffler (Corpus Christi) Helen Wilk (Corpus Christi), Maurice Schmidt (Kingsville), Norma Albert (McAllen)



Letter From the Editor or Freedman Slips

In appreciation for the years of hard work our

outgoing president has spent serving the **Texas Jewish Historical Society**, this edition is dedicated to **Jack Gerrick**.

It is difficult to write stories praising close personal friends. I have known Jack for over forty years, my wife Sandra knew him before College, when he was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base; thus little of his history escapes either of us. Jack and I share more than our love for the **Texas Jewish Historical Society** – we both grew up as Jewish boys in small South Texas towns. Jack grew up in Pharr, Texas, a lot farther south than my home town, Crystal City. However, while Jack's blood flows a burnt orange, I was more fortunate and was accepted at Texas A. & M.!

Jack served in the (U.S) Air Force where he spent most of his time playing football and "sight seeing" in North Africa. After his discharge he gave professional football a try, signing with the Baltimore Colts as a tackle. Jack still holds the league record for the number of towels stolen in a single season. Then Jack went to the University of Texas and played for the Orange and White. I don't recall, however, him speaking too much about attending classes, but *he says* he did earn a degree... After College, he

married Joyce Grey from Birmingham, Alabama. His earliest business was selling mattresses and sleep products in the Southeast. In 1963 Jack moved his young family to Fort Worth and continued his career assuring the nocturnal comfort of the more discriminating.



When the Gerricks came to Fort Worth, they brought their two young children, Gayle and Mark. Gayle, like her mother, is a very successful travel agent, but in Dallas. Mark has followed his dad's footsteps, manufacturing sleep products and has provided two grand daughters, Jessica and Rebecca. Mark has become the embodiment of a father/employer's frustration – Mark has become far more successful — once Jack finally retired and turned him loose.

Once in Fort Worth, Jack showed his penchant for community involvement and leadership. After several years as a member of B'nai B'rith, he became its president. And Jack is a past Commander of Fort Worth's Martin Hochster Jewish War Veterans. He was also very active in and supportive of the now defunct Dan Danciger Jewish Community Center. At the DDJCC, Jack was on its board for several years and served as vice president. Not one to

let gender barriers stand in his way, Jack volunteered with Hadassah's **Check it Out** program, which informs high school girls about breast cancer screening. Also, Jack is a dedicated volunteer for the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau and continues to report for duty each Monday morning, welcoming visitors to Fort Worth.

Between football seasons, Jack loves sailing his big, beautiful sailboat. Fortunately, Jack has a partner who knows seamanship. An example of Jack's skill with a sailboat, I went with him early in his sailing career. On the open lake, we did okay, but when it came to docking, his idea of stopping the boat was to hit the beach under full sail. The boat stopped. I did too, only a bit later! But during football season, little if anything can stop him and Joyce from being in the stands, watching their beloved Longhorns play – no matter the location or the weather.

Before Jack took office as President of The Texas Jewish Historical Society, he served as Editor of this Newsletter. (A far more important, time consuming and difficult job than being President). Jack has been the kind of person who leads by example and makes a job look easy. This way he deludes people into accepting difficult jobs.

In spite of Jack's flaws, he has certainly done a great job as officer, editor and President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and well deserves the thanks and appreciation of the organization. Hollace Weiner has said it best "He's worked tirelessly, but enthusiastically. I have enjoyed every phone call from him, believe it or not, and have rarely turned down any request from him. He's so upbeat; he helps me feel the same way. Thank you Jack for your contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society!"

Buddy Freed



Host Committee for Winter Board Meeting 2002 in Corpus Christi, Texas. **Left to Right:** Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth), Millie Zalim (Corpus Christi), Yetta Leshin (Corpus Christi), Helen Wilk (Corpus Christi), Marvin Leshin (Corpus Christi)

The Aron Brothers Five in the Tri-Cities Three

by Merilee Aron Weiner

Let me tell you about the Texas Tri-Cities—Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown, of my memory.

I was born there in 1923. Dr. G. A. Lillie's son heard the Mrs. E. Aron was expecting the stork on September 14. Living across the street from the Arons, the youngster waited on his family's front porch all day for it to arrive.

My parents, Esidor and Orina Aron, were five-year residents in Goose Creek when I was born, the first of five siblings: Peggy Aron Fine, Sidney Aron, Hertzel Aron and Bernadean Aron Rosenblatt.

When I left for New York as a new bride in 1944, Goose Creek's population was 8,000. Imagine my transition to a metropolis of 8,000,000.

Growing up, I remember Goose Creek having principally a long main street called Texas Avenue. Eight or nine blocks in its entirety, it had two jewelry stores, two banks, two picture shows, two restaurants and two drug stores along with many merchants, at least a dozen of them Jewish.

Oil had been discovered in the Goose Creek Oil Field in Tabbs Bay outside nearby Pelly. The advent of oil in the area signifies a potential economic boom. Also, between 1918-

1919, building the present Exxon Refinery in Baytown created many new jobs and brought many more families to the area.

The Tri-Cities began to prosper and grow until the 1930s, when they were hit by the depression. I remember that period vividly, as well as the Blue Eagle Economic Recovery signs in stores under Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency when the worst was finally over.



The brothers Aron, pictures left to right, Abe, Esidor, Sol, Harry and Dave. E. Aron, terminally ill when the picture was taken, died in January, 1941 at age 46. He was the youngest of the five siblings. Two sisters living elsewhere completed the family unit.

Abe Aron, who had a business in not-too-distant Crosby, Texas, moved to Goose Creek. Sol Aron, who had settled also in Crosby before moving to Orange, Texas, also pulled up stakes, relocating to Goose Creek. Dave Aron chose to settle in Pelly. The youngest of the five brothers, Esidor, a tailor-turned merchant, a new American citizen by virtue of World War I Service in the U.S.

Army, was nicknamed "Izzy." He opened E. Aron's Men's Outfitters at 124 Texas Avenue on the same block as his brother Abe. The fifth brother, Harry, a Master Tailor, settled in New York and only moved to Goose Creek upon retirement in the early 1940s.

It is interesting to note that the four brothers that were in business went to market together, to buy separately, each for his own clientele. They were not actually competitors because each

catered to a different customer base. However, they possessed a very strong bond as brothers. Their comradery and pleasure at shared leisure times is reflected in my siblings yet today which attracts outsiders who would like to be "family" and who are welcomed as extended "Mispachah."

The brothers in the main shared interest in owning real estate, but seldom as partners. The one partnership between Izzy and Sol is Goose Creek's Aron Addition which has streets named for Izzy's daughter, Peggy and Sol's children, Ruth and Alford.

Legend has it that Sol Aron was once invited to Houston for a meeting with a Mr. Land. He went and was promptly invited to invest \$50,000 to

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter

is a publication of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766



Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth)
Buddy Freed (Fort Worth)
Sandra Freed (Fort Worth)
Alexa Kirk (Fort Worth)

President
Managing Editor
Proofreader
Layout and Typesetting

continued on page 5

develop the man's invention of a "camera within a camera" to which the startled Sol replied, "Are you crazy?" He went home, preferring to invest in real estate. That Mr. Land happened to be the Dr. Land of Polaroid Land Camera fame.

The only remaining Jewish-owned store of the period of the 1920s-40s is Wilkenfeld Furniture, under the direction today of first generation daughter, Sharon Wilkenfeld. Morris Wilkenfeld, the founder, happened to be a brother of the two Wilkenfeld sisters, Orina and Rosie, who had married two of the Aron brothers, Izzy and Abe.

In 1928, K'nesseth Israel Synagogue was chartered for 50 years to serve the needs of the Jewish population; later it was amended to read "for perpetuity." When completed in 1930, the Synagogue and community hall comprised the campus. The Sukkah came later. The greatest Jewish residency in the Tri-Cities at any one

time was 47 families.

Most of the congregants were immigrants who brought with them the traditions that they observed in the "old country." Bea Wilkenfeld remembered in an interview before her death that a big controversy arose over "Duchening," the Kohen's recitation of the priestly blessing.

Memories skip to the High Holiday services. Dave Aron, the tallest of the brothers, ascended the Bimah in mid-morning to sell Aliyahs (honors) each year. His distinctive sing-song chant sales-pitch concluded with a thump on the bible in his hand when the sale went to the highest bidder. A unique card system kept track of the purchaser.

Sophie Keller (Mrs. Leonard) seated her choir, consisting of all the children of the congregation — with or without a good voice — on the left front row of the synagogue's wooden benches. Her memorable "L'Kha Do Di" remains etched in my mind to this day; Gertrude Teter remembers the feather in her hat that wiggled with her

movements as she directed the choir.

On Sunday, March 29, 1992, Congregation K'nesseth Israel, 100 West Sterling Street, Baytown, Texas, was declared a Historical Landmark with the President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, Fay Brachman, in attendance. The initial signatories on the documents included the following Board of Trustee names: Abe Aron, E. Aron, S. Aron, D. Aron, Ira Guberman, J. Guberman, P. Goldfield, H. Kaplan, C. Trifon, J. Feinberg, E. Hochman, A. Lensky, Joe Moskowitz, Sam Levine, Aaron Grenader, Jake Sampson, Mose Sumner, Joe Susnitsky, Morris Wilkenfeld and H. Lerner.

In anticipation of a daughter's forthcoming wedding, a member of the congregation added a front set of steps to the altar to enable the bride to ascend more easily. Before that time, entry to the Bimah was from either side, left or right.

