

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980



A Quarterly Publication of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

April 2004

A Message From The Prez: It's Annual Gathering Time!



The Texas Jewish Historical Society makes history of its own when members gather in San Antonio April 30, May 1 and 2 to celebrate a major milestone – the 25th Annual Gathering. The first TJHS meeting was also held in the Alamo City. The Silver Anniversary Gathering will be in the historic Menger Hotel, located next to the Alamo. The Annual Gathering Planning Committee (see complete story beginning on), has organized a weekend full of interesting speakers, tours and activities.

The Society's May 2nd Annual Membership meeting will include a presentation of the slate of officers and board members and the election of a new Board and Officers. The TJHS Board of Directors' meeting will precede the General Membership Meeting.

The Fall 2003 Board meeting was held on South Padre Island the weekend of February 6-8, 2004. Many thanks to Mitzi and Rusty Milstein for organizing an entertaining, informative and fun weekend, and to Gay Greenspan, who did so much to make our winter Meeting a success. Gay organized the speaker panel and helped set up the Shabbat dinner. Unfortunately, Gay had a heart attack a couple of weeks before the event, which prevented her from attending the festivities. We are happy to report that she is feeling much better and is already back at work at Temple Beth El in Brownsville, where she has served for more than a decade. Gay promises that the timing of her illness was just coincidence. Thanks, also, to TJHS member Bernice Edelstein and her team hosted a delightful Shabbat dinner in Brownsville's Temple Beth El. Afterwards, we attended services and a wonderful Oneg Shabbat hosted by the Sisterhood. Temple Beth El members made everyone feel at home.

Saturday morning, our tour bus took us to Port Isabel, where we enjoyed shopping and lunch. Afterwards, with Temple Beth El member Larry Joki serving as our official tour guide, we saw Brownsville's original Synagogue building, old buildings that once housed Jewish businesses, and the very interesting Jewish Cemetery.

Saturday night's Banquet, held in the Radisson Hotel Ballroom, was preceded by a Havdallah service led by Temple Beth El Rabbi, Michelle Greenberg. After dinner, a panel of speakers from the South Texas Jewish community gave very interesting talks about how they came to live in South Texas. The presentations are included in this newsletter. During Sunday morning's Board meeting, reports were presented on a number of subjects.

Congratulations and thank you to Elaine Albin of Rockport, who has agreed to serve as Membership Chair. Heartfelt thanks to Fay Brachman, who has done a fantastic job in this position for many years and is now retiring. Hope to see everyone in San Antonio!

President, Texas Jewish Historical Society

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HONOR LOVED ONES WITH TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONOR CARDS

A card like the one below will be sent when you honor or memorialize that special person through a donation to the Texas Jewish Historical Society Endowment Fund. Upon receipt of your gift, the Society will respond with an acknowledgment. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Society through this program. To participate, please mail your gift and information to: Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX, 78766-0193.

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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An acknowledgment has been sent to the party you specified. This gift will further the efforts to record, preserve and disseminate historic information about Jewish culture in Texas.

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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PresidentCharles B. Hart
Newsletter Editor/Designer. .Susan Elsner Furman
Assistant EditorDavie Lou Solka
Photographer.....Marvin Rich
Printer.....Rabbit Reproductions
Proofreaders: Glenda Alter, Charles Hart, Jan Hart,
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We appreciate your articles and photos for inclusion in the Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter. Please send only color photocopies of photographs and documents. *Do not risk* sending original photos or documents. Make sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your documents returned (returns can not be guaranteed).

Send copies of articles, information and photographs to:
Davie Lou Solka, davielou@solka.net or 501 Bermuda
Place, Corpus Christi, TX, 78411. Phone 361-852-5815.

We welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments regarding this newsletter. Please send your input to Susan@ElsnerFurman.com.

Corrections – The following are corrections to website and/or email addresses that appeared in the Fall 2003 newsletter: The TJHS website address is www.txjhs.org. The Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center email address is czech@cvtv.net. Their website address is www.czechtexas.org. Please send corrections to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka (see address above). Thank you for your help!

BOOK FREE TJHS TRAVELING EXHIBIT FOR YOUR NEXT PROGRAM

By Jack Gerrick

With Jews throughout the United States preparing to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of Jews Coming To America, the Texas Jewish Historical Society expects even more requests for its Traveling Exhibit. In cooperation with the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, the TJHS produced and offers at no charge a series of old photographs, stories and a look into the earliest beginnings of Texas Jewish history. Two traveling exhibits on museum-quality reproduction foam board are available. They include 25 large photos with descriptive literature, and can be displayed on easels or hung on a wall.

The exhibits are packed in a waterproof box that can be shipped. The exhibits are available at no charge. They should be returned to the Society using prepaid freight. The TJHS will prepay the exhibit to the point of the showing.

Over the past years, the exhibits have provided insight into Jewish history, having been shown in a number of venues including schools, synagogues, Hadassah meetings and events for children. For information, contact Jack Gerrick at Texbed@aol.com or call 817-927-8765

MAY 20, 2004 IS DEADLINE TO SUBMIT INFORMATION FOR NEXT TJHS NEWSLETTER

Send your news, personal histories, Honorable Menschens, photos and more for the TJHS Newsletter by May 20, 2004 to the address in the box at left. Please do not risk sending your priceless original photos or documents. Color copies work best. We will make every attempt to return your items *if they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope*. Remember to please send copies only.

TJHS Silver Anniversary April 30, May 1 and May 2, 2004 in San Antonio, Texas Accommodations in the Historic Menger Hotel (circa 1859)



The Big San Antonio Howdy is almost here! With 25 years of accomplishments and substantial growth, members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society converge on the same city in which the first gathering was held. Silver Anniversary Annual Gathering festivities begin Friday, April 30 with registration, followed by an introduction to the historic Menger Hotel, located at 204 Alamo Plaza, San Antonio, TX, 78205. The special room rate is available to TJHS members for Thursday, April 29th through Sunday night, May 2nd.

The San Antonio Committee has planned an informative, entertaining weekend. The newly renovated, historic Menger Hotel on Alamo Plaza is the oldest continually

operating hotel west of the Mississippi. The Menger has been a public hotel since 23 years after the fall of the Alamo. Built in 1859 under the direction of owner William A. Menger and architect John Fries, the original two-story building is a part of the newly renovated hotel and is just 100 yards from the Alamo.

The Menger has hosted a number of personalities including Theodore Roosevelt, Sidney Lanier, Babe Ruth, Mae West, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Sarah Bernhardt and Gutzon Borglum, to name a few. Much of the architecture, history, appointments, and artifacts are museum quality. Visit the Menger Hotel's website at www.historicmenger.com to learn more about this very special property.

The toll-free number is 1-800-345-9285. The Menger's local phone number is 210-223-4361.

JULIUS JOSKE (1825-1909)

A TASTE OF TEXAS JEWISH HISTORY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MENGER

TJHS members attending the Silver Anniversary celebration will experience Texas Jewish history simply by looking at a building across the street from the Menger Hotel. The building was once home for a department store with which many TJHS members are familiar – Joske's (Joske's has since been sold to Dillard's Department Stores.)

Julius Joske, founder of Joske's Department Store, once "the largest store in the largest state," was born in Birnbaum, East Prussia, in 1825, the son of Abraham and Rebecca Joske. His family later moved to Berlin. Julius emigrated from Germany to San Antonio in 1867 and established his first store on Military Plaza. He wanted to be near the supply depot that served military installations in Texas, Indian Territory, and Mexico.

Before the railroads reached San Antonio, the store received its merchandise by freight from Indianola, Galveston, and Corpus Christi. For six years, Joske accumulated money before selling the business in 1897, when he returned to Germany to close his house.

He brought his wife, the former Henriette Wolfsohn, and five children to San Antonio later in the year and reestablished his business in a small adobe house on Austin Street.

After sons Albert and Alexander entered the firm, it was renamed J. Joske and Sons. Two years later, the store was moved to Alamo Plaza across from the Menger Hotel site and later to a larger site on the Plaza. After Julius' retirement in 1883, the firm was renamed Joske Brothers, and in 1903, Alexander Joske purchased the interests of his father and brother. At that time, Joske's featured fans, parasols and corsets, in addition to military and outdoor equipment. Julius Joske died in 1909.

■ TJHS

Bibliography: Ellis A. Davis & Edwin H. Grobe, comps., *THE NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TEXAS*, 4 vol. Edition.; Natalie Ornish, *PIONEER JEWISH TEXANS* (Dallas: Texas Heritage, 1989); Ruthe Winegarten & Cathy Schechter, *DEEP IN THE HEART: THE LIVES AND LEGENDS OF TEXAS JEWS* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1990).

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SILVER ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

On April 30, 2004, members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society will converge on San Antonio for the 25th Annual Gathering. The Planning Committee has been hard at work organizing a variety of events and activities that will ensure a memorable weekend for everyone! Many thanks to Chairman Max Stool, Co-Chairs Glenda Alter & Bernice Mazer, and Committee Members Clay Epstein, Horthy Fein, Walter Fein, Hattie Lee Gleichenhaus, Frances Goodman, Eileen Krandel, Casey & Ira Lieberman, Ann Pomerantz, Herschel Sheiness, and Helen Wilk. The schedule is chock full of exciting and fun activities.

FRIDAY APRIL 30, 2004

10 a.m. 'til 5 p.m. – REGISTRATION, HOTEL LOBBY



NOTE: THE TJHS HOSPITALITY SUITE will be open during select hours. Please check with the Registration desk for the schedule.

1:30 p.m. "THE MYSTERIES AND HISTORY OF THE MENGER HOTEL" – Who's haunting the Menger Hotel? Possibly some of its former guests! Author Docia Schultz Williams will

share the tantalizing mysteries, and the colorful, fascinating and intriguing events of the 1859 landmark hotel and its connection with the Jewish community. The Menger opened in 1859, just 23 years after the fall of the Alamo. The hotel is on the Historic Hotels of America and National Trust for Historic Preservation lists.



2:00 p.m. INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES – Tour 50,000 square feet of exhibits describing the contributions of every ethnic group that participated in Texas' development, and view the Jewish exhibit's new video.

TJHS members and ITC Docents Walter Fein and Hannah Margolis will lead our tour. Visit <http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/public>.



5:30 p.m. BUS DEPARTS MENGER FOR TEMPLE BETH EL where we will enjoy dinner, Shabbat services conducted by Rabbi Barry Block, and a sermon delivered by Rabbi Emeritus Sam Stahl. Sisterhood and the TJHS will host an Oneg Shabbat following services.



SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2004

7:45 a.m. BRIEF SHABBAT SERVICE (with Kaddish), conducted by David Bach

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Announcements

9:30 a.m. BEST LAID PLANS: HOW SAN ANTONIO GREW AND WHY

Professor Char Miller, Chairman of the History Department and Interim Director of Urban Studies at Trinity University, San Antonio, is author of the Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism, winner of the 2002 Independent Publishers Biography Prize; the 2002 National Outdoor Book Contest Award for History and Biography; and the Connecticut Book Award for Biography, 2002, among others. He was named a 2002 Piper Professor, a statewide award for excellence in teaching and service to higher education. Mr. Miller won Trinity University's Dr. & Mrs. Z.T. Scott Faculty Fellowship for excellence in teaching in 1997. He is editor of *On The Border: An Environmental History of San Antonio, and The Atlas of U.S. & Canadian Environmental History*. His book, *Deep In The Heart of San Antonio*, will be published in the fall of 2004.



10:00 a.m. EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT! EARLY JEWISH NEWSPAPERS OF SAN ANTONIO

Welcome San Antonio Public Library's Adult Collector Development Librarian, Lenore Karp. Lenore will talk about the early Jewish newspapers of San Antonio and display several papers and documents from early Jewish life in the Alamo City. Lenore earned a Masters in Library Science from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, a Masters from Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognitive Studies in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor's degree from CCNY.

Anniversary, continued next page

APRIL 30, MAY 1 AND MAY 2, 2004 – THE MENGER HOTEL – SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The \$160 Registration Fee includes all five meals, two tours and transportation to each outside event. If you have not made your reservation, contact Frances Goodman right away at 210-344-9966

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2004 (Continued):

10:30 a.m. FAMILY REMEMBRANCES FROM EARLY 20TH CENTURY SAN ANTONIO

Local residents Harold and Esther (Scharlack) Vexler will speak about their parents and the Jewish history of San Antonio during the early part of the 20th Century.



11:00 A.M. THE OPPENHEIMER LEGACY: A FAMILY HISTORY THAT INCLUDES RANCHING, MERCHANDISING AND THE STORY OF THE UNIQUE D&A OPPENHEIMER BANK

Prominent San Antonio attorney, and founder and a partner in Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison & Tate, Inc., Jesse Oppenheimer earned his LLB from Harvard Law School, graduating Cum Laude in 1942. He was editor of the Harvard Law Review. Born in San Antonio, his family has been engaged in ranching, merchandising and the unique private bank, D&A Oppenheimer Bank.

He completed high school in San Antonio, attended the University of Texas and the University of Arizona, graduating with honors and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. Mr. Oppenheimer did graduate studies in taxation in 1946. He served four years in military service in World War II, in both the European and Pacific theaters of operation. He separated as an Army Lieutenant Colonel.

Recommended for the Award of Legion of Merit, he has participated in numerous organizations on the highest level. Mr. Oppenheimer is a founder and trustee of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Foundation. He and his wife Susan have contributed to many causes and organizations over the years, including a one million dollar contribution in 2001 to the Scholarship Fund of the Alamo Community College District.

12:00 p.m. Trolley departs Menger for Aldaco's, where diners will experience a taste of one of San Antonio's award-winning restaurants.



SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2004 (Continued):

2:00 p.m. Buses depart Aldaco's for Mazal Library®

Enjoy a tour and talk at this privately funded resource for historians, researchers, students and the public. Harry Mazal will speak about his motivation to create and build this unique library, which includes 20,000 books, microfilm rolls, pamphlets and more related to the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry, and a collection of 70,000 original documents used in the Nuremberg Trials. For information, visit the website at <http://www.mazal.org/>

6:15 p.m. Social Hour (cash bar), Menger Ballroom



7:00 p.m. Havdallah service led by Rabbi Cohen



7:15 p.m. 25th Anniversary Banquet
Keynote Address: **MY GRANDFATHER RABBI HENRY COHEN OF GALVESTON: MAN, MYTH & HISTORY**— Presented by Rabbi Henry Cohen, Emeritus Rabbi Beth David Reform Congregation in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania.

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2004

8:00 a.m. Breakfast



9:00 a.m. Board Meeting

Report on Book Project with co-editors Hollace Weiner & Rabbi Kenneth Roseman.



11:00 a.m. General Membership Meeting

- Election of Officers & Board
- Presentation and Vote on Bylaws Amendments
- Installation-Helen Wilk

Continued page 6



**ANNUAL GATHERING MARKS ELECTION OF NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS
Nominations To Be Presented For Vote Sunday, May 2, 2004**

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2004 - 2006 SLATE OF OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME CITY</u>
President	Marvin Rich	Houston
Vice President	Mitzi Milstein	Longview
Vice President	Beverly Trachtenberg	Houston
Vice President	Jan Hart	Temple
Treasurer	Ben Pfeffer	Houston
Recording Secretary	Barbara Rosenberg	Sugarland
Corresponding Secretary	Selma Mantel	Houston
Historian	Blanche Sheiness	Houston
Archivist	Ima Joy Gandler	Waco
Parliamentarian	Howard "Rusty" Milstein	Longview

BOARD 2003 - 2005 ELECTED APRIL 27, 2003

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME CITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME CITY</u>
Elaine Albin	Rockport	Barbara Lack	Victoria
Leah Burstein	San Antonio	Annette Lackman	Arlington
Bernice Edelstein	Brownsville	Marvin Leshin	Corpus Christi
Barry Green	Tyler	Alan Livingston	Houston
Elaine Greenberg	Houston	Dr. Louis Pink	Houston
Dorothy Harelik	Hamilton	Ralph Robinowitz	Dallas
Ruth Heidenheimer	Cisco	Keith Rosen	Bellaire
Ed Katten	Waco	Merilee Weiner	Houston
Sherman Kusin	Austin	Sherry Zander	Dallas

NEW OR CONTINUING NOMINATIONS FOR YEARS 2004-2006

<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME CITY</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>HOME CITY</u>
Norma Albert	McAllen	Mabel Masin	Houston
James Alexander	Dallas	Greg Meyer	San Antonio
David Bach	Abilene	Allen Mondell	Dallas
Roy Elsner	Odessa	Cynthia Mondell	Dallas
I. L. "Buddy" Freed	Austin	John Perel	Houston
Sandra Freed	Austin	Sheila Rosenfield	Austin
Noel Graubart	Houston	Leta Schoen	Houston
Lynn Greenberg	Houston	Davie Lou Solka	Corpus Christi
Karen Kaplan	Fort Worth	Max Stool	San Antonio
Gladys Leff	Dallas	Hollace Weiner	Fort Worth

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Article IX E – The President is allowed to authorize an expenditure of up to \$500 without Board approval when it is not feasible to obtain Board approval in a timely manner and he/she deems the funding necessary.

Article IV, B., (f) – To the extent permitted by law, members of the Board of Trustees or any committee thereof may participate in a meeting of the Board or of such committee by means of conference telephone or similar communication equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate with each other; including, but not limited to an internet "chat room" that can be utilized so that Board members can be totally involved with offering and receiving information; and additionally, that the President can use emailed responses in the pursuit of conducting Society business, and participation in a meeting pursuant to this section shall constitute presence at such a meeting. The President shall save a "hard copy" and/or forward, in total, to all Board of Trustees, emailed responses so that the Secretary will have them for the Society minutes.

LOUIS WEINSTEIN, GALVESTON 1865 - 1905

Submitted by Marion Edelstein Cohn February, 2004

The following information was entrusted to me by one of Louis Weinstein's grandsons and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Weinstein, long-time residents of Houston, Texas. Additional help came from the Rosenberg Library articles from The Galveston Tribune, and material shared by Congregation Beth Jacob in Galveston. The new Conservative Synagogue, Congregation Beth Jacob was dedicated in 1932, and today has 75 member families.

Louis and Dora Weinstein came from Odessa, Russia, and entered New York through Castle Island, (now Clinton Island), on or before 1890. They brought with them their first born, Joe Weinstein (1885-1917). Their second son, Michael (Mike) Weinstein (1890-1955) was born in New York. He was the father of Dr. Louis Weinstein.

Mr. Weinstein and his family became residents of Galveston in 1893, and he and Dora had four children – Bessie W. Ducaff (1894-1974), Mary W. Kahn (1895-1918), Fannie W. Isenberg (1898-1977), and Eva Weinstein (1900-1982).

Mr. Weinstein was co-founder and owner of Weinstein and Juran merchants and tailors. From this business he raised his family and donated to all Jewish causes. He could always be counted on to help with Jewish and non-Jewish causes alike.

He was instrumental in the establishment of the Young Men's Hebrew Association's congregation in 1895. It was first organized as a social club and Mr. Weinstein served as Vice-President and President for six terms. When a number of Russian Jewish Orthodox men joined the club and began holding Sabbath services, it became the New Orthodox Synagogue. A building was built on land donated by the YMHA and was formally dedicated in 1904. Mr. Weinstein remained active in the YMHA until he succumbed to hepatitis in his home at 2605 Avenue D on March 17, 1905, at the young age of forty.

His funeral service was attended by a large group of friends, including representative of the Knights of Maccabees, and as a testimonial of respect, his funeral cortege came to a brief halt at the New Orthodox Synagogue. Rabbi Henry Cohen assisted at the burial service in the Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery.

The seeds sown many years ago by Mr. Weinstein and others of the Russian Jewish Orthodox community in Galveston, along with those in the Hebrew Benevolent Orthodox Association comprised of Austro-Hungarian Jews, continue to bloom even today. In 1930, these two groups decided to lay aside their differences and hire a permanent Rabbi.

■ TJHS

RABBI PETER TARLOW CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M HILLEL

Contributed by Charles B. Hart

(from Bryan College Station Eagle Nov. 16, 2003)

Rabbi Peter Tarlow and 200 people shared a rare moment on Saturday, November 15, 2004, at a banquet celebrating his 20th Anniversary at Texas A&M in College Station. Rabbi Tarlow was speechless for a full 30 seconds, choked with emotion after receiving glowing acclaim from friends, colleagues, and current and former students.

"I am very humbled to be here this evening," Tarlow said. "It really shouldn't be a dinner about me – it should be a dinner about you."

Banquet Co-chairman, Bill Bassichis, a physics professor at A&M, spoke of Tarlow's ability to navigate contention. "Reform Jews feel Peter is their champion and those who are Orthodox feel he is their champion. He just has that knack." Hillel Student President Rachel Lefkowitz spoke of Tarlow's accessibility to students, even when he is traveling. "You are there when we need you, and you'll never know how much you mean to us", she said before giving him an oversized greeting card signed by her fellow students.

The banquet also celebrated Hillel's eighty-plus years of existence at Texas A&M. It was created in 1920 to provide a support network and a source of religious guidance for Jewish students.