Teachers were imported from Houston for Sunday School classes. Three rabbis: Benjamin Wade, Ben Danziger and Hungarian-born Samuel Schwartz of London, England, at one time, occupied the pulpit during my youth.

Today in 2002, lay people conduct the service held the first Friday of each month. The Synagogue's population varies as new people move to the area, but not in large numbers.

Many wives worked alongside their husbands in business. Those who didn't, busied themselves with Rummage Sale Fund-raisers for the Synagogue, weekly bridge games and carpooling children to and from school. I remember one particular special event when the congregational ladies gave a bridal shower for the daughter of a family with little means. All the synagogue families, however, alternated in making, or providing, refreshments for the Friday night Oneg Shabbat.

One car per family sufficed, since

continued on page 6



Captioned "Sylvan Beach — Summer of 1926," this wonderful picture is property of Ruth Kessler, given by Bertha Rosenberg Mitz from Orina Aron Straus.

Top row (left to right): Leon Aron and Morris Wilkenfeld. **Middle Row:** Meyer Leo Aron, Dave Aron, Abe Aron, Esidor Aron holding Merilee Weiner, Dr. Alford Aron and Sol Aron. **Bottom row:** Ruby Lee Rosensweig, Hannah Pearl Morris, Sarah Aron, Rosie Aron holding Peggy Samet, Orina Aron Straus, Lillie Vogel, Sadie Aron and Ruth Kessler.

the three areas initially had most everything in walking distance.

Zoning? Hardly. In a two block residential area where we lived, there was a Methodist church, a Baptist church, a funeral home and the telephone company (whose operators plugged the lines in manually) interspersed with residences.

What did a young evolving community do for recreation? On Friday nights, the high school football game was a must for locals. However, the synagogue managed to have more than a minyan of young families with little children present to conduct the weekly Shabbat services.

For entertainment, there were long rides to the Cedar Bayou area, the “scenic route,” with windows down in pre-air conditioning times. There were picnics and bathing at Evergreen Beach which had many small rocks to traverse before reaching sand and water, and in the background, there were pumping oil wells in Tabbs Bay.

Close by also was Morgan’s Point, a deep waterway leading from Galveston to the original Humble Oil Refinery docks in Baytown and on into the Houston Ship Channel. Watching passing freighters and oil tankers was amusement for the long lines of traffic awaiting a ferry

ride en route to La Porte, Texas — the alternate route to Houston, Kemah and Galveston. Sandy beaches adjoining the water were used for “splashing.”

La Porte was also the home of famed Sylvan Beach with its extra long pier, necessitated by the shallow water before reaching any depth. A white picket fence enclosed a huge ballroom that suffered the ravages of hurricanes during the years, and was actually blown away by an especially devastating twister. I understand now that the pavilion was rebuilt.

However, in it’s heyday, the Dodgems were my favorite diversion.



*First bale of cotton ginned and sold in Goose Creek in 1923.
Bought by E. Aron at 47 3/4¢ per pound.*

The sculpted grounds of man-made berms were ideal for picnics and its board sidewalk was great for strolling to the sloping bandstand grounds, which featured famous orchestras of the day. Rudy Valee is one that comes to mind.

Students from the adjoining Catholic Seminary must have had a secret passage-way to the enclosed grounds because the seminarians were often in evidence on the weekends.

Robert E. Lee High School, which accommodated all the students from the Tri-Cities, was located

on a hill across the street from a cemetery named Hill of Rest. The cemetery sloped down at the rear to a stream of water called Goose Creek.

This same high school later was utilized to house Lee Jr. College. The transformation occurred each weekday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Same building, only a change of name and classes that extended until 10:00 PM.

In close proximity, but not walking distance, Lee High School was reached either by hitchhiking or by carpool. In the late 30s, it was perfectly acceptable to stand in a designated spot, using a raised thumb to indicate direction and intent to reach the school.

In 1947, the Tri-Cities amalgamated, taking the legal name Baytown.

The Aron brothers, whose lives and times have been interspersed with my personal memories of the early 1920-40s, remain today close in death, either by design or happenstance, each buried in his own family plot in Houston’s Adath Emeth Cemetery on Sylvester Road.

The gated cemetery entrance lists H.

Wilkenfeld as one of its founders. Hertz Wilkenfeld was the father of Rosie and Orina Aron and their brother, Morris.

Both sides of the families heeded the biblical injunction, “be fruitful and multiply.” There are Aron and Wilkenfeld cousins galore in the Gulf Coast area.

And, as if history repeated itself, Adath Emeth Cemetery, under the auspices of Houston’s United Orthodox Congregations, when established, was far out in the country. It too, like the Tri-Cities, is today flanked by I-610 at the rear, the Farmer’s Market in front, and assorted businesses on one side, deep in the heart of Houston.

Please Note:

The Texas Jewish Historical Society and the editorial staff of this newsletter cannot guarantee the accuracy or authenticity of any article. This is the responsibility of each contributor, so please direct your questions, comments and/or corrections to each author directly.

A Letter to The Society

From Michael G. Moskow

Dear Friends:

I'm an amateur historian, and I'm interested in many aspects of history, among them World War II, military and aviation history, and Jewish history. In this context, I've recently come across the names of a two WW II serviceman from Texas, who may have been Jewish. Perhaps you can help me with my quest?

The first serviceman was Second Lieutenant Joseph Faverman, a B-26 Marauder bombardier in the 386th Bomb Group of the 9th Air Force. Lieutenant Faverman was killed when his plane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire on October 7, 1944. His next-of-kin was listed as Mr. Mandel Faverman, of 2811 29th Street, in Lubbock.

Some time ago, I wrote to the Lubbock Public Library, asking if they had any information about Lt. Faverman. They tried their best, but were unable to discover anything. However, I was told that the address listed above no longer exists, and given words to the effect that the listed locale had been transformed from a residential address to some other type of land, since the war.

The Second serviceman is an even

more interesting enigma. He was Second Lieutenant Ben Maurice Simon, a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilot in the 404th Fighter Group of the 9th Air Force. Lieutenant Simon lost his life in a mid-air collision with another P-47, during an attack on a German airfield on March 14, 1945.

Lt. Simon's father was Mr. Meyer Ben Simon, of Center, Texas, which is in Shelby County. His mother was Olga (Edmunson) Simon. Meyer Ben was employed as a secretary treasurer and/or office manager at the O.H. Polley Mercantile Company, in Center. Of course, like Lt. Faverman, this was over sixty years ago!

Though his mother was obviously Scandinavian, I'm wondering if Meyer Ben (passed away January, 1978) was Jewish. ("Gee, the name sounds that way..." Hmm ...) If so, I can't help wondering if the family had any kind of Jewish affiliation, or if Mr. Simon let that aspect of their lives drift away, because of the difficulty of maintaining a Jewish identity in such a locale, at that time. But, that is only conjecture on my part. Then again, perhaps it's just a straight German-sounding name, that coincidentally "sounds" Jewish. Additionally, some records I recently obtained from the Army are somewhat ambiguous regarding Lt. Simon's religion.

I searched for the names of these

men in the book "American Jews in World War II," but did not find them listed under "Texas." or anywhere else, for that matter. Still, the absence of their names is not necessarily indicative that they weren't Jewish, for this book lacks the names of many of the people who should have appeared within its pages. (In technical terms, a "false negative?")

I also searched the web for information about any kind of Jewish community in or near Center, but drew a blank. I can only assume that if there ever was any kind of Jewish community in Center — as I am certain there must have been, at one time, like so many other small towns throughout the United States — that any Jewish people there long since passed away, drifted away, or assimilated out.

If you have the time, I'm wondering if any of the above information "rings a bell," or "shuffles a database." Might any of your members know of anything about these men, or these family names?

Thank you for "listening" to this very long letter. I do appreciate any and all help you can give me!

Michael G. Moskow
54-12 Revere Road
Drexel Hill, PA 19026
610-622-7953

P.S. I found your organization's name and address on the Web.

Searching

Mrs. Steven Alexander is seeking for any information about Bob Leavitt, who was from Texas and worked on the XIT Ranch before moving on to Ismay, Montana. We do not have a positive date but it should have been around the late 1800's or the early 1900's. Any one who might have some clue should contact:

Mrs. Steven Alexander
73 Hammond Place
Woburn, MA 01801
Telephone 781-933-4654

Winter Issue

Editor's Corrections

Several errors in our last Newsletter were called to my attention. I did not properly identify those who died with their association to the Society. Please note Dr. Charles Nathan and Dr. Raymond Reiser were past members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. It was also pointed out that

Norma Alberts was called Norman and Fay Brachman's name was misspelled. For permitting these errors to go uncorrected before publication, I am deeply sorry. It would be good if we had one or two more proofreaders, before, not after publication. Do I hear any volunteers?

Jewish Heritage Writing Competition

The Texas Jewish Historical Society announces the initial start of the Sylvia Wolens Jewish Heritage Writing Competition that offers adults, ages 50 and over, to pass on reflections on the Jewish heritage to the generations of tomorrow. The competition is open to both amateur and professional writers. Each participant receives a Certificate of Achievement, plus the top three winners will receive a monetary prize.

The contest was started by TJHS member Jerry Wolens of Boca Raton, Florida in honor of his wife Sylvia and is now in its 11th year in Southern Florida. The contest has received a great amount of publicity and recognition by both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. In the last competition, over 200 poems and short stories were submitted from all over the country and Canada. They include tales of "Jewish love, respect, bravery and family, as well as Jews helping other Jews."

Entries may be as a single paragraph, or as long as 2,000 words — but no longer. Each entry should have a word count listed and handwritten work will be accepted, as long as it is legible. Each entry should also include a four to six line biography of the writer. Entries sent for submission will be judged on originality and content and may be edited for publication in the TJHS Newsletter and/or local media.

Every entry must include the name, age, address and telephone number of the author and be titled on each page.

Up to four entries may be submitted, however the materials will not be returned, so it is suggested that the author retain a copy of the submission. The winners will be announced at the annual Gathering of the Society in the spring of each year and the deadline for submission is FEBRUARY 1ST OF EACH YEAR. The Texas Jewish Historical Society will compile all entries and submit them to our archives at the University of Texas.

All entries should be sent to:
Sylvia Wolens Jewish Heritage
Writing Competition
c/o Texas Jewish Historical Society
P.O. Box 10193
Austin, TX 78766-0193

For further information, contact
Jack Gerrick at 817-927-8765.

New Book by Bernard Rapoport

Being Rapoport: Capitalist With a Conscience, by Bernard Rapoport as told to Don E. Carleton, will be released by UT Press in May, 2002. It is 336 pages with 28 photos and retails for \$39.95. For more information, visit www.utexas.edu/utpress/books/rapbei.html.

Historical Texas Synagogues

Send Historical Texas Synagogues note cards when corresponding with friends or relatives. Each pack contains color prints, two each of five different synagogues - 10 cards and 10 envelopes.

Package A contains: Temple Beth-El, Corsicana; Temple Mizpah, Abilene; Temple Freda, Bryan; Temple Beth Israel, San Angelo; Schwarz Family Synagogue, Hempstead

Package B contains: B'nai Israel, Galveston; Temple Emanuel, Beaumont; B'nai Abraham Synagogue, Brenham; Sinai Hebrew Congregation, Jefferson; B'nai Israel, Victoria

Order Form

Name: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Quantity: _____ Pack A @ \$10.85 each _____ Pack B @ \$10.85 each **Discount to shops (40%)**

Shipping: 1-5 packs: \$3; 6-10 packs: \$4; Over 10 add \$.50 per pack Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check or money order payable to: **The Texas Jewish Historical Society** and send it with this form to: TJHS, c/o Charles B. Hart, 2509 Redwing Drive, Temple, TX 76502. Allow 4-6 weeks delivery. Retail shops receive a 40% discount with a minimum order of any 10 packs. A Texas Resale Certificate must be included with order.



The Bermans of Colorado City

By Harold B. Berman

Colorado City, Texas, the county seat of Mitchell County, is located between Sweetwater and Big Spring. For years, it was known as the "Mother City" of West Texas because of its location on the Colorado River and its historical involvement in the development of that part of the state. It was a flourishing center of commerce, inhabited by individuals who exemplified the pioneer spirit that made Texas great.

From approximately 1922 through the early 1990s, the Berman Brothers were among those pioneers. Max, H. I. and Philip Berman were enthusiastic and tireless leaders of the community. The memories of their contributions are still cherished by many of the citizens of Colorado City who are living today.

It all began around 1903. The Berman brothers (the oldest being five and the youngest 1 1/2 years of age) arrived at the Port of Galveston with their mother, Mamie Berman. They had left Russia, sailing from Bremen, German, directly to Galveston. They were on their way to join their father, Sam Berman, who came to the United States about a year before, arriving in Baltimore, and moving on to Seguin,

Texas. When they arrived in Galveston, all three boys were sick with scarlet fever and the immigration officials immediately quarantined them in a Catholic hospital there. (This hospital later became the John Sealy Hospital, and H.I.'s children trained there while getting their degrees at the University of Texas Medical School in Galveston.) The official immigration records reflect that their mother had no money, just a railroad ticket to Seguin.

During their lifetime, the brothers frequently discussed the circumstances of their arrival. It was difficult for them to envision their mother, who was an orthodox Jewish woman, approximately 4'6" tall and about 100 pounds in weight, arriving in a strange country, penniless, with three young children, stricken with a contagious disease, and being taken to a Catholic hospital for care. No one forgot the wonderful treatment they received in Galveston at this hospital, and all three of the Berman brothers were lifetime supporters of the Catholic Church in gratitude for the kindness and care that they were shown by this religious order.

After their recovery, they pro-

ceeded to Seguin, Texas, where their father awaited them. Their childhood was spent in that community, attending public schools, and becoming "real" Texans. In fact, about 35 years later, after a visit by all three brothers to Seguin, the local paper came out with a large banner headline that read "NATIVE SONS RETURN."

While in Seguin, their sister, Lena, was born. Their father was able to give up his peddling and open up a retail grocery store, known as "The Pick & Pay." With the help of all his children, he was able to support his family from that business.

After the Armistice of World War I, a decision was made to move on. The oldest, Max, was the first. He was recruited by the West Texas Dry Goods Store in Colorado City, Texas, to work as a clerk. This store was owned by Louis Landau, who was one of the Jewish patriarchs of West Texas. He recruited young Jewish men throughout the state to work for them, and then to keep them, he sought out Jewish brides. Max married Sydell Brodsky, a distant cousin of the Landaus from Chicago, and a daughter, Phyllis, was born of that union.

H.I. (Hyman Israel) was next. Realizing that The Pick & Pay in Seguin could not support everyone for a lifetime, he began looking for a place to open his own business. His brother, Max, invited him to Colorado City, emphasizing the progressive and vivid growth of the community. H.I. Came and stayed. In 1924, he established Berman's Variety Store, a 5 and 10 cent store, which was a first for the city. He chose that kind of store since it was unique and he felt it was depression proof, since the depression was already beginning throughout the country. Shortly after his arrival, the

continued on page 10



Left to Right: Max Berman, Sydell Berman, Minna Berman, Philip Berman (back in middle), Alice Berman, H. I. Berman

Bodzin family, who owned a dry goods store in Colorado City, invited a distant relative from Brooklyn to visit them. Their relative, Alice Shapiro, was introduced to H.I., and they were married in late 1924. They had three sons of that marriage, Harold, and twins, Stanley and Irwin. H.I. told the story many times that when the twins were born in 1929, in the midst of the depression, his business had one of its best days because his customers came by offer their condolences to him for having an additional two mouths to feed during such hard economic times and, while there, bought his merchandise.

Around 1925, Max bought out a department store in Colorado City, which was the oldest department store in West Texas at the time. He renamed it "Max Berman's Department Store" and it became the "Neiman Marcus" of West Texas. If you wanted fashion, name brands or style, you came to Colorado City and shopped at Max Berman's.

After his father died, Philip moved the Pick & Pay from Seguin to Colorado City. Around that time, he married Minna Kirschbaum of Dallas, Texas, who had a brother in business in Colorado City. To that marriage, two sons were born, Joe and Melvyn. At the time of his move, Philip also brought his mother to Colorado City, where she lived the balance of her life.

Their sister, Lena, married Marcel Josephson of San Antonio. A daughter, Sandra Jean Caplan (now in Houston), was born of that marriage. The Josephsons moved to Snyder (twenty miles from Colorado City) and opened a grocery store which was also named Pick & Pay.

All of the marriages of the Berman brothers and their sister were happy and complete. The brothers and their sister all predeceased their spouses,

but left a legacy of devotion and love to their respective families.

All of the brothers had different kinds of businesses. The family pronouncement was that the Bermans could almost live "wholesale." You could get clothing from Max, groceries from Philip, and what they did not have, H.I. had in his variety store.



*Left to Right: H.I. Berman,
Philip Berman, Max Berman*

They were excellent merchants, at one time expanding their interests in Colorado City to seven stores among them (all faithful to the type of their original store). They were extremely competitive and their businesses were flourishing to the date of their retirement. A recent speaker at the Old Timer's Reunion in Colorado City made a statement that if the Berman brothers were still in business, they would have put WalMart into bankruptcy.

Their families and their businesses were important and took up a great deal of the lives. However, their interests were varied and energetic. All were active in the local Chamber of Commerce, supportive of conservative political agendas and very generous to all local charities, both religious and otherwise. Both Max and Philip were leaders in the Lions Club, while H.I. became Regional Governor of Kiwanis. H.I. and Philip were mem-

bers of the local Masonic Lodge, while H.I. was a member of both Scottish Rite and Shriners. After H.I.'s retirement from business, he became very active in politics. He received an appointment by President Eisenhower as the Regional Census Supervisor. He was also elected Mayor of Colorado City and upon his retirement, he was honored with commendations for the magnificent work he did for the community.

Although Colorado City had a population that hovered around 5,000, its Jewish population varied from time to time from as little as five families to as many as ten or twelve families. The Jewish history of Colorado City is a long one, and it was most vivid during the period of time that the Berman brothers were among their leading citizens. Although there was neither a Temple nor a synagogue in the city, all of the Jews in Colorado City did not disguise their Judaism. All of their stores were closed during the High Holy Days (and that was a very expensive thing to do when the holidays fell on a Sabbath during the fall) and they were constantly invited to represent their religion in the many gatherings that the various churches in the community throughout the years. They did their best to give some Jewish education to their children, taking them to Sweetwater to attend an informal Sunday School taught by Frieda Levy, wife of Abe Levy; always taking them to High Holy Day services, usually held in a hotel in Sweetwater; and having magnificent Seders in their homes and other places in Colorado City. The Berman brothers' Seders in Colorado City became famous and eventually expanded into community seders, attended by Jews throughout the West Texas area. Those seders

continued on page 11

were held at a local hotel, who supplied the basic entree (the favorite of the Berman children was barbecue chicken), with the gefilte fish, the matzo balls and all of the other trimmings for the Seder being supplied by various families. Marcel Josephson, husband of Lena Berman Josephson, contributed immensely to the success of these affairs. He was blessed with natural culinary skills enhanced by training as a cook while he was in the Navy.