Rabbi Tarlow says that it was a Hillel before there was a Hillel organization, since it was created three years before the B'nai B'rith National Hillel movement began on the University of Illinois campus. Historians continue to call the Illinois site the first Hillel, even though the A&M facility had the same objectives and a similar name.

Rabbi Tarlow said he hopes to remain in College Station for a long time, a place where he initially felt out of place but that he now considers home. "As long as you'll have me, I'll be here," he said.

■ TJHS

WINTER MEETING IN SOUTH PADRE – THE BEST UNDER THE SUN!

Texas Jewish Historical Society members from around the state met on South Padre Island February 6-8, 2004 for the Winter 2004 quarterly meeting, where they enjoyed a weekend of entertaining and informative events and activities. So that you can enjoy a glimpse into that special three-day weekend, we have included in this newsletter the presentations given by various members of the local Jewish community as well as photos on pages 14-15.



Rusty & Mitzi Milste
on their famed red s

On Friday evening, we traveled by bus to Temple Beth El in nearby Brownsville, where we enjoyed Shabbat dinner, services, and an Oneg Shabbat. Saturday included a tour of the Jewish cemetery, the original Temple building, as well as many other historical buildings that were once Jewish-owned businesses. Many local Temple members attended the Saturday dinner at the Radisson Resort, where several presented their family histories, included on the next several pages of this newsletter.

MORRIS EDELSTEIN

Presented By Ben Edelstein at the TJHS Quarterly Meeting in South Padre Island Feb. 7, 2004



Morris Edelstein ventured from K a l v r i a , Lithuania, to Ellis Island in 1906. He was sixteen-years-old, one of ten siblings –

seven boys and three girls. I shall refer to Morris Edelstein as Papa.

Years before, Papa had been expelled from Chader. His father, Haskell Edelstein, hired a tutor to educate the seven boys at home. The girls did not need an education. However, the oldest sister, Rose, was the only person who could keep Papa in line, so she was allowed to attend the classes. She became the most learned of the group.

While traveling by train to Eagle Pass, Papa looked quite peaked. A fellow passenger asked him in German what was his problem. He replied that he had not eaten any food for several days, as he knew no English to order food. The passenger led him to the dining car and ordered a meal for him. Afterwards Papa learned to order food himself. He finally arrived in Eagle Pass, where his brother, Abraham, met him. The two peddled their wares house-to-house in Eagle Pass, the surrounding

ranches, and in Piedras Negras, Mexico. They sold blankets, quilts, bedspreads, and pictures. The pictures were retrieved from customers and sent to New York where they were enlarged, colored with crayons, and then framed to make 24"x30" pictures. These were proudly displayed on parlor walls. Papa carried his wares in two large suitcases. He learned English and Spanish simultaneously and was equally fluent in both.

Papa always wanted to play the violin. He took lessons in Piedras Negras. However, his musical career was short-lived. His brother could no longer bear the sounds of his practicing.

Papa lived in Eagle Pass for six years, and saved \$4,000. In 1912, when the first railroad was built to Brownsville, Papa took the train to Brownsville and liked it. He rented a room on the corner of 13th and East Elizabeth Streets, across the street from a two-story building with high ceilings that was owned by the King Ranch. Papa rented a 25-foot space in the building, which he later enlarged so he could add furniture to his stock.

Papa eventually rented the entire building and then purchased it from

the King Ranch in 1920. He Architect Alex Woolrich, remodeled the building, adding more stories. The second passenger elevator in Brownsville was added. Within 10 years, Papa opened seven furniture stores.

Papa used many gimmicks to traffic into his stores. There were radios and no televisions. He manufactured painted child rockers made of solid wood slats upholstered seats, and sold them for \$1.95 -- 25 cents down, and 25 cents a week. This "special" brought customers into the stores. He borrowed a huge Python snake for a display in the front window. All well until the snake vanished. Papa later found sleeping soundly at the bottom of the elevator shaft. Another of Papa's gimmicks was to display Simmons bedding in the windows with attractive figures models sleeping on them. Needless to say, this drew crowds of people.

In 1915, Papa went to Galveston, Texas to court his soon-to-be wife when a killer hurricane struck South Padre Island. There were no sea walls at that time and water was waist deep over the Island.

Edelstein, continued,

Bodies were washed up from cemeteries and many people drowned. Papa took the first train back to Brownsville, but Mexican bandits derailed the train near Olmito, Texas and robbed and killed or wounded the passengers.

When they got to where Papa was seated he spoke to them in fluent Spanish, "Por favor deje mi veliz." The bandits mistook him for a Mexican and passed by him. They grabbed a fellow passenger and threw him against the wall, getting ready to kill him. Papa shouted, "No lo maten, es aleman." "Do not kill him, he is German," which he was not. In those days, the Germans provided the bandits with guns and ammunition to drive all the settlers from Texas. The bandits let the fellow go.

In 1915, General Blanco commanded the Mexican soldiers who were fighting to dislodge Pancho Villa's troops from Matamoros. During this time, Papa furnished a temporary hospital for the wounded at what became known as the Jessie Dennet Building, located between 12th and 13th Streets. Between 1915 and 1918, Papa received many requests from Pancho Villa's bandits to buy guns and ammunition for them. They even delivered a large trunk filled with gold for this purpose. Papa thanked them for their trust in him, but told them he could not help. Papa would sell 10 percent of his goods at or below cost to attract people to his

stores. One time he purchased a railroad car of war surplus cans of tuna fish that he sold for pennies. Shortly after the birth of his eighth child – two had died – a group of citizens called on Papa with an ultimatum: "No more children or they would tar and feather him and run him out of town." This threat apparently worked.

Papa suffered many tragedies in his lifetime. He witnessed hurricanes that blew roofs off stores; he suffered a major fire in our central warehouse and manufacturing plant. He did not have enough insurance to cover this loss. However, due to his strong European stock, he always managed to come back. He lost 13 stores in the depression, with the creditors settling for 40 cents on the dollar. This settlement legally released Papa from further obligations, however as soon as he was able, he paid his creditors the remaining amounts. He even offered to pay interest, but they refused to take it.

Papa brought over 20 families to the United States from Europe before World War II, saving them from Hitler's ovens. He spoke eight languages – Lithuanian, Russian, German, Polish, Hebrew, Yiddish, English and Spanish.

Papa's best friend was Ben Freudenstein. One day Ben delivered a piano to store at Papa's warehouse. Several months later, when he came

to get the piano, Papa informed him that he had donated the piano to one of the local churches. Ben asked how Papa could give away his piano without his consent. Papa replied that he did it in Ben's name and how proud he was of Ben to donate the piano. Later, Ben claimed that Papa wanted him to pay the \$3 to have the piano tuned!

Papa was a learned man and loved to read. He had volumes of books in Hebrew, English and Spanish. He worked six full days a week. However, when he came home Saturday night between nine and ten o'clock, the kids were waiting for him to load food and camping equipment into the car and drive to Boca Chica Beach to spend the night and all day Sunday. Some Sundays we would go crabbing, always bringing home one or two sacks full of big blue crabs. We never imagined that Papa was entitled to any rest.

Papa was known for his generosity to charitable causes – Jewish and non-Jewish. He donated quietly, making it difficult for anyone else to know. He gave the City of Brownsville land for a City Park.

Some 45 years ago, at one of our personnel meetings, an employee asked Papa to what he attributed his success, thinking he would learn the secret to instant riches. Without hesitation, Papa said it was a four-letter word: W-O-R-K.

■ TJHS

When Papa died on May 2, 1967 he left a name admired and remembered by the community to this day and cherished by his family – myself (Ben Edelstein), Reuben & Bernice Edelstein, Arthur & Eunice Edelstein of Houston, Marion Cohn of Houston, Helen Silverstone of Austin, Ruth Sidelnik of McAllen (deceased). Ruth's husband still lives in McAllen and just celebrated myself (Ben Edelstein), his 90th birthday.

GERALD SHER

Presented at the TJHS Quarterly Meeting, South Padre Island, Feb. 7, 2004



A few weeks ago, I received a phone call, and with some arm-twisting by Gay Greenspan, I was persuaded to talk about my family's contact with Temple Beth El in Brownsville, Texas. I felt it would be of interest to reference our family background and the journey prior to us discovering Temple Beth El.

My wife, Susan's family (on her mother's side), originated from Constantinople, Turkey, migrated to Palestine, and was one of the original settlers in Petah Tikvah. The family now is Byala and we are pleased to have her mother, Rose Meyers, with us tonight. Susan's great-grandfather was Rabbi Wofenson. After moving his family to South Africa, he decided he wanted to be buried on the Mount of Olives, so the family moved back to Palestine. After his death, the family returned to South Africa, settling in Durban.

Susan's father's family originated in Poland and Germany, prior to coming to South Africa. The family name is

Meyer. My family does not have such an exotic and colorful background. My parents were born in Lithuania. My mother was born in a little town called Pesvatin. Her maiden name was Zale. My father's family was born in Shavil and we are not certain if the name had changed, but SHER it is! My mother's family settled in Petera, South Africa. My father arrived later and escaped the rise of communism in Russia in 1916 by immigrating to the United States. He and his father spent a few years in America before immigrating to South Africa.

Our parents all met and married in South Africa, where Susan and I were born. Susan and I were married in Johannesburg and lived in Durban prior to coming to the United States with our four children. We arrived in this country on August 3, 1976 with the help of Jacob Javits, the then-Senator from New York. We settled in White Plains, New York, and became members of Temple Israel. Our oldest son's Bar Mitzvah was celebrated there on December 25, 1976. In 1977, I was offered an opportunity in a private anesthesia practice in Dallas, Texas, so we moved to Dallas and became

members of Congregation Sheari Israel. We are currently out-of-town members of the synagogue.

When I retired in 1997, we moved South Padre Island. After a few months, we began to look for a congregation that matched our needs. How do you find a synagogue in a strange land? Naturally, we thought in the Yellow Pages! But there were none. Temple Beth El in Brownsville seemed a good starting place and one day we journeyed across the Laguna Madre in search of Temple Beth El. We lost our way a few times, but finally arrived in the parking lot. Our first impression was of a well-maintained facility and a warm community. On entering the building, we found further pride and caring by this community. We knocked on Gay's door and she preceded to charm us into becoming members – after being very tactful to find out if we were of the Hebrew faith.

Susan and I took no time to decide to join this community, and we are very happy to be here. I wish to thank the Texas Jewish Historical Society for inviting us to share our journey.

■ TJH

THE TRAVELS OF ENRIQUE, HEINRICH, HARRY TZVI AND BACK TO HARRY

Presented by Bob Paris on behalf of Harry Holzman at the TJHS Quarterly Meeting, Feb. 7, 2004



It began in Cuba. My parents – may they rest in peace – left Poland before World War II. Not allowed to enter the United States, they received entry permits to enter Cuba. I was born in Cuba and named after my paternal grandfather, Herschel Lieb, which in Spanish is Enrique Leon. At the end of the war, my parents with their extra luggage – me – received entry papers to enter the United States, the "Goldena Medina." We arrived in Miami and the Immigration Officials decided to change my Spanish

name to an English one – Heinrich. It beats me how that thought that was a good English name! That name did not stay with me. Either my parents, or perhaps my first grade teacher, changed it to Harry, which sounded a lot better than Heinrich. Unfortunately Harry didn't stay with me for long.

Most of my Mother's family was in Israel and she wanted to live there, so off we went. I entered the fifth grade in Israel. Harry is an English name and I needed a Hebrew

Harry Holzman, continued on page

name. Remember my grandfather, Herschel? Herschel translated into English means deer, the animal. Deer in Hebrew is Tzvi – so, my Hebrew name became Tzvi.

That name stayed with me through my school years and the years spent in the Israel Defense Forces, plus a couple of years of civilian life in Israel.

My mother's sister, brother and nephew were in business here in Brownsville. My aunt and uncle, Mary and Max Prince, wanted to retire, so they asked a cousin and me if we would like to buy a piece of their good business. We said yes, but I needed to get to Brownsville, so my parents sent me money to add to a small savings that I had. I sold my stamp collection and all of that allowed me to purchase a ticket to New York. It certainly was not First Class, but very low in the ship.

I do not remember how many were in my cabin or how long it took from the Port of Haifa in Israel to get to New

York. We did celebrate New Year's on the ship and when

I arrived in New York, I stayed for a week with an aunt and then went to Los Angeles to visit my parents and my brother.

I arrived at Brownsville International Airport in April 1964, and my uncle and cousins met me and took me to my new home. Truthfully, after a few weeks, I was ready to call it quits because all I did was work and sleep. I was not used to that, but I decided to stick it out and finally did acclimate myself to life on the border. Well, I'm glad I did.

Max Prince has since died and Mary has remarried and now lives in Israel. You could not make me leave my home – Brownsville. Thank you for inviting me and listening to my story.

■ TJHS

CLAUDE HARAI

Presented at the TJHS Quarterly Meeting Banquet in South Padre Island on Feb. 7, 2004



I was born in Alexandria, Egypt, land of the Pharaohs and land of Moses. My parents were also born in Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt. My grandparents had migrated from Lebanon in the early 1900's. My parents divorced when I was eight-years-old, and I was raised by my mother and grandparents.

Egypt was a kingdom ruled by King Farouk and was governed under the influence of the British government. The King was very sympathetic towards the large Jewish community that lived in Egypt where Arabs and Jews worked and socialized harmoniously. My grandfather owned a commodity and money business, which dealt in buying and selling gold and silver foreign monies and real estate properties. Most of his

customers were Arab, however the King's personal secretary would pick up my grandfather and take him to the palace. The King, who was an avid collector of gold coins, would then select the coins he wished to purchase. This in itself shows the good relationship between Jews and Arabs at that time.

World War II ended and a wave of anti-Semitism began throughout the Middle East. The State of Israel was born and National Arab Leagues began to form. Extremists and fundamentalist groups were taking power within the government and began a campaign of targeting all Jews.

Harassment and pressure began at all levels - including business, social and otherwise. Direct confrontations happened daily and began to gain momentum. The King, who was the only supporter of the Jews, began to lose power and was eventually

dethroned by the army led by General Abdul Nasser. King Farouk was sent into exile.

With the situation deteriorating, my Grandfather decided to send me to Europe with some other family members. He remained in Egypt to conclude his business, since once he left the country, all of his properties and remaining belongings would be confiscated.

We settled in Paris for one year while waiting for my Grandfather to join us. I was sent to Geneva, Switzerland to continue my education. I became a Bar Mitzvah in Geneva and the family tried to get permanent residency and citizenship. Because of strict immigration laws, we soon realized that would not be possible, so we searched for another country with friendlier immigration laws.

Harai, continued on page 12

We found this friendliness in Uruguay, a lovely country, bordered by Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, in South America. Uruguay had a stable democratic government and quite a large Jewish community. Most of the Jewish citizens in Uruguay had immigrated there from Europe and the Middle East after World War II.

I completed my formal education in Uruguay, and then applied to several universities in the United States. I was admitted to Georgia Tech in Atlanta and earned a degree in Engineering. It was in Atlanta that I met my then-future wife, LaVerne. I graduated in 1959 and I moved to New York, where I worked for an electronic component manufacturer who made devices for the color TV and communications industry.

I began working in research development and was asked to run the entire operation. This was when I sent for LaVerne and we were married.

In the early 1970's, our manufacturing facility began to encounter heavy competition from Japan and some Southeast Asian countries. Labor costs began to increase rapidly and our bottom line became affected. A new program called the "Maquilla Program" was begun by the United States government to help companies fight this competition. It involved allowing manufacturing companies to move their operations offshore, export new material from the U.S. to complete the products abroad, and then return them to the U.S. duty free.

We began to look for a location along

the United States-Mexican border. Our criteria were the proximity to the U.S. market, good communications, transportation, and a pleasant working and living environment. Brownsville-Matamoros fit our criteria perfectly!

In three months, we moved the entire company from New York and were in full production. That was 32 years ago, and it has been a successful move.

My family coming to the Tip of Texas was a long arduous journey that began in Egypt and moved to Europe and South America, and then to the United States. I would like to thank the members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society for asking me to share my family history with you tonight.

■ TJHS

LARRY HOLTZMAN

Presented during the TJHS Quarterly Meeting Shabbat Services, Temple Beth El, Brownsville, Feb. 6, 2004

I welcome the members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society to Temple Beth El. I was born in Brownsville, went to public school here and have made my living in Brownsville.

Brownsville's history includes the first battle of the Mexican-American War and the last battle of the Civil War. Although there were a few Jews in the Brownsville-Matamoros area before the Civil War, it was the Civil War that put Brownsville on the map as a strategic area. The Union ships had blockaded all the ports from Savannah to Corpus Christi, but they could not blockade a Mexican Port. European ships picked up Confederate clothing, in exchange for different clothing, food and other goods. This took place in the town of Baghdad, Mexico, at the mouth of the Rio Grande.

A Mr. Hornstein was a river pilot working between Baghdad and Brownsville and his two sisters visited him and married in Brownsville. A Confederate soldier, Adolph Bollack of New Orleans, had fond memories of Brownsville, and he returned with his family. Most sacred among his family's possessions was a Torah, which had been brought to America from France by Bollack's ancestors. I remember there was a Bollack's Department Store in downtown Brownsville when I was very young.

Brownsville became a mercantile center for the area during the early years of the last century, which attracted a number of Jewish settlers. Jewish services were held in homes, and later in the Masonic

Temple. In 1931, a building was built by the congregation and dedicated as Temple Beth El.

In 1936, my Dad, Ely Holtzman, who had immigrated from Russia in 1921, sold his neighborhood grocery store in St. Louis. He read a newspaper advertisement inviting people to buy fertile land in warm South Texas in the Rio Grande Valley.

The word "warm" motivated him. He had suffered in the Russian winter and it was snowing in St. Louis. He boarded a train and got off at the end of the line in a land of heat and palm trees. He told me that he knew he had found a home when he stepped out of the El Jardin Hotel and people were friendly to him.

Holtzman, continued on page 13

A Jewish immigrant in Texas does not look to the classified ads for job opportunities. Ely needed a business, so he met the Jewish residents and inquired what business was needed in the town of less than 18,000 people. There were plenty of grocery stores, but the nearest junkyard was in Harlingen. Ely rented land from the railroad, hired a man who knew which metals were more valuable and went into the business of buying and selling scrap iron and metal.

In 1939, he met, wooed, and married the daughter of a dry goods storeowner from Taft, Texas. He moved her into his house on the grounds of the junkyard. Ely and Ann Holtzman had two sons. I was born in 1941 and my brother in 1945.

My earliest memory at three years of age is sitting clutched in my mother's lap in an old car, that my Dad later told me was a Packard, watching the street underneath me. The car had no floor. I sensed my mother's fear, but I was fascinated watching the road just a few feet away as it whizzed by. Every car we had at that time was bought as salvage, but with a little tinkering, some would actually run – at least for a while.

My earliest Temple memory is sitting on the hard wooden pew and listening to Sam Perl, our lay-Rabbi. I thought his booming Yiddish-accented voice must be how God would sound.

The 1950's were prosperous years for Brownsville, which attracted more Jewish businessmen to the city. Mexican tariffs had made the border an important shopping area for Mexican citizens and smugglers. My

Dad sold the junkyard to his brother, Bill, who moved here with his wife and two daughters. Ely began an auto parts business in downtown Brownsville, joining the other downtown Jewish merchants who were doing well in businesses such as jewelry, clothing, furniture and Army surplus. The Jewish families were moving into the new neighborhoods as their economic conditions improved.

When I was eleven in 1952, we moved into our new home with central air conditioning and a room called a "den." The "den" had a built-in bar and a large 20-inch TV, which received both channels of black and white programs. My parents' socializing was within the Jewish community, either in the new Temple Social Hall, which had been built next to the Temple, or in friends' homes. I remember many costume parties.

By 1955, there were approximately 50 Jewish families in Temple Beth El. Jewish men and women were extremely active in the community. Sam Perl led many goodwill trips to Mexico for the Chamber of Commerce. Other Jewish men and women were founding members of the Society for Crippled Children, the local chapter of Hadassah, the United Way, and the Boy's and Girl's Club. Jewish leaders served the Public Utilities Board, Rotary Club, Shriners, and as Mayor of Brownsville.

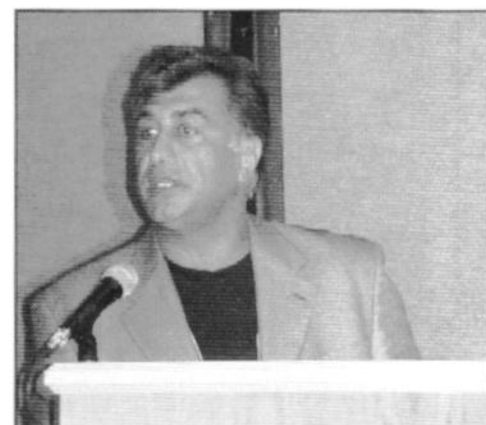
My favorite teacher in Sunday school was Pauline King, daughter of Snake King, who sold snakes, parrots, mountain lions, and other exotic animals all over the world from Brownsville. Pauline enjoyed

teaching by directing theatrical productions for every Jewish holiday. I was King Ahasuerus and Pharaoh for so many years, I began to get a Rex Complex.