The Jewish community of Colorado City was blessed. Almost all the members of the Berman families have absolutely no recollection of any incidents of antisemitism. All of the Berman brothers agreed that their lives and bringing up their families in Colorado City was a wonderful experience for all concerned, and all of their descendants agree fully with that assessment.

West Texans are a unique breed. Their friendliness and support are both sincere and given without strings attached. The Berman brothers became real West Texans. They each

owned a farm in the area, grew cotton, and sometimes spent their Sundays picking cotton.

Although there are no members of the family still living in Colorado City, the children of the Berman brothers still have strong ties to the community, inherited from their parents. It is a thrill to the families to have individuals approach as you walk down the street and tell you how much the Berman brothers meant to them, personally and to their family. They tell you about their first job in the variety store or the grocery store, and then, after becoming experienced, being promoted to a position with the Max Berman Department Store. The family continually hears stories about how the Berman brothers supported the community during World War II, by not only contributing their sons to the war effort, but also helping the family of those servicemen who were called to service from Colorado City. So many individuals have repeatedly told the children of the Berman brothers that the Berman family life was a standard that each of their parents attempted to emulate and

which, they in turn, benefitted. The Berman brothers and their families were dedicated to Colorado City and its citizens, and in turn, they received the support of all during their lifetimes. The West Texas Museum in Colorado City has displayed a special exhibit on the Berman brothers' families.

Max and Sydel's daughter, Phyllis Rudnick, is now retired and lives in Dallas. H.I. and Alice's sons are Harold, who practices law in Dallas, and Stanley and Irwin, who are both practicing surgeons in California. Philip and Minna Berman's sons are Joe, a professional consultant who is now retired and living in Phoenix, Arizona, and Melvyn, who has his own computer business and resides in Menlo Park, California. Lena's daughter, now Sandra Jean Caplan, wife of Louis Caplan, lives in Houston.

Approximately five years ago, the sons of H.I. and Alice Berman had a family reunion in Colorado City. They not only brought all of their children, but they also brought their friends from all over the country. It

was a full weekend, with coverage by the local press, radio and television stations. About 350 townspeople participated in the event.

At a community celebration several years ago, the speaker was assigned the subject of the "Jewish Influence on Colorado City." The subject attracted the largest crowd they ever had at these reunions up to that date. Unfortunately, there are no Jewish families remaining in Colorado City at this time, but those that did in the past have left their mark.



Passover Seder at the Baker Hotel, Colorado City, Texas in 1960

Leo J. Hoffman, Longtime Dallas Oil Attorney

By Joe Simmacher / The Dallas Morning News, Reprinted with Permission

Services for Leo J. Hoffman, a longtime Dallas oil and natural-gas lawyer, were held at Temple Emanuel-El, in Dallas.

Mr. Hoffman, 82, died Sunday, December 2, 2001 of prostate cancer at his Dallas home. He was buried in Hillcrest Memorial Park in Dallas.

Mr. Hoffman was a nationally respected giant in oil and natural-gas law, said Stuart Hollimon, partner and chairman of the energy law department for Strasburger & Price LLP.

"Yet, despite that stature, he was very modest and genuine, a very kind person," said Mr. Hollimon, a colleague and friend of 25 years. "He was a person who was loved by everybody who knew him, both professionally and personally."

After a legal dispute, opposing counsel would often speak as highly of Mr. Hoffman as his own clients did, Mr. Hollimon said.

"That's a pretty rare person that can perform his craft in that fashion," Mr. Hollimon said.

Mr. Hoffman also had a well-known, yet low-key and wry sense of humor, said his daughter Patricia Hoffman Bernstein of Houston.

Once, a rookie secretary spilled a

cup of coffee into a copy machine, spoiling an urgent legal brief. She went to Mr. Hoffman to apologize.

"All the copies came out brown and wet," Ms. Bernstein said. "He asked her what would happen if she added some cream."

Born in Fort Worth, Mr. Hoffman grew up in Comanche, Texas, where his father owned a dry-goods store.

In 1941, Mr. Hoffman earned his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. At UT, Mr. Hoffman was on the varsity debate team, served as president of Tau Delta Phi fraternity, and played trumpet in the Longhorn band as well as a dance band off campus.

He was editor of the *Texas Law Review* and a member of a national scholastic law honor society called Order of the Coif and Chancellors. He earned a master's degree from the Southern Methodist University School of Law, now the Dedman School of Law.

Mr. Hoffman served in the Army during World War II, completing his service as a first lieutenant.

In 1946, Mr. Hoffman joined the law department of Sun Oil Co. in Dallas. In April 1960 he represented Sun Oil before the U.S. Supreme

Court. Although the high court ruled 5-4 in favor of the Federal Power Commission, Mr. Hoffman later said there was some consolation. "Justices John Marshall Harlan and Felix Frankfurter wrote strong dissenting opinions, which satisfied me that our side had been right," he wrote in an article for *Texas Lawyer*.

Mr. Hoffman briefly worked for a Dallas law firm before joining Strasburger & Price in 1963. He became head of the firm's mineral law section. He was also chairman of the energy law section of the State Bar of Texas.

Mr. Hoffman was married to Shirley Bennett Hoffman for 47 years. She died in February 1989.

In addition to his daughter, Mr. Hoffman is survived by his wife, Martha Hoffman of Dallas; son Alan Hoffman of Paris; daughter Nancy Hoffman of Bethesda, Md.; brothers Maurice Hoffman of Houston and Harold Hoffman of Dallas; and five grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Prostate Cancer Initiative at the Cancer Research Institute, 681 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10022; or the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193.

Brief Histories

Maurice Schwartz

Mr. Albert Schwartz of El Paso, Texas was good enough to write the following history of his father:

"My father, Maurice Schwartz told us he was met in NY (after a 2 week voyage from Europe) by a relative, sometime in 1989. He gave Dad 2 tickets – one from N. Y. to Galveston, another, a rail ticket from Galveston to El Paso, where his uncle awaited his arrival. Dad spoke only Hungarian, but learned "apple pie and coffee", his

only food for his many day trip from NY to El Paso. I'm 82 and don't own a computer, so I'd very much appreciate your forwarding all the info in your database.

Thanks a lot! —Albert Schwartz"

Meyer Mellinger

My stepfather, who was a member of TJHS, died recently. Meyer Mellinger was actually part of our family for 30 years. Meyer was 85 when he died. He and my mother had been married for 21

years. She died 8 years ago.

Even though he was my step father (my own father was Dr. Harold Roosth who died in 1957), he did a great job of being a father and father-in-law and above all a wonderful grandfather. When Meyer married my mother (RosaLee Leaman Roosth), he had never been married. So, he got an instant family when they were married, becoming husband, father, and grandfather!

Take care. —Cynthia Wolf

The Story of Abe Katz

by Sharon Katz

I am so delighted to be here in Corpus, my home town, to discuss the most influential person in my life, my father, Abe Katz.

My father was born in the small village of Pakon, Lithuania, which borders the Baltic sea and was under the control of either the Soviet Union or Germany for many years. He was born the winter of 1906, but didn't actually celebrate a birth date until he married my mother, Doris. He said his cousin remembered it was snowing at his birth so my mother chose December 18 as his day to celebrate. Since he had never celebrated one previously we always had to remind him it was time to blow out those candles!

Political unrest was part of daily life in Pakon. When he was of school age the Germans occupied the country and Jewish children were not allowed to attend school. His father, a respected rabbi, taught him the Torah and my dad taught himself philosophy and history. When his younger brother, Max, reached school age, under Russian occupation, he attended school and later received a law degree.

He spoke of the Germans during World War I, when he was about 9. The soldiers took their home and gave them 48 hours to get out. They loaded what they could in their wagon and headed north. They ate raw potatoes dug from the fields they passed along the way.

He called the American soldiers who landed in Europe "angels from heaven. They were everywhere; the land covered with their bodies. When they won the war they didn't occupy the countries, but returned home." He remarked, "Twenty years later it was Hitler. The American soldiers who arrived then were the sons of those who helped free us in 1918. They spent billions to put Europe back

together economically. There are no others like the Americans."

He lived with his parents until 1926, when together with his older brother, Leon, he went to Mexico to live until they could obtain visas for entry into the United States. He had \$2.50 in his pocket. He spoke neither Spanish nor English, although fluent in 5 other languages. They were unable to enter the states until 1928 due to immigration quotas and visa restrictions.

In the meantime, he sold clothes door to door in Mexico by reading about 50 words in Spanish that a man had written for him. I once asked him: "Did people really buy from you?" He answered, "Sometimes—I think they felt sorry for me."

In Laredo, he found work for a dollar a day selling shoes. He once told me it was without a doubt the worst job. Women never knew what they wanted or couldn't make up their minds. I should add that some years ago I met the woman in Laredo who rented them their first room. She laughed and said, "he used to eat bananas and hard rolls to fill his stomach! And he still owes me \$10 rent."

In the mid 1930's, during the depression, he struck a deal with a man named Mankof, from New York who came to Texas each year to buy onions. Dad said he'd work for room and board. At the end of the season Mr. Mankof gave him a bonus of a \$100 bill.

At the time, California grew most of the onions in the country, along with the Texas Winter Garden area which was from Laredo to Uvalde. Katz's new job with a local produce company was to get local farmers to plant onions in the coastal bend, near Mathis, Corpus and Robstown. He did okay for several years until the floods came and the company was bankrupt.