I graduated Brownsville High School in 1959 and the University of Texas at Austin in 1962. I returned to Brownsville to join my Dad in the auto parts business. The population of Brownsville was 50,000. I was one of the few Jewish second-generation to return to Brownsville.

The 1960's and 1970's were good years and other Jewish families came from South America and elsewhere to join the Brownsville business scene with electronics stores and other businesses. Jewish doctors and attorneys also came to Brownsville and Harlingen. In 1981, the land for the current Temple Beth El was purchased, but a series of peso devaluations hurt the economy, which delayed the financing of a new Temple building.

Holtzman, continued on page 16

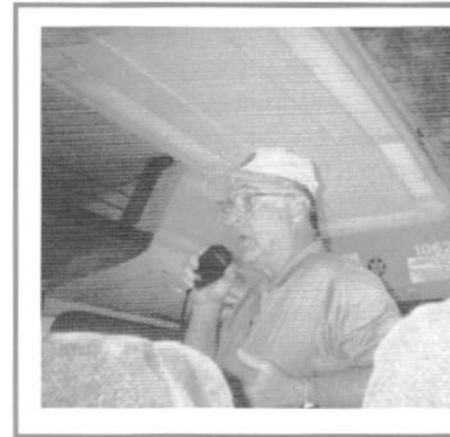


David Suissa of Brownsville also presented his family history at the Texas Jewish Historical Society Saturday evening banquet. David attended the event with his wife, Lori.

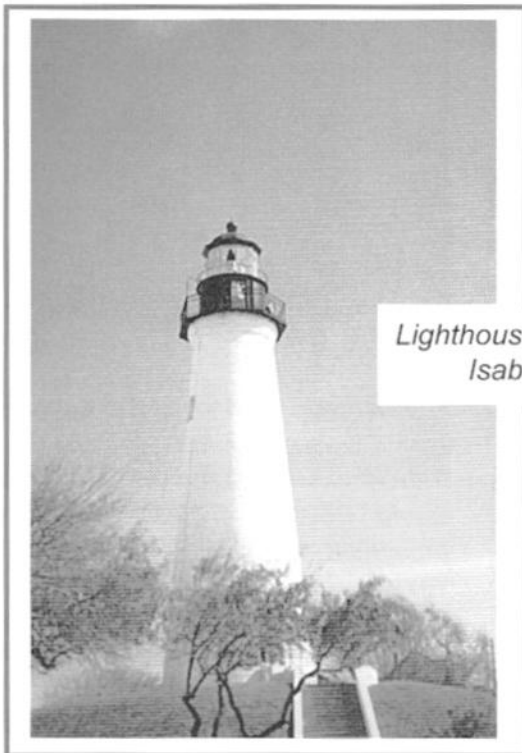
TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S WINTER MEETING SOUTH



Historical Marker in the Brownsville Hebrew Cemetery



Larry Jokl serves as the official TJHS tour guide as the bus weaves its way up and down the streets of Brownsville, passing many old buildings that once housed Jewish-owned businesses.



Lighthouse in Port Isabelle



A headstone in the Brownsville Hebrew Cemetery. Many the headstones are from the 1800's and are inscribed in Spanish.

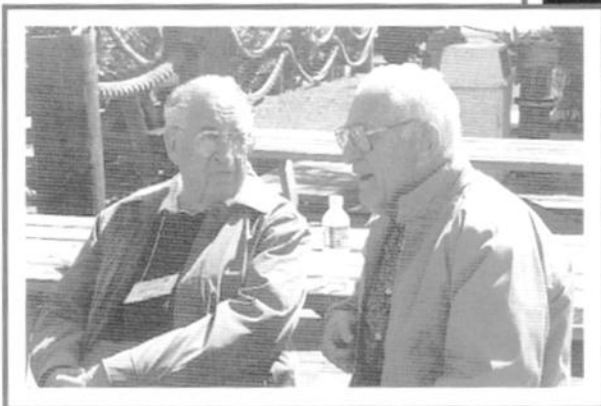
PADRE ISLAND – BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2004



◀ *Barry Green, Susan Elsner Furman, Ima Joy Gandler, Blanche Sheiness, Shirley & Marvin Rich.*



▶ *Larry and Helen Wilk, Joyce and Jack Gerrick, Davie Lou and Jack Solka*



◀ *Marvin Leshin and Jake Tractenberg enjoy time together Saturday afternoon in Port Isabelle.*



▲ *Rabbi Michelle Greenberg (right) w/other TJHS visitors listens to speakers at Saturday evening's banquet.*

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 26



A generous bequest was left to Temple Beth El from Morris and Mae Rose Stein, former owners of the *Brownsville Herald* newspaper, for the construction of a Sunday School building in honor of their only son, Lewis Albert Stein, who was killed in action during World War II. Many congregants donated money in a Building Fund Drive, which allowed us to complete construction of the building in 1989. I was proud to join with the group of congregants who walked the Torahs the few miles from the old Temple to the new one.

I look back on the history of the Jewish congregation in Brownsville and remember the characters I knew. I wonder if it was the frontier nature of the border that attracted such wondrous Jewish people. I remember them telling jokes in Yiddish, holding parties and dances in elaborate hand-made costumes, playing poker in the social hall after services (10% of each pot went to

help finance the Temple), going to Monterrey together for New Year's Eve, and all the wonderful cooking that accompanied each wedding and Bar- or Bat-Mitzvah.

I remember Sam Perl, our lay-Rabbi, who was a leader in the community and owned a men's clothing store. He would open your suit jacket to see if you were wearing his label. One joker sewed an Edelstein's Mattress label in his jacket, which stunned Sam, who wondered if Edelstein's was going into competition, and then he laughed his big laugh. He had a radio show devoted to local news and when he mentioned his store on the air his signature expression was "at Poil Brudder's, we do love everybody."

Another character, Bernie Whitman, owned my favorite store downtown selling Army surplus and more. There was a full suit of armor on display, as well as a skeleton and a

young, tame mountain lion that patrolled the aisles of merchandise.

Whitman's Army Store was where I purchased my Boy Scout items and later my shotgun shells.

Sammy King, son of Snake King, was a friend of mine in Sunday school, but my mother rarely allowed me to visit his family's compound. She was sure I would be eaten by one of the mountain lions. Sammy became an entertainer in Las Vegas, as a ventriloquist.

We look back to see the lessons in our history. The Brownsville Jewish community taught that we are at our best when we join together in religious and social settings. Invite everyone to a party, laugh a lot, eat well, get out in the community and be your own character.

■ TJHS

A TAPESTRY OF JEWISH LEARNING

In conjunction with the Tapestry of Jewish Learning, Buddy Freed of Austin, Texas, and David Lusky and Jack Gerrick of Fort Worth presented a program on the History of Jews in Texas. "Tapestry" is in its second year and is sponsored by the Austin Jewish Community.

The week is comprised of over 65 seminars covering many aspects of Jewish learning, from cooking, to yarmulke making, and everything in between. "The History of Jews In Texas" was the first of the many seminars forced to turn people away because they had reached the capacity of 26 enrollees. Buddy

Freed, who moved to Austin after living in Fort Worth for over 46 years, chaired the program. Freed and Gerrick called on their backgrounds of growing up Jewish in small South Texas towns, while Lusky spoke of his experiences living in Fort Worth.

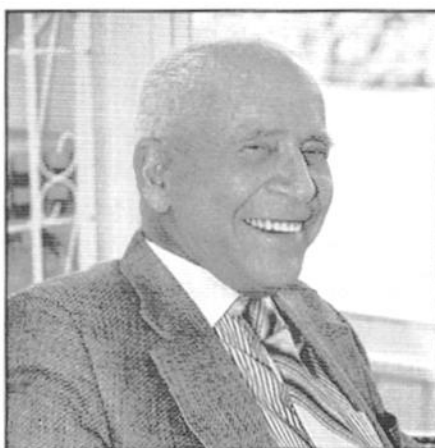
Freed told stories of many of the people he had known, from Sam Schwartz who was Mayor of Eagle Pass, to Charles Gurinsky who came to Texas and built a business of trading cattle, horses and mules, and of his farm implement operation. Freed also spoke of his father, who came from Russia to Texas via New York, and his success in the canning, farming and ranching businesses.

Jack Gerrick spoke of living in Deep South Texas and how a teacher beat him because of his refusal to recite Christian prayers in school. He told of the Mexican General Rabinowitz who regularly attended poker games in his family's home. General Rabinowitz was in charge of the Mexican Army in the areas joining Texas along the Rio Grande. Among other stories was one about a man known only as "Rope Walker," who fell to his death while performing on a rope stretched between two buildings. As he lay dying, he asked for a Rabbi and was subsequently given a Jewish burial.

Tapestry, continued on page 17

MAURICE "DAVE" BACH ABILENE, TEXAS' CANTOR FOR 30 YEARS

By Helene Wachs*



Maurice "Dave" Bach is the catalyst that has kept Temple Mizpah of Abilene, Texas, and its small, aging Jewish community alive.

Dave's mother, Mathilda Lewis (Jospe) graduated from the London Conservatory of Music and gave piano, violin and voice lessons. One of her opera students was a cantor/mohel/shoet by the name of Joshua Bacharach who originally came from the Vilnius Yeshiva. They fell in love, married and had Maurice "Dave" in Portsmouth, England in 1923.

They then joined Mathilda's widowed mother in Montreal, Canada. Shortly after that, with a new stage name of Bach, Joshua accepted a cantorial position in New Orleans. He traveled throughout the state of Louisiana on concert tours. Because of the tragic death of an older sibling who died of leukemia at age 12, the family moved to Nashville, Tennessee.

During the times of wireless radio and headsets, Dave's parents headlined a one-hour opera program on radio station WSM. With her English accent, Mathilda would

narrate, and Joshua would sing an aria and other songs in foreign languages. Guests would also perform, including Madam Gali Curci. The program became very successful. When the 1929 Crash occurred, with his savings from Europe gone, Joshua lost his voice and could no longer continue his Opera Hour.

The owners of the radio station replaced the Opera Hour with a program called "The Grand Old Opry." The family moved to Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1931, and gradually, Mathilda became owner of the rooming house, and Joshua became a traveling Chazan - as his grandfather did in the old country.

In Atlantic City, Dave was a member of the Shul Choir, ran track, and graduated in 1941 with a Jewish War Veterans college scholarship. He enlisted in the 84th Infantry Division from Lafayette, Louisiana, that went to Scotland just before D-Day. He fought as a rifleman foot soldier in Holland, Belgium, and Germany.

He was discharged from the Army in 1946 as a Staff Sergeant and under the GI Bill of Rights, attended Temple University and Gratz Hebrew College in Philadelphia. In his senior year, he married Lucie and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Shortly after, the Korean conflict began, and Dave was called back. He went to Navigation School and became an Officer in 1950. He went

Bach, continued on page 18

Gerrick also related a story about a Jew at the siege of the Alamo. He added to Freed's brief history of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, providing information about membership in the TJHS, and about the repository of documents in The Baker Section of the LBJ Library at the University of Texas in Austin.

Many attendees asked questions and were anxious to tell their own stories. Several people spoke of their own family members coming to Texas through Galveston and then moving to small Texas towns. Many carried produce and/or goods on their backs or on pack animals, moving on to establish respected businesses throughout Texas. Some of the men returned to Jewish communities to meet and marry Jewish girls.

In the context of this seminar many references were made of the Texas Jewish Historical Society's efforts to capture these stories and record them for future generations.

As Freed said, "If we do not write these histories today, they will be lost forever. Future generations will be denied the joy of knowing the wonderful answers to 'where did I come from?'"

■ TJHS

Check it out!

**The Texas Jewish
Historical Society**

Website

<http://www.txjhs.org>

to Japan, and was joined by Lucie, where their daughter, Cynthia, was born. The Army sent him to the University of Houston for a Masters Degree and he was promoted to Captain in 1957.

His second child, a son, David, was born in Houston. He then went to Colorado, where he worked as a personnel officer. He joined the special air mission that supported embassies in Europe, Africa, Near and Far East and Iron Curtain countries. Although he never removed the "H" from his dog tags, he was provided with a baptismal certificate so that he could enter Arab countries.

In 1962, the Bachs were assigned to Rome, New York, where he was a project engineer of over-the-horizon radar detection systems. He would brief the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development before it was taken over by satellites. In 1965, he became a Major and was assigned to Edwards Air Force Base as Director of Administration. He also flew combat missions as a navigator in Vietnam. In 1970, the family was transferred to Rhein Main, Frankfurt, Germany, where his two children graduated from high school.

After being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Dave went to Greece as Commander of a NATO nuclear squadron. In 1974, the Bach family moved to Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas. Here he commanded the Airlift Control Squadron until he retired in 1979. Among his many honors are the

Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star.

With no one to lead services at Temple Mizpah, Dave felt he could fill the job. His brother, who was a Cantor in Allentown, PA, sent him tapes to help him. His Hebrew was good, so he was "hired"! In thirty years, he has officiated at one bris, one marriage, eight funerals, and has helped 18 young people become a Bar- or Bat-Mitzvah. He has visited Jewish inmates at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Prison near Abilene, and was one of the co-founders of the Abilene Interfaith Council.

Cynthia lives in California. She is a famous jewelry designer for Neiman Marcus. Oscar winners have worn some of her designs. Bach's son David works for a subsidiary of the Voice of America in Washington, D.C. He has a new age jazz band called David Bach Consortium that plays in the Washington, D.C. area. His grandson, Damian will graduate from high school in Baltimore, MD in May 2004.

Temple Mizpah of Abilene has been very fortunate to have Dave Bach as their "Rabbi."

**Editor's Note: This article was written by Helene Wachs before she and her husband, Dr. Steven Wachs, were killed in an automobile accident. We are very grateful to Helene and extend our deepest sympathy to their families.*

■ TJHS

JEWISH HERALD VOICE ON THE NET

Submitted by Don Teter

The Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society has undertaken a project to index all of the life-cycle events found in the *Jewish Herald Voice*. This paper, currently in publication in Houston, Texas, began in 1908 and published news from towns and cities throughout Texas.

Volunteers in the Houston area are engaged in the project, which will take two more years to complete.

The index for the years 1908-1921 is now available on Jewish Gen on the Net at www.jewishgen.org

Under **research**,
Click on **databases**
Then click on **America**
Then click on **The Houston Herald Voice Database.**

There are instructions for finding people in the index and obtaining desired articles. More data will be added to the database as additional information becomes available.

Anyone residing in the Houston area who owns a computer may volunteer to work on this project. The publication is on CD's so that people may work from their homes. Necessary training will be given on an individual basis.

Contact Mervin Rosenbaum at mervinr@hal-pc.org or phone 281-424-8765 for information.

■ TJHS

Charles B. Hart Outgoing President

On May 2, 2004, Charles B. Hart completes his term as President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. Many, many thanks to Charles for all he has done during the past two years, and to his wife, Jan, for her support as well as her own active involvement in the TJHS.

Since being elected president, I have had many requests (ok, maybe one), for information about my life. So, here is a synopsis of the life and times of Charles B. (Chuck) Hart.

I was born on June 21, 1935 in Houston, Texas, where I attended Roberts Elementary School, Lanier Junior High and Lamar High School. My mother, Elizabeth (Elsie) Morgenstern Hart was born and raised in New York City and moved to Houston as a young woman. Her family came from Germany. My father, Hyman (Bud) Hart, was born in Navasota, Texas and moved to Houston as a young man. His family was from Germany and Prussia.

My family, which includes my sister, Cacilie Hart Daily, were active members of Temple Beth Israel. My mother and father were active in Brotherhood, Sisterhood and B'nai B'rith. Mother was President of a B'nai B'rith chapter, as well as District President and Sisterhood President. She also taught Sunday School for many years. I became a Bar Mitzvah and was Confirmed at Temple Beth Israel.

My Scouting career started with Cub Scouts, advancing through the ranks of Senior Scouting, to obtain my Eagle Scout Award. I was also a member of the Order of the Arrow,

the Scouting Honor organization. Camping was a big part of my life, culminating with two High Adventure backpacking trips to Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimmaron, New Mexico.

My music career included short-lived piano lessons, cornet in Junior High Band and trumpet in the High School Orchestra and the ROTC Band.

My first "high paying" job was sacking groceries at the local Weingarten's Grocery Store in the "Village" on Saturdays. I had neighborhood paper routes and later worked at the local Texaco Service Station, where I learned how to pump gas, check oil, fix flats, etc. Through college, I worked in the central heat and air conditioning field, doing metal work and installation. During several Christmas holiday seasons, I worked my way up to supervisor over a number of people in the gift wrapping department at the Sakowitz downtown store. After High School graduation, I spent five summers in Center Point at Camp Karankawa in charge of the horses and riding program.

My family celebrated all the major religious holidays, having Passover Seder in our home, many times with extended family. Mother did not keep a kosher home, but lit candles

every Friday night and had a formal Sabbath dinner in the dining room, complete with challah and wine.

I was drafted into the United States Army in April, 1958. I followed Elvis Presley through induction at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas and Basic and Advanced Training at Fort Hood, Texas. He was the only one to have a private haircut at the Post barber shop. Afterwards, the Military Police swept up the hair and took the combs, etc., and burned them so that no one had access to selling souvenirs.

I was trained in artillery fire direction control. However, upon learning that the division band was looking for musicians, I auditioned and was accepted, but I was told that I was going to Germany and orders could not be changed.

Upon arriving in Germany, after 30 days of playing army games in three-to-four feet of snow, I found a U.S. Army Band and was accepted into that band. The band played in many military reviews and parades, and concerts for orphanages and nursing homes. In addition, one trumpet player and one drummer played retreat each evening at flag lowering. It was so cold during the winter, that there were often icicles hanging off the spit valve of my trumpet.

See Hart, continued page 20

I enjoyed traveling throughout Europe while on military leave. Upon release from active duty, I returned to Houston. In 1960, I enrolled in the University of Houston.

In June that year, I was employed as the horse wrangler and horseback-riding instructor at Echo Hill Ranch, a summer camp in Medina, Texas, owned and operated by Dr. and Mrs. S. Thomas Friedman. During the summer, I met a young lady named Janet Marilyn Siegel, who was the camp secretary. Unbeknownst to her, when groups of counselors went to town on their day off, I was keeping a watchful eye on her.

In September, I called her at the University of Texas where she was a student, and we started dating. On one date in November, after driving to Austin and eating dinner together, we drove to Hamilton, Texas to watch Jan's brother play in a high school football game. I met Jan's parents and some of her relatives. While I was checking them out, they were checking me out. Later, I asked her if she would marry me. She said yes, and the rest is history. On June 4, 1961, we married in Fort Worth at Ahavath Sholom with Rabbi Isador Garsek officiating. We spent our honeymoon with 100 kids, working at Echo Hill Ranch.

In the fall, I enrolled at the University of Houston and in November, I was recalled to active duty during the "Berlin Crisis." Jan and I moved to DeRidder,

Louisiana, while I was stationed at Fort Polk. Our daughter, Deborah Leigh (Debbie) was born in the U.S. Army Hospital in 1962. I was released from active duty during the summer. We moved to Medina, where I worked at Echo Hill Ranch for the remainder of the summer. Afterwards, I again enrolled into the University of Houston, and completed a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Agricultural Economics. During my last two years of school, I attended classes in the morning and worked afternoons at the "Appliance Hospital," owned by my cousin George Schnitzer. My first job after graduation was for Roosth and Genecov Production Company, as an Assistant Ranch Manager in charge of the beef cattle herd on a 12,000-acre ranch in Kaufman County. In 1965, our daughter, Katherine Helaine (Kathy) was born in the Kaufman Hospital. We were new members of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas when Rabbi Gerald Klein was also new.

In May that year, we moved to Henderson, Texas, where I went to work for the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Home Administration. I made loans to farmers, ranchers and rural communities based on the authorities that Congress gave the agency. While in Henderson, we joined Temple Emanu-El in Longview. In 1967, the agency moved to Uvalde, Texas, where I served as County Supervisor for three counties. I was a Charter Member of the Jaycees chapter in Uvalde and was elected their first Vice President. Our son, David

Wolf, was born in 1968 in Uvalde. The Agency next moved us back to East Texas, to Jacksonville. We joined Congregation Beth El in Tyler, where we were active for seven years and where Debbie became a Bat Mitvah.

In 1976 we moved to Woodbridge, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, D.C., where I worked in the National Office of the Department of Agriculture. I was selected to attend the American University Graduate Program and obtained a Masters in Applied Public Financial Management. We joined a Temple in Alexandria, Virginia where Kathy became a Bat Mitzvah and Debbie was confirmed. Upon completion of the Masters' program in 1978, being educated "on the hill," we moved back to "G-d's Country," locating in Temple, Texas, where the agency has its State office. We joined Temple Rodef Sholom in Waco where I was a Board Member, and we have been active members to the present. David became a Bat Mitzvah and was confirmed there. Although we have been out-of-town members of the congregations throughout our married lives, we established a Jewish home and provided a Jewish presence in our community. I retired from Civil Service with 32 years of service in 1994. Soon after retirement, Jan and I bought a motor home and began traveling. For six years we took extended trips across the country and Canada. The last four summers I returned as the wrangler and horseback-riding instructor at Echo Hill Ranch.

Hart, continued on page 2.