Abe Katz 1906-1995

He then worked as a manager for another New York company as their produce man in Robstown. His days were spent in the fields, selecting and buying onions and his nights in the packing shed until 2 or 3 AM overseeing the vegetables packed for shipment.

During this period he studied history and government in preparation for U.S. Citizenship, which he obtained in 1935.

On a trip to Dallas, when he was 28 years old, he met his business associate's niece, Doris Goodman. He thought she was the most beautiful woman in the world. He was 5'8" and she was 5'6" and wasn't impressed. She was only 18 — 10 years younger. Her first comment when she looked out the window of her parents home to view him coming up the walkway was: "I think I'm going to have a headache" and she laughs and says she's had one ever since. They were married 10 weeks after they met so he

continued on page 14

could combine the honeymoon with a business trip to New York.

The business was good the first year and then the floods came. Everything was lost. A Robstown banker urged him to go into business for himself. The banker said he was the only farmer who wasn't broke. Dad had saved \$6,000 and with that as collateral the bank gave him an unlimited line of credit.

I should mention that he used to point out the banker's house to me on Ocean drive and tell me how grateful he was to him for showing such faith in him. During all the succeeding years my dad kept an account at that Robstown bank and with the gentleman's nephew upon the banker's death. Dad continued the Abe M. Katz Co. and we still have a 1,500-acre farm between Sinton and Mathis.

After World War II, he moved the main office to McAllen in the Rio Grande valley and established Valley Onions, Incorporated in 1955 making Roy Shapiro a full partner. It developed over the years into a company that farmed 6,000 acres and shipped onions throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. The brand name "Blue Baby" which he created, was the brand known for obtaining the top prices in the market. He was unaware that the term blue baby in medicine referred to a very sick child! He was the largest onion producer/distributor in the United States until 4 companies merged, making him second. When I asked him about it he laughed and said there were years in which you didn't want to be the biggest producer or you'd take the biggest losses.

While visiting Israel in the mid '70s, he read about an Israeli onion that did not rot in heavy rains and didn't deteriorate quickly in storage. He brought the Israeli onion seed to the United States. I met his broker in Hawaii once who said they loved it there, but it was too hot for most people.

The 1015 onion which you see in the supermarkets today, and tastes much like the Georgia Vidalia onion, was produced as a result of 7 south Texas onion growers, including my dad. They agreed to fund the research on it and 12 years later it was finally marketed as the Texas Grano 1015y super sweet. It's considered the best short-day, fresh market onion in the world.

Dad was one of the first inductees into the Texas produce association Hall of Fame, begun in the 1980's in the Rio Grande Valley.

He wanted to visit his family in Europe in 1939 but his parents asked him not to come. There was too much unrest. He later learned from a childhood friend, Lazar Goldberg, that his mother, father, two sisters and infant niece were killed during WW II by their Lithuanian neighbors, who were Nazi sympathizers. He tried to maintain a positive attitude and said his parents taught him it would be unforgivable to allow despair to obliterate the joys of life that God has given him. After his death in 1995, we kept the big house for 2 more years prior to selling it. During that time we were clearing out furniture, his office, etc. when I saw a perfect set of leather luggage. I asked my mother where it came from and she said Dad had purchased it to visit his family in 1939 and had never used it.

When it came to charity and politics he took an active role. During World War II, in an effort to get Jews out of Europe, he paid for a full-page ad in the New York Times to kick off a successful fund drive. In 1948, he received an office visit from a man he recognized from the former Nueces hotel barbershop. It turned out he was an FBI agent and wanted to know the name of dad's contact for allegedly purchasing arms and ammunition for the underground prior to Israel's statehood. Dad said he'd have to think about it. I'm certain with a wife and 3 young daughters at home he did

some heavy-duty thinking. When the agent called him to see what his answer was, he told him he was still thinking. The next time he called, the agent said: "Abe, president Truman just recognized Israel as a State and we don't care any more." The case was closed. My dad's contact in securing arms for what would be the state of Israel was Ben Zion Netanyahu, the father of Israel's former prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. My father's brother, Max, was Menachem Begin's boss during WWII. With Israel recognized, their goal was achieved. However, dad always thought those of us born in America did not appreciate this country the same way he and other naturalized citizens did. He felt it was a privilege and honor to be an American. He also felt we took the privilege of voting for granted and too many failed to vote. I have heeded his observations and consider voting an obligation and a privilege.

He supported both Democrats and Republicans. As a naturalized citizen he always commented "God bless America." When Dolph Briscoe, a Democrat, was governor, he appointed Dad to a six-year term on the Texas state finance commission. He was asked to serve again by Republican Governor Bill Clements, but refused and said; "I'll be over 80—that's too old to ask for 6 more years!"

He was a member of the National Executive Board of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association and he was founder and director of the Texas Citrus and Vegetable Association.

A great believer in Jewish education, Dad gave his time and financial aid to the Hebrew Academy of Houston, now known as the Beren Academy and to the Jonathan Netanyahu Academy of San Antonio. He was a sponsor of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and donor to the Holocaust

continued on page 15

Museum in Houston, among others.

At a dinner in San Antonio for my dad's 80th birthday, then ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu lauded him for his contribution to the school being named in memory of Col. Jonathan Netanyahu, the ambassador's brother. For the naming of the Jonathan Netanyahu Academy, Benzion Netanyahu came from Israel to attend. You may recall that Col. Netanyahu was the 30-year-old leader of the raid on Entebbe, which rescued the hostages on a hijacked Sabena Airlines, from the dictator Idi Amin, who is now in exile in Syria. Col. Netanyahu planned the daring raid and led the successful attack. He was their only casualty—dying aboard the plane during its return to Israel. The event was the largest turnout for a Jewish affair in San Antonio's history. A sell-out with a waiting list!

Dad also served on the board of the National Council of Christians and

Jews, Texas region; was a member of the National Executive Committee of the Z. O. A. and the Jewish National Fund. He received the City of Peace award for the sale of Israeli bonds and Israel's 30th Anniversary Year Award for State of Israel bonds. He also was the recipient of the Prime Minister's award and a member of the Prime Minister's Club Cabinet and Golden Trustee Society. He frequently chaired the Big Gifts Division of the Combined Jewish Appeal. Other Jewish contributions were to Amit Women; Armidi, the Red Magen David of Israel; assistance to Lithuanian Jews, Inc.; Girls Town Jerusalem; Beth Midrosh Avrohom y Yeshiva; B'nai Brith; Hillel; B'nai Israel Synagogue (of which he was a founding member); B'nai Israel Sisterhood and Cemetery; Diskin Orphan Home of Israel; General Israel Orphans Home for Girls; National Jewish Medical Research Center; Ner Israel Rabbinical College; Simon Wiesenthal Center; Slabodka Yeshiva; Telshe

Yeshiva; World Jewish Congress and Yeshiva of the South. He also provided for Russian relatives who immigrated to Israel several years ago.

Other contributions include the American Heart Association, Arthritis Foundation of South Central Texas, Bethune Day Nursery, Corpus Christi Metro Ministries, Driscoll Children's Hospital, Family Outreach, M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, Parkinson Foundation of Harris County, Ronald McDonald House and the Salvation Army.

My father influenced my life in many aspects. He always saw the bright side—the optimistic side. He had deep feelings for the

value of human life.

When I was about 10 or 11, my sister Annette was learning to drive a car. As she was backing down the street by herself, she ran into a neighbor's car parked at the curb. I ran home and yelled: "Daddy, Daddy! Annette ran into another car!" He looked up and asked, "Was anyone hurt?" I said, "no." He then said something I've never forgotten: "Remember, things can be replaced, people cannot."

It was an interesting household with three daughters: Annette, who lives in Corpus Christi, and Carol and I who now live in Houston. One time I had a slight argument with my father about something and he said, "Why aren't you more like your sisters?" I responded, "Why aren't you more like your brothers?" Silence ensued. None of us are alike, and wouldn't it be boring if we were? That's what makes life interesting.

Dad was a great believer in education of any kind. As he rose in the business world, he was sometimes asked to speak and felt his accent and lack of a formal education made it more difficult to get his message across. So he took speech lessons at Del Mar College at night. He'd often read at night with a dictionary close by so he could learn new words he didn't comprehend. He never read junk. He particularly enjoyed reading the works of Maimonides, the philosopher, in Hebrew. When he was about 80, he went to a geriatric specialist in Houston to determine if he still had the ability to manage his business affairs. Dr. Herati, an Iranian, at Baylor College of Medicine was thrilled to find someone else who could discuss the philosophies of Maimonides, whose beliefs are frequently studied in medical schools to this day.

Another way he exhibited his belief in fairness and integrity occurred at the first meeting he attended



Left to Right, Abe Katz, Mahaer Dagani, Israel's Counsel General and General Ariel Sharon, Prime Minister of Israel.

continued on page 23

Rabbi Solomon S. Philo of Gainesville and Fort Worth

A Wandering Jew of the Cloth, of the Stage, and of his Age

by Hollace Weiner

Solomon S. Philo (1842-1923), a peripatetic rabbi who helped found Fort Worth's Reform congregation, performed on the stage as well as the pulpit, doing whatever it took to feed his family of 11 children. A man of many vocations, he was a silversmith, a Shakespearean actor, a vocalist, a violin teacher, and a showman who produced concerts starring his musical offspring.