THE MARY ROSENFIELD STORY

By Ilene Rosenfield Robinson



Mary Rosenfield - now

As soon as I began to speak, my mother, Mary Meyers Rosenfield, taught me to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Mother understood the freedoms we have in America and her patriotism was more precious than gold.

Mary Rosenfield is a naturalized citizen. She was born in Lubcha, Minsk, Russia in 1910, where her family was not allowed to own property, could not travel outside their town without permission, could not attend school, could not vote, and had no religious freedom. When the Meyers (Osheerovsky in Russian) family arrived in America, she learned never to take these freedoms for granted. She worked to instill love of country in her family and worked in her community to enhance its meaning and importance.

Mother lives by the philosophy "make the world a better place." She has spent her ninety-three years in El Campo doing just that. If there was a civic project in El Campo, Mother was always there, offering support. I recall the Bees, the El Campo beautification group, (of which she was a Charter member), starting the Planter Project. Mother called her brothers in Hawaii and California to encourage their support, and we all joined her in buying planters to be placed in downtown El Campo.

My sister, Rita Sue, was born mentally challenged. Mother did not even blink an eye at the enormity of this problem, but attended to our needs, helped my father in his business, and still had time for tremendous volunteer projects and service clubs.

She served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion; held various positions in the El Campo Garden Club, where she is now an Honorary Member; was a Brownie leader; Sunday school teacher; founding President of the Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) in El Campo – the third Texas chapter of

ARC; served on the State Board for the Mental Retarded; was a member of the Art League; worked at Nightingale Hospital as a Pink Lady, and volunteered at the El Campo Museum. Because of Mary's encouragement, her family donated a building, known as the Normana Theater, to the El Campo Theater group. It is believed that Mother is the oldest living Lifetime Charter Member of Hadassah. She joined the Wharton Chapter of Hadassah when she was four-years-old because the founder, Henrietta Szold needed three more members to organize the Chapter. Mary still remembers Miss Szold as a tall lady wearing a hat that afternoon in Wharton. Mother is still active in the Wharton Chapter.

Rita Sue was the catalyst for a new approach to education in El Campo. Mother started the first school for the mentally retarded in a little cottage in her back yard. Several families benefited from Mother's efforts in this "home school" where Grace Dittert was hired as the first teacher.

The school expanded and was later incorporated into the El Campo public school curriculum now known as Special Education. Even though her daughter, Rita Sue, was unable to be part of the special classes in the El Campo School due to her profound retardation, Mary Rosenfield kept working for all the children of Texas - especially in El Campo. She worked diligently to bring a special education teacher to El Campo. She and her dear friend, Alva Spellman, traveled to San Marcos to the college to find a teacher, and furnished her apartment.



Mary Rosenfield - then

Rosenfield, continued on page 22

Mary Rosenfield had drive and vision. She looked ahead and questioned what would happen to these children when they became adults. Although she was unable to find land in Wharton County, she did encourage the George Foundation to support the Richmond State School that was built in the 1960s. This school has been an outstanding home and special community for the thousands of people from eleven countries who have lived there – including Rita Sue. Mary remains an active member in the Voice of the Retarded, Parents' Association for the Retarded of Texas, and the Richmond State School Parents' Association. Remembering what her parents instilled in her about Russia and the closed doors to education Mother took education seriously.

The El Campo Schools have deep meaning for her. They provided her with an excellent education. She established the first pep squad and still has an engraved cowbell from the 1920s. She attended the College of Industrial Arts (CIA) in Denton, TX, majoring in design and art. This led her to lifelong hobbies of painting and needlework.

Mother loves to read. While in high school, she and her aunt, Esther Bishkin, gathered books for the first library in El Campo. She exposed her children to art, ballet, drama, music and nature with endless after-school activities. She took my friends and me to many plays, concerts, ballets and museums in Houston. She formed a Junior Garden Club and we learned to compete in flower shows held in the USO Building.

Because of the religious persecution experienced by her family in Russia, Mary Rosenfield did not take the privilege of religious freedom lightly. Hebrew School was held in our home every Tuesday afternoon with the rabbi from Shearith Israel Synagogue in Wharton. We would travel to Wharton for Sunday school every week, and Mother taught there for a number of years.

Mother always remembered the teachings of her grandparents and of having the privilege of freedom of worship. She would always win arguments with me about attending Friday night football games. One of her great leadership qualities was the ability to lead her children in the right direction.

Mary Rosenfield is typical of the Jewish immigrants who came to Texas in the early 1900s. She is a long-time member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. An area of the Wharton County Historical Museum features a history of Jews in Wharton County, and her biography will be among the records. She was honored as El Campo's 2003 Citizen of the Year.

She is now a member of Congregation Beth Yeshurin in Houston and her oil painting of Moses and the Ten Commandments was accepted as part of the congregation's art collection. Mary Rosenfield is a gracious lady, and El Campo would be a much different place without her numerous deeds.

■ TJHS

HONORABLE MENSCHENS

By Dorothy Harelik

Chase Leshin, son of Pam and Richard Leshin, has been named to the first team of the Texas 2003 All-State 5A Football Team. Members of the Texas High School Football Coaches Association made the selection. Chase is a senior at W.B. Ray High School in Corpus Christi. He is the grandson of TJHS members, **Yetta and Marvin Leshin**.

David W. Hart, son of TJHS members **Charles and Jan Hart** of Temple, Texas, will receive his Ph.D at the University of Florida commencement on May 1, 2004. David's degree is in English, with a specialty in Post Colonial Caribbean Literature.

Do you have news to share with your TJHS family? "Honorable Menschen" lists members and their families' births, marriages, accomplishments, graduations, degrees earned, get-well wishes, condolences, announcements and more.

Email your "Honorable Menschen" information to Dorothy Harelik at dkharelik@htcomp.net or mail to 602 South Bell Street, Hamilton, Texas, 76531. Dorothy can be reached at 254-386-3538.

■ TJHS

IT'S ALL IN A NAME – PART II

Contributed by Shirley & Marvin Rich

In the Fall 2003 issue of the Texas Jewish Historical Society Newsletter, we learned how Jews from Eastern Europe got their surnames. In the second of this two-part series, we feature birth names of some well-known Jewish performers.

Woody Allen	Alan Stewart Koenigsberg
June Allyson	Ella Geisman
Lauren Bacall	Betty Joan Perske
Jack Benny	Benjamin Kubelsky
Irving Berlin	Israel Baline
Milton Berle	Milton Berlinger
Joey Bishop	Joseph Gottlieb
Karen Black	Karen Blanche Ziegler
Victor Borge	Borge Rosenbaum
Fanny Brice	Fanny Borach
Mel Brooks	Melvin Kaminsky
George Burns	Nathan Birnbaum
Eddie Cantor	Edward Israel Iskowitz
Jeff Chandler	Ira Grossel
Lee J. Cobb	Amos Jacob
Tony Curtis	Bernard Schwartz
Rodney Dangerfield	Jacob Cohen
Kirk Douglas	Issac Danielovich Demsk
Melvyn Douglas	Melvyn Hesselberg
Bob Dylan	Bobby Zimmerman
John Garfield	John Garfinkel
Paulette Goddard	Marion Levy
Lee Grant	Lyova Geisman
Elliot Gould	Elliot Goldstein
Judy Holliday	Judith Tuvim
Al Jolson	Asa Yoelson
Danny Kaye	David Daniel Kaminsky
Michael Landon	Michael Orowitz
Steve Lawrence	Sidney Leibowitz
Jerry Lewis	Joseph Levitch
Peter Lorre	Lazlo Lowenstein
Elaine May	Elaine Berlin
Ives Montand	Ivo Levy
Mike Nichols	Michael Peschkowsky
Joan Rivers	Joan Molinsky
Edward G. Robinson	Emanuel Goldenberg
Jane Seymour	Joyce Penelope Frankenburg
Simone Signoret	Simone-Henriett Kaminke
Levery Sills	Belle Silverman
Sophie Tucker	Sophia Kalish
Gene Wilder	Gerald Silberman

A LETTER TO THE SOCIETY:

Barry and I joined the Texas Jewish Historical Society last year, and a couple of month later, our name appeared in the newsletter as new members. That week we received a phone call from Sid and Sarah (Harelik) Levenstein. They now live in San Diego, California. Barry had one business with Sid when they lived in Borger, Texas, many years before.

In 1984, they came to Houston for our daughter's wedding. The following year they moved to San Diego, and for a while we kept in touch. What a delightful surprise to hear from them again! It had been 18 years since we had seen them!

In July last year, we went to San Diego for a vacation and called Sid and Sarah. We spent a wonderful evening having dinner, visiting, and just enjoying each other's company. The Texas Jewish Historical Society was responsible for our little reunion. Thank you very much!

Janet Clairfield Tobias

Hart, continued from page 20

My ongoing hobby has been my farm at Dime Box, where I raise Beefmaster Cattle. Also, for many years, I have been a supporter and member of the Board of Directors of the Texas A & M University Hillel.

Jan and I joined TJHS many years ago, attending our first Annual Gathering in Jefferson. After that, we were hooked on Texas Jewish History, and have enjoyed being involved with our TJHS family ever since.

■ TJHS

HISTORY OF NCJW SECTIONS IN TEXAS

By Hollace Ava Weiner

For her thesis, Hollace Weiner is compiling a Texas NCJW list with the dates when each Lone Star section started and folded. Some sections may have combined with others. If you have input, additions and/or corrections to this list, please contact Hollace Ava Weiner by email at HollaceW@charter.net or by phone at 817-731-3685.

At one time there were 22 National Council of Jewish Women sections across Texas. Today five remain—in Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Houston, and San Antonio.

For her Master's thesis, TJHS Board Member Hollace Ava Weiner is researching the reasons for the rise and decline of NCJW sections.

Early in its history, the National Council of Jewish Women nurtured new sections in every hamlet. During the 1920s, nearly half the Council's chapters were in towns with less than 1,000 Jews. One of Council's tenets was to help Jewish women fend off assimilation by becoming more knowledgeable about Judaism.

During the 1960s, sections in small cities began to disband while big-city sections expanded. To illustrate: Oklahoma once had five NCJW sections. They were located in Ada, Bartlesville, Enid, McAlester, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. By 1967, Oklahoma was down to three chapters. Today there is just one, in Tulsa.

Wisconsin had six sections in 1943, three in 1967, and just one remains

(in Milwaukee). Georgia, which had four sections at one time, has one today, in Atlanta. North Carolina had six in 1943, four in 1967, and today there are none. In addition to North Carolina, NCJW sections no longer exist in Arkansas, Kansas, New Hampshire or Vermont.

The most NCJW sections are located in California, (10, the same number as 45 years ago); New Jersey (13, down from 23 at its peak); Florida (18, up from seven in the 1960s); New York (15, compared to 27 during WWII and 38 in the 1960s).