His name reflects his learning and his flare. The family surname was originally "Lieber," German for love or dear. Rather than retaining the name or anglicizing it to Levy or Loeb, the rabbi hellenized it to "Philo," the Greek word for love.¹

A fifth-generation rabbi who wandered from Prussia to Poland, Wales, Canada, California, New Jersey, Texas, and New York, Solomon Philo's itinerant career reflects the times in which he lived. Jews were on the move due to revolutions in politics and thinking. The rabbinate was in flux as well. Reform and Conservative Judaism took root. Rabbis, once objects of reverence, became employees of congregations struggling to break free from Old World traditions. Thus, Orthodox Rabbi Solomon Philo, an impresario who spoke the Queen's English, seemed always in search of his next pulpit.

He ventured to Texas in 1901, ten months after being ousted from an Atlantic City, NJ, congregation for "conduct unbecoming a rabbi."² Responding to a want ad placed in the Jewish press, he was hired by the United Hebrew Congregation in Gainesville, a north Texas town then on the edge of Indian Territory.

In Gainesville, he seemed off to a



Rabbi Solomon S. Philo

good start. He ran the Sabbath and Sunday School, enrolling 43 Jewish youngsters.³ He instituted a Thanksgiving worship service.⁴ For Chanukah he produced a student pageant replete with dramatic recitations, musical performances, and choral singing – much like the classical concerts his own family troupe had once performed in Victoria, British Columbia.⁵

When two pillars of Gainesville's Jewish community passed away, Rabbi Philo's theatrical voice and heartfelt eulogies impressed a wide circle of Jews who gathered to pay their respects. One of the departed was Mrs. Clem Heninger, mother of Jake Heninger, a future founder of Fort Worth's Beth-El Congregation.⁶ The other was Gus Schiff, a close associate of Fort Worth's Weltman family.⁷ Rabbi Philo's funeral orations were so stirring that the *Southwest Jewish Sentiment* editorialized that the rabbi was "an able instructor, zealous in his

official duties, and a sympathizing, comforting friend in the hour of trial and sorrow."⁸

Yet Gainesville's United Hebrew Congregation did not renew his contract. The High Holiday season of 1902 found Rabbi Solomon Philo without a pulpit.

It also found 43 Fort Worth men launching a Reform congregation, to be called Beth-El. Rabbi Philo was invited to Beth-El's first meeting where the organizers discussed renting a hall on Taylor Street for the High Holidays and borrowing a Torah from Dallas.⁹

Rabbi Solomon Philo would officiate.

By all accounts, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur went smoothly at the new congregation.

Sabbath evening services continued weekly, but attendance dwindled to fewer and fewer souls. The reason, according to Flora Weltman Schiff, who wrote the congregation's first history, was because of Rabbi Philo and his "deserved unpopularity." The rabbi had become quarrelsome and mettlesome, "unfitted in every respect for that holy office," she later wrote in *The Reform Advocate*, a Jewish newspaper published in Chicago.¹⁰

By the spring of 1903, seven months after Beth-El was chartered, the congregation disintegrated. Services ceased for the next eighteen months. The membership blamed the rabbi for the congregation's collapse.

Yet, Rabbi Philo still had his local admirers. He lingered in Fort Worth, moving to the pulpit at Ahavath Shalom, the city's Orthodox congregation.¹¹ Scarcely a word is recorded about his tenure there, which did not last long.

continued on page 17

In 1903, when the *American Jewish Year Book* mailed questionnaires to the approximately 700 rabbis and cantors serving in the United States, Solomon Philo responded from Fort Worth's Ahavath Sholom with biographical details. He stated that he was born, raised, and educated in Breslau, ordained by the Rabbi of Warsaw, and called to pulpits in Prussia, Hungary, Newark, and Atlantic City, as well as Gainesville and Fort Worth.¹²

That same edition of the *American Jewish Yearbook* provides one more lead to his life story. The yearbook's alphabetical list of rabbis includes another Rabbi Philo – this one, Isador E. Philo of Ohio.¹³ He was Solomon Philo's son.

Eager to gather clues about Beth-El Congregation's founding rabbi and hopeful of finding his picture, I began researching the career of the younger Philo. At the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, I discovered a rabbinical thesis about the Philos. It was written by their descendant, Jonathan Philo Kendall, who today is a rabbi with a pulpit in Stuart, Florida. His thesis and other reference materials at the archives helped connect the dots between father and son and piece together our first rabbi's past.¹⁴

The parallels and contrasts between Solomon Philo, the vagabond rabbi, and his son Isador, the Ohio rabbi, proved striking.

Like the father, the son had a slight British accent and an actor's timber to his voice. He, too, qualified for more than one profession. After becoming a rabbi, Isador Philo (1873-1948) enrolled in law school, subsequently quitting his pulpit to open an Ohio legal practice. Ultimately, he returned to the rabbinate. An outspoken civic leader, he championed labor unions and made early inroads into the black community. Perhaps Isador Philo's activism and outspoken personality contain clues to

his father's controversial conduct and congregational disputes. The son may have been more polished and persuasive than the father.

Unlike the elder Philo, the son was a model of stability, serving at Youngstown's Rodef Sholem reform congregation from 1912 until his death in 1948.

Early in his career, the son fell in love with Bertha Cohen, a Jewish blue blood, whose ancestors fought in the American Revolution. Needless to say, her assimilated family disapproved of her marrying an immigrant lad and a rabbi to boot. They predicted "a life of unhappiness. . . chained to a synagogue." Moreover, they recoiled at the sight of the groom's father, "an orthodox rabbi replete with beard and other abhorrent singularly Jewish features."¹⁵ Over objections from the bride's family, Bertha Cohen wed Isador Philo in June, 1897.

Her family's disdain may have strained relations between the son and his father. Further contact between Philo the elder and Philo the younger practically ceased.

The Ohio rabbi's surviving daughter, now 86 and residing in Florida, never met her paternal grandfather. She mistakenly thought he had died before her birth in 1915.¹⁶

Not so. When she was born, her grandfather was residing in New York City. At some point he moved in with his daughter, Rose Philo Bilder, the first social worker at Brooklyn's Jewish hospital. During the final decade of his life, Rabbi Solomon Philo became involved at the Fifth Street Temple at Coney Island and the Boerum Place Temple in Brooklyn.

When he died August 17, 1923, the *New York Times* honored the rabbi with a brief obituary, describing him as "The Rev. Solomon Philo, 81, rabbi in and around Brooklyn for fifty years."¹⁷ He rests in peace at Philadelphia's Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Footnotes:

¹ Kendall, Jonathan P., "Philo: A Biography," Rabbinical thesis, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1974; The last name also recalls Philo Judaeus of Alexandria, an ancient Jewish philosopher (circa 40 B.C.); There are other Philos scattered throughout North America. Chances are good all are descended from Beth-El's first rabbi. For example, Professor Philo Wasburn at Purdue University is a great-grandson. The soprano Viola Philo, a granddaughter, sang at New York's Radio City Music Hall and sang with the Jewish tenor Jan Peerce. Telephone interview with Jonathan Philo Kendall, rabbi at Congregation Beit YaYam, Stuart, FL, Jan. 3, 2002.

² In March, 1898, Solomon Philo was hired to fill a vacant pulpit at Atlantic City's Beth Israel congregation at a salary of \$83.33 a month. That July, his wife, Regina, died. The rabbi could not pay the funeral expenses. Bills for Mrs. Philo's burial, totaling \$275.23, were sent to the congregation, where the trustees appointed a committee to investigate the rabbi's debts. In October the board agreed to pay \$111.38 of the sum. Philo was rehired in January for another year. In mid-December, the board voted him out, 16 to 9, for what the minutes later allude to as "conduct unbecoming a rabbi." His replacement was salaried at \$100 a month. Congregation Beth Israel minute book, 1891-1941, Congregation Beth Israel, Atlantic City, manuscript collection 519, American Jewish Archives.

³ *Southwest Jewish Sentiment*, Nov. 15, 1901.

⁴ *Southwest Jewish Sentiment*, Nov. 29, 1901.

⁵ *Southwest Jewish Sentiment*, Nov. 29, Dec. 27 1901; "Grand Classical Concert by the Philo Family," Victoria Theatre Program, September 1, 1891, Victoria, BC. Isador E. Philo manu-

continued on page 20

Norma Albert Has Seen the Valley Grow Up

by Jane Talbot

Reprinted with permission from Valley Town Crier, North McAllen-Edinberg; January 23, 2002

Among my favorite interviews are those with pioneer Valley residents who share with me “the way it was” before I moved here. Norma Westerman Albert not only grew up in the upper Rio Grande Valley, she has been (and still is) a significant contributor to its growth and success through her never-ending volunteer activities.

Another of those “winners” I like to write about, Norma Albert was named McAllen’s “1962 Woman of the Year” by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce and later received the Rio Grande Valley Confederation of Women’s Clubs’ “1963 Citizenship Achievement” Award.

Fifty years before, on January 13, 1913, Norma’s father, Adolph Westerman, came to the U.S. from Latvia (before it became part of Russia). According to Norma, he had just left the coldest winter he had ever experienced. When landing in Galveston, he exclaimed he was so happy to be in warm weather, he was never going back. After thawing out, Westerman visited his sister in San Antonio, subsequently went to Laredo, and later moved to Mercedes—in a search for more and more sun.

Soon after Adolph’s arrival, Abe Baum, forefather of another pioneer Valley family, became his best friend. Together they started a little business, traveling back and forth between San Antonio and Laredo to see what people were buying. Then they would bring a little (whatever they could afford) of that merchandise from San Antonio to sell. Beginning with pocket knives, they added small musical instruments, like harmonicas and accordions. From a little showcase (which they set up on the sidewalk in front of the movie theatre in Laredo), they sold their merchandise.

Later, they noticed that Mexican shoppers loved Stetson hats and needed shorter, wider shoes than were locally

available, so those items were added to their sidewalk shop. Gradually, that little enterprise grew and evolved into a men’s store they established in Mercedes.

After her parents moved to Mercedes, Norma was born—but in San Antonio; because there was no hospital in Mercedes, her mother went home to give birth. (We can forgive her that—and still call her a native Valley girl.) “At that time Mercedes was the biggest, busiest city in the upper Valley,” Norma told me. “It was not easy to go from town to town in the Valley back then. To leave Mercedes, one had to cross a two-lane wooden bridge with a floodway under it, and when it rained, the bridge would flood and it was very scary.”

“My folks moved to McAllen in 1925,” she continued. “The city of McAllen was not incorporated until 1911, and it really wasn’t much at the time. My brother, David, was born in the McAllen Municipal Hospital, which was just a little wooden building. Later it was used for the nurses in training, it remained beside the larger hospital after it was built.”

The Temple was in Mercedes at that time, and the Jewish families in McAllen had to drive their children to Mercedes for Sunday school. Later, after she married and had her first child, Norma, who hated driving to Mercedes on the scary roads, coaxed her father into starting a drive with Sam Lack and Max Lutz to build Temple Emanuel in McAllen. (It’s now the only Temple in the upper Valley.)

“After the move to McAllen, my father opened the Man’s Shop here,” Norma said. “It is still run by my brother, David. In addition, all my mother’s siblings had men’s shops around the upper Valley. One of my uncles owned the Harlingen Man’s Shop and the other opened Levine’s

Man’s Shop in Weslaco (which is now owned by his cousin.) Mike’s Man Shop in Mission was opened by my mother’s sister’s husband, Mike Fallek, and was later operated by his son, Larry. (Mr. Baum remained in Mercedes with Baum’s Men’s Wear and eventually added stores in Harlingen and McAllen.)

“In the beginning, we lived at 7th and Gumwood, which was out of the city limits. It was the last paved street; we even had a horse,” she reminisced. “Some of our neighbors included Napper David (later a McAllen mayor), the Whighams, the Rawls, the Crawfords and the Ruckers.

“I attended Wilson Elementary, Lamar Junior High, and graduated from McAllen High after completing my 11th year—we didn’t have a 12th year back then. In the early days, McHi was located downtown on the property now occupied by Chase Bank, the Junior High was next to it, and the stadium behind it. Nobody had cars then and there were no buses, so we walked to school.

“Later, our family moved to Kendlewood Avenue. Some of our neighbors included the Lacks, the Thackers, the Rawls, the Bonneaus, and the Barthels. After they built Lamar Junior High, the mothers took turns driving the neighborhood children to school when it rained because there were no paved streets or sidewalks leading to the school and they didn’t want their children to walk through the mud.

“The main excitement for early teens,” she continued, “was to sit in the car on Main Street, watch people walk by and listen to the Lucky Strike hit parade on the car radio. Main Street was about two blocks long, and it contained two movie theatres (the Queen and the Palace), various little

continued on page 19

stores, and Gaston Wiley's restaurant, where he developed the glaze for fresh strawberry pie.

"Later, when we began to date, we could go to: Eddie's Covered Wagon (which had both an inside and outside dance floor), a movie, or a party at someone's home. The high school sororities, the Tip Top and Sub Deb clubs, had parties and hayrides. In the summer, we went to swimming parties and had picnics at Cascade Pool, and the big parties (including graduation and weddings), took place at the Casa De Palmas Hotel. Everybody went to the football games. A tiny library, located in the basement of the bandstand at Archer Park, was opened."

After graduating from McHi in 1941, Norma packed that steamer trunk and took off for the University of Texas at Austin. "The war broke out my first year in college," she said. While she was in Austin, Norma met Louis Albert on a blind date. Before the war, he was a practicing optometrist who closed his office to join the war effort. Louis was stationed in the Air Force Navigational Unit in San Marcos where he practiced in the "Ear, Eye, Nose and Throat" medical unit. Norma's sorority sister was dating Louis's roommate, and she wanted them to meet. Because there was no Temple in San Marcos, the Jewish boys were taken to Austin for weekly services.

"It was my turn to serve after the service," Norma said, "and so we were introduced and went out afterwards. After we dated five months, we got married and settled in Lockhart. That was quite a town then! They did not know a war was going on!"

"When the war was over, Dad offered Louis a job here," she continued, "and we decided to move to McAllen. Louis never practiced optometry again." As the years went by, the Alberts brought three wonderful children into the world. Marsha was born in Austin, and Ronnie and Sharon were born in McAllen.

"I have three children, three grand-

children, and three great-grandchildren," Norma quipped. The Westermans and the Alberts built homes next door to one another on Nyssa Street. It worked great. In the early years, Mrs. Westerman could help with the children when Norma entertained, and later, Norma was handy to take care of her aging parents (her mother passed away at 80, but her father lived to 95. That means Norma has great genes!) Nowadays, Norma's son, Ronnie, lives in the house next door, barbecues their dinner almost every night, helps with her home repairs, and thoughtfully escorts her about town.

After working for Mr. Westerman for several years, Louis decided to open his own store, Louis Albert's Men's Store, and after the children were all in school, Norma went to work part-time helping in the store. Not too long following their 50th wedding anniversary, Louis passed away after a long illness. (Always energetic and fun, Louis didn't want his friends to know he was sick, so Norma helped him hide his illness while he continued to play golf, hunt, ski, travel and be "the life of every party" right up to the end.) Everybody in McAllen loved to be around Louis Albert!

As a young matron, Norma devoted many hours to the Temple. She was one of the original members of the Sisterhood of Temple Emanuel which was started by her mother in 1948. Working with the Council of Jewish Women, she raised money for the March of Dimes (which focused on the polio epidemic then) and volunteered at the Crippled Children's Center in Pharr. They also had holiday parties for the little patients there. Norma has also served as President of the Sisterhood and of Hadassah, and today she is on the Board of the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

For 25 years, Norma served on the Salvation Army board, chairing it for several years. No longer on the board, she said, "I felt that I should make room for new blood—that we needed a turnover of membership." A founding member of the McAllen Hospital

Auxiliary (now McAllen Medical Center), she served as its President and started its Life Membership program. "The Hospital Auxiliary is still one of my favorite activities," she said. "We earn over \$100,000 a year, and we give it away in nursing scholarships and to other charities, such as Make-A-Wish foundation—last year we sponsored two children for them."

A founding member of the McAllen International Museum's Guild, Norma set up a Life Membership program there also, served as its President, and is still active as the organization's treasurer. She has also served as President of, and continues activities in, the Vesta Study Club, and she is a former member and President of the McAllen Child Study Club. Those memberships involved her in the McAllen Federation of Women's Clubs, which had a building then where the member clubs could meet. It was located on the corner of Pecan and 2nd Streets. A past president of the Federation, Norma still sits on the President's Council of the McAllen Federation. In the meantime, she served on the McAllen Board of the American Cancer Society. She was in charge of the Service Committee, which provided dressings and a loan closet of medical equipment for cancer patients.

Recently, she joined the Pan American Round Table. However, the McAllen Orchid Society is Norma's favorite activity at present. "They meet on the first Sunday of every month at the McAllen Memorial Library, and meetings are open to anyone who has a desire to grow, study, and raise orchids," she said. They have great speakers, and Dr. Bob Ferry is their director. "He does wonderful things for the members," she commented. "For instance, he recently gave the members two plants each to take home, care for, and compare notes on their progress. He's always willing to help you any way he can." Her hobby has grown to the cultivation of over fifty orchid plants—in the house, in the yard, in her little hot-house (warmed by a hot tub—

continued on page 20

you can soak and luxuriate while observing the orchids.) Some are hers and some are “foster plants” she is keeping safe in her shady environment for Dr. Ferry and some other members.

This new hobby has basically replaced the old one—the cultivation of African violets. At one time she had over 500. “They’re a lot of work,” she confided, “so I don’t grow so many now—orchids are less demanding.” Actually, Norma’s backyard is a wonderland of giant trees that orchids have been tied to, blooming shrubs, and a fruit orchard, including grapefruit, orange, tangerine, lemon, banana, plum, and two mango trees. “I’ve had mangos that weighed as much as two pounds,” she said. (I’m so jealous!)

When she’s not keeping McAllen moving forward through her volunteerism, or tending to her orchard and gardens, Norma enjoys spending time with her miniature schnauzer, Mitzi. Mitzi is 11, doesn’t like babies or other dogs, and doesn’t want to go outside unless Norma goes, too.

Most of her cooking nowadays involves “side dishes” to go with Ronnie’s barbecue. For busy cooks, Norma has provided an easy rice dish you can whip up to complement a great main course. Enjoy, and be grateful that our community was built by the entrepreneurship and volunteerism of wonderful families like the Westermans and Alberts.

Onion Rice

Ingredients:

1 cup rice

**1 package onion soup mix
(Lipton’s)**

2 cups water

1/2 to 1 stick butter

Directions: Mix in 2-quart casserole dish. Cover and bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 hour. Enjoy!

of the Texas State Finance Commission in Austin. The staff member asked for the board’s approval to fire a long time employee. My dad asked how long the man had been there, when was he due to retire and what was the reason they were being asked to vote on his dismissal. After the gentleman responded, dad said: “You’re asking to fire someone who is due to retire in 90 days and I think your reason is more for your convenience than necessity. Therefore, you do not have my vote.” I heard this story from the president of a large Houston bank, also a board member. After the meeting he commented to my dad, “Abe, I have a lot of respect for

you. You speak your mind and are a man of integrity.” To which my father replied, “I sleep well at night.”