NCJW is strongest in regions where there is a critical mass of Jewish residents as well as growing Jewish populations. The exception is Nevada, which has no Council chapters. NCJW reached membership peaks in the 1950s and 1960s. During the 1950s, there were 245 chapters and 110,000 members. In the 1960s, Council listed 232 sections and 123,000 members – although when celebrating its 75th anniversary in 1967, Council's roster was down to 193 chapters in 37 states and Washington, D.C. By 2003, the number of sections had dropped to 125 geographic locations, and membership had declined to 90,000. This year, the NCJW website lists 122 sections in 34 states and Washington, D.C.

Weiner gathered the information from NCJW Triennial Proceedings from 1902 to 1967, and NCJW National Directories from the 1920s to 1967, which are on file in the Library of Congress.

ARLINGTON BRANCH

1965 – 1966

AUSTIN

1919 – NCJW organized with 61 members; **2004 – still active**

BAY AREA

1967 – Organized

(Disbanded. Does anyone know the year?)

BEAUMONT

1901 – organized, April 1901 with 27 members

1905 – “out of existence”

1907 – reorganized; donates \$6.25 to victims of San Francisco earthquake

1911 – “out of existence”

1918 – reorganized with 80 members; Sends delegate to 1920 triennial

(Disbanded by 1965. Does anyone know the exact year?)

BROWNSVILLE

1942 – organized

1946 – Disbanded by 1946; no longer in national directory.

(Did it combine with another section?)

CORPUS CHRISTI

1946 – organized

1967 – still active

(Disbanded. Does anyone know the exact year?)

CORSICANA

1919 – Organized with 16-30 members; 1932 – disbands

1937 – tries to reorganize with Mrs. Harry Kaufman, president; effort unsuccessful

Continued on page

DALLAS

1898 – organized by Rabbi George A. Kohut (whose mother,

Rebecca Kohut, was then president of New York's NCJW). Other organizers were Mrs. L.M.

Guggenheim, Miss Loira(?) Wormser, and Miss Nora Wormser.

1901 – Junior's section organized

1902 – delegates attend triennial in Baltimore; Mr. Sanger and Mr. Kahn donate \$100 each to become patrons of the triennial.

1905 – “out of existence,” according to Triennial Convention Proceedings

1913 – organized with 75 members by Miss Sadie American, NCJW's executive secretary; 210 members by next triennial in 1914.

1917 – Miss Grace Goldstein of Dallas serves as a national officer

2004 – still active

EL PASO

1917 – organized;

2004 – still active

FORT WORTH

1901 – organized October, 1901, with 26 charter members by Jeannette Miriam Goldberg of Jefferson, NCJW's vice president for Texas.

1920 – 146 members

1960 – 500 members

2002 – Disbanded

GAINESVILLE

1904 – organized Nov. 4, 1904, with 11 women, by Jeannette Miriam Goldberg who described Gainesville as “a small circuit town with no one to lead them but themselves . . . Three years of correspondence” led up to organizing [the section].”

1905 – “out of existence.”

GALVESTON

1913 – organized by Sadie American, NCJW executive secretary, with 80 members

1920 – 121 members

(Disbanded by 1965. Does anyone know the exact year?)

HOUSTON

1913 – organized with 164 members by Sadie American, national executive secretary

1920 – 354 members

2004 – still active

IRVING UNIT

1973 – 1978

PORT ARTHUR

1920 – organized

1940s – still in existence

(Disbanded by the mid-1960s. Does anyone know the exact year?)

RIO GRANDE VALLEY

1942 – organized

(Disbanded by 1965. Does anyone know the year? Did it combine with another section?)

SAN ANTONIO

1907 – organized May 13, 1907 with 82 members, including out-of-towners from Seguin, Mexico City, and Freemont, Okla.

1914 – president is Anna Hertzberg, who later becomes national vice president of NCJW and who was previously president of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs.

1920 – 248 members

2004 – still active

SEGUIN

1936 – organized

1967 – still active

(Disbanded. Does anyone know the year?)

SHERMAN

1917 – organized

1919 – “reorganized” with 23 members

1937 – becomes Sherman-Denison Section

1967 – still active in NCJW's 75th year

(Disbanded: Does anyone know the year?)

TEMPLE

1936 – organized

1939 – May 1939 disbands

1946 – reorganizes

(Disbanded by mid-1960s. Does anyone know the year?)

TRI-COUNTY

1936 – organized. (Does anyone know what cities this included?)

1967 – still active

(Disbanded. Need year.)

TYLER

1898 – First NCJW section in Texas. Organized with 7 members in September 1898 by Jeannette Miriam Goldberg, of Jefferson, who served as vice president for Texas.

1926 – Section disbands

1935 – Reorganizes

1941 – Disbanded; no longer listed in National Directory

WACO

1901 – Founding date is uncertain, but section paid \$7 in dues to national in 1901

1905 – “out of existence,” according to convention proceedings

1912 – organized as a “new section” with 56 members

1920 – 118 members.

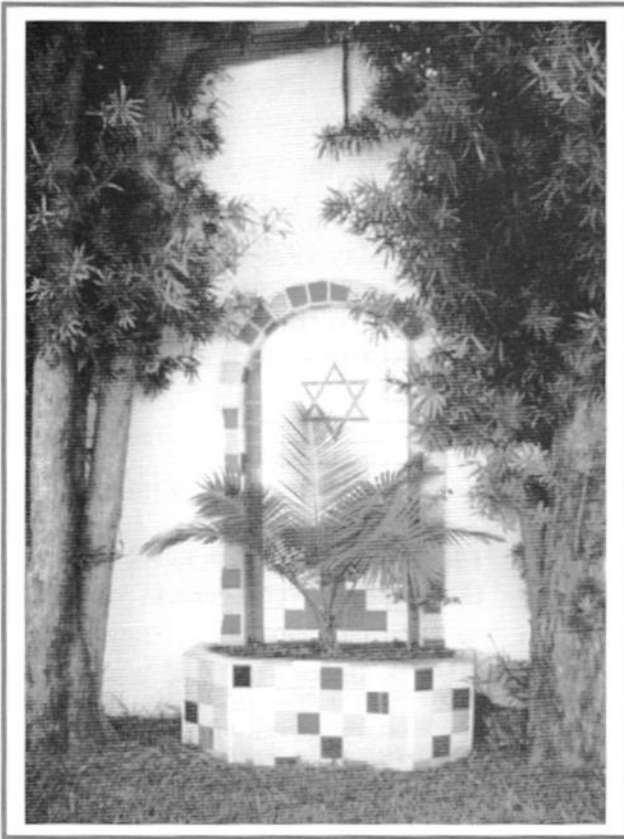
1966 – Disbanded

WICHITA FALLS

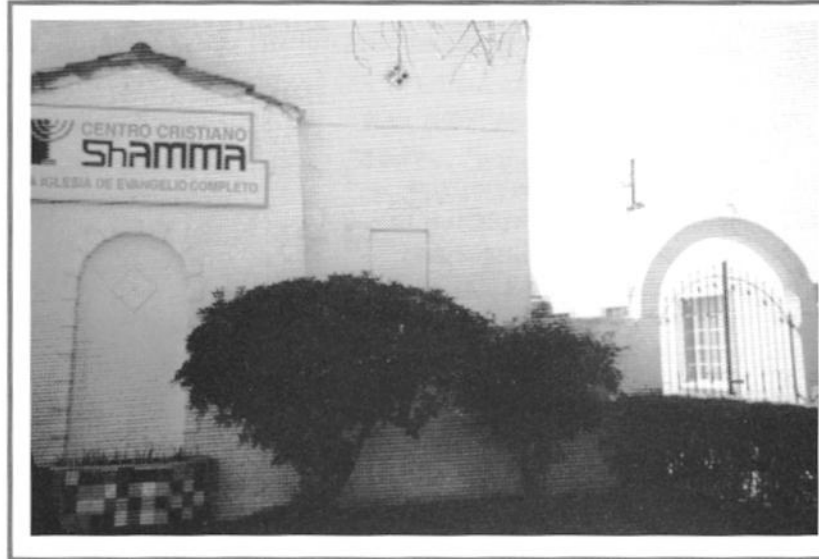
1919 – organized and called “a flourishing young section” with 45 members.

1935 – Disbanded

**MORE PHOTOS FROM THE TJHS WINTER MEETING
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
FEBRUARY 7-8, 2004**



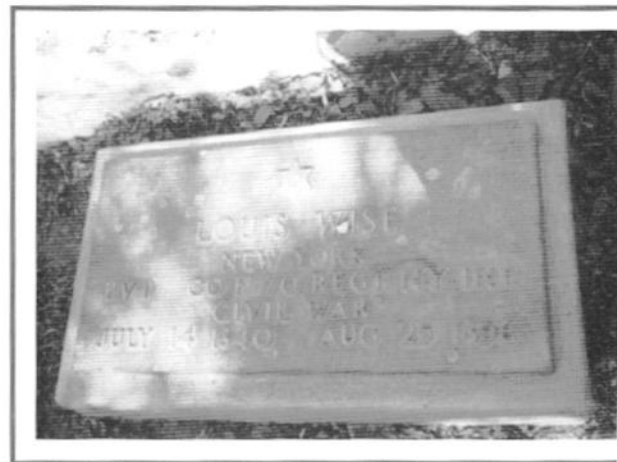
A wall of the old Brownsville Synagogue building is beautifully maintained by the building's new owners.



Now a Spanish Christian Church, the congregation is dedicated to preserving the history of the original Brownsville Synagogue building.



TJHS visitors explore the Brownsville Hebrew cemetery



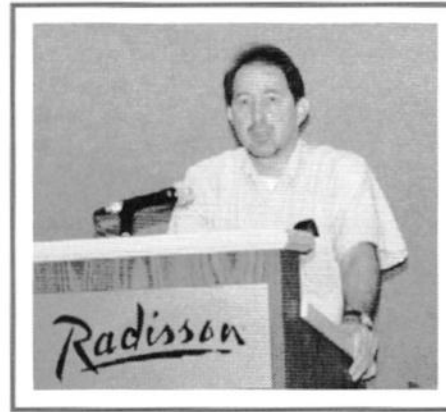
Headstone in the Brownsville Hebrew cemetery of Louis Wise, who served in the Civil War. Born July 14, 1840 - died August 25, 1896



◀ TJHS Board meeting Sunday, Feb. 8, 2004.



◀ Helen Wilk talks to the Board about an upcoming Book Project.



◀ Ben Pfeffer presents the Treasurer's report.

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YES! My dues payment to the Texas Jewish Historical Society is enclosed. I have checked the appropriate categories below

I am a: **New Member** **Renewing Member**

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