Did he have any bad habits or faults? One in particular. He could never remember names, including his daughters’. I once walked into his McAllen office where he was conversing with 3 men. He said. “Fellas, I’d like you to meet my daughter – Annette, Carol, Sharon.” I laughed and said “it’s a good thing you’ve only got three!”

But his genuine love of people and the United States, in particular, made him someone quite extraordinary. He possessed the sensitivity necessary to perceive a need and act on that need if he could. He emulated this quote from the Talmud “The giver who gives, without being asked, will be thrice blessed.”

NOTE:

If you know of any TJHS members who have passed away or married, requiring a change in membership status, please notify:

Fay Brachman, 3720 Autumn Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109

Phone: 817-924-9207, E-mail: leonhb@flash.net

script collection #253, American Jewish Archives. The concert program mentions Isidor [sic] Philo singing a song by Mendelssohn and reciting lines from *Spartacus* and *Julius Caesar*; Mr. Joseph Philo playing violin; Master Harry Philo, age eight, performing a comic Irish song; and Dr. S. Philo singing songs by Schubert and Meyerbeer.

⁶ *Southwest Jewish Sentiment*, Dec. 10, 1901.

⁷ *Southwest Jewish Sentiment*, Jan 24, 1902.

⁸ *Southwest Jewish Sentiment*, Dec. 27, 1901.

⁹ *Beth-El Congregation, Fort Worth, Texas: 70th Anniversary, 1902-1972, 5662-5732*, self-published, Fort Worth, TX., p. 18.

¹⁰ *The Reform Advocate*, “History of the Jews of Fort Worth,” Mrs. Flora (Weltman) Schiff, Jan. 24, 1914, pp. 1-12.

¹¹ “Biographical Sketches of Rabbis and Cantors Officiating in the United States,” *American Jewish Yearbook, 1903-1904*, p. 87.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 86.

¹⁴ Kendall, Jonathan P., “Philo: A Biography,” Rabbinical thesis, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1974.



¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

¹⁶ Ann Philo Kendall, telephone interview with Hollace Ava Weiner, December 12, 2001.

¹⁷ *New York Times*, Aug. 18, 1923, p. 9 col. 7; Aug. 19, 1923, p. 26 col. 7; Aug. 20, 1923, p. 11, col. 4.

Texas Jewish Historical Society 2001-2002

Officers



Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth)	<i>President</i>
Charles Hart (Temple)	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mitzi Milstein (Longview)	<i>Vice-President</i>
Cynthia Wolf (Beaumont)	<i>Vice-President</i>
Ben Pfeffer (Houston)	<i>Treasurer</i>
Vickie Vogel (La Grange)	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
Beverly Beck (Houston)	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
Marvin Rich (Houston)	<i>Parliamentarian</i>
Blanche Sheiness (Houston)	<i>Historian</i>
Howard Lackman (Arlington)	<i>Archivist</i>

Board Members 2001-2003



Elaine Albin (Rockport)	Annette Lackman (Arlington)
Dorothy Borschow (El Paso)	Marvin Leshin (Corpus Christi)
Roy Elsner (Odessa)	Selma Mantel (Houston)
Dorothy Harelik (Hamilton)	R. D. Moses (Fort Worth)
Ruth Heidenheimer (Cisco)	Louis Pink (Houston)
Leo Hoffman (Dallas)	Nancy Polunsky (San Angelo)
Rosalind Horwitz (Beaumont)	Ralph Robinowitz (Dallas)
Ed Katten (Waco)	Don Schlossberg (The Woodlands)
Sylvia Gayle Klein (McAllen)	Merilee Weiner (Houston)
Sherman Kusin (Austin)	Sherry Zander (Dallas)

Board Members 2000-2002



Norma Albert (McAllen)	Patti Maltz (Austin)
James Alexander (Dallas)	Rusty Milstein (Longview)
Doris Epstein (Laredo)	Cynthia Mondell (Dallas)
Walter Fein (San Antonio)	Herman Morris (Fort Worth)
Buddy Freed (Fort Worth)	Berta Schlesinger (McAllen)
Ima Joy Gandler (Waco)	Louis Sokol (Houston)
Mickey Graubart (Houston)	Max Stool (Del Rio/San Antonio)
Kay Goldman (College Station)	Mimi Toubin (Brenham)
Dave Hoff (Midland)	Hollace Weiner (Fort Worth)
Goldye Levi (Dallas)	Edward Winkler (Fort Stockton)

Welcome New Members!

November 30, 2001 - February 9, 2002

Abels, Barry & Jackie
1015 Luxor Drive
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Allen Library
P. O. Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801

Brickler, Arthur & Olive
10742 Sandpiper
Houston, TX 77096

Brodkey, Frances L.
4118 Meridian
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Gerstenhaber, A.Gary & Karin
6003 Shanghai Pierce
Austin, TX 78749

Gerstenhaber, Elliot & Suzy
11914 Steppingstone
Houston, TX 77024

Goldenberg, Laurel & Nathan
2714 Val Verde Road
McGregor, TX 76657

Goldfarm, William & Miriam
3701 Laguna Court
El Paso, TX 79902

Goldsticker, Larry
2505 Browning Drive
Plano, TX 75093

Gordon, Mrs. Bruce
645 Aqua Caliente
El Paso, TX 79912

Harvard Library
Serial Records Div
Cambridge, MA 02138

Hoppenstein, Marcia & Norman
3821 Matterhorn Drive
Plano, TX 75075

Krasnow, Lenny and Lynn
16131 Amberwood Road
Dallas, TX 75248

Lebowitz, J. Leon & Elaine
727 East Denn Keeton Street
Austin, TX 78705

Markman, Dan
P. O. Box 631492
Houston, TX 77063

Myers, Jim & Judy
8006 Duffield
Houston, TX 77071

Nathan, Joy & Marc
12 East Greenway Plaza Suite 905
Houston, TX 77046

Nussbaum, Julius & Jean
1715 Park Street
Greenville, TX 75401

Oshman, Dr. Daniel & Trudie
3209 Overton Park Drive East
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Plumb, Dr. and Mrs. Richard
5319 South Braeswood
Houston, TX 77096

Pomerantz, Dr. & Mrs. Seymour
59 Serini Street, Apt. #8
Rehovot, Israel 76240

Schaechner, Tibor & Ann
6029 Pinehurst Road
El Paso, TX 79912

Schaevitz, Jack
3816 Gorman
Waco, TX 76710

Schnitzer, George & Ruth
5506 Cheltenham
Houston, TX 77096

Schwartz, Gloria
524 N Post Oak Lane
Houston, TX 77024

Smith, Bruce
26139 Timberline Drive
San Antonio, TX 78258

Super, Jack & Marlene
4531 Ayres Street #201
Corpus Christi, TX 78415

Susser, Sam L.
P. O. Box 9036
Corpus Christi, TX 78469

Toubin, Mark & Elizabeth Cohen
12 East Greenway Plaza Suite 905
Houston, TX 77046

Winkelman, Marc & Suzanne
304 Hillcrest Court
Austin, TX 78746

Zelman, Dr. & Mrs. Donald
1066 West Jones
Stephenville, TX 76401

Has Your Address Changed?

Has your address changed? What about your Area Code or phone number? Has your name changed? Do you want your name to appear differently on the TJHS mailing label? Please let us know. We'd really appreciate your help. Please send new information to:

Fay Brachman
3720 Autumn Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76109
phone: 817-924-9207
e-mail: leonhb@flash.net



Texas Jewish Historical Society Donor Cards

This card is available for anyone wishing to honor or memorialize an individual through our endowment fund. Upon receipt of your gift, the Society will respond with this acknowledgement. To the members who have sent in funds in the past, thank you on behalf of TJHS. To all those who will send funds in the future, please send your gift to:

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

The Texas Jewish Historical Society

gratefully acknowledges your gift to our

Endowment Fund

of \$ _____
in _____ of

An acknowledgement has been sent to the party you specified.

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

Have Exhibit, Will Travel

The Texas Jewish Historical Society, in cooperation with the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, has designed an exhibit to be used as an educational tool for schools, Sunday Schools, Jewish Community Centers, Synagogues, Temples and Special Events in any town or city in Texas.

The exhibit depicts the journey of Jews in tiny villages and shtetls in Europe to America and their eventual settlement in the communities of Texas. It shows families, businesses, homes, children, religion and holidays.

The exhibit is designed to be either hung on walls or set up on tables on foam board with an easel stand. The entire exhibit comes in two boxes, weighs 40 pounds, and can be shipped very easily via UPS. There is no charge for the exhibit and the only cost is the return charges via UPS.

**To reserve the exhibit, along
with a speaker, contact Jack
Gerrick at 817-927-8765.**



Texas Jewish Historical Society

P.O. Box 10193
Austin, Texas 78766-0a193

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT WORTH, TX
PERMIT 4161



Texas Jewish Historical Society Annual Membership

☐ **YES!** I am enclosing my dues payment to the Texas Jewish Historical Society for the 2001 membership year.

I am a ☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> \$36 - Annual Member | <input type="radio"/> \$50 - Supporting Member | <input type="radio"/> \$100 - Sponsor |
| <input type="radio"/> \$250 - Sustaining Member | <input type="radio"/> \$500 - Benefactor | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000 - Patron |

Name: _____

Name of Spouse: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home telephone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

E-mail address(es): _____

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

Please clip and send with your check to: **TJHS**, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193