

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980



A Quarterly News Magazine of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

Fall 2004

A MESSAGE FROM TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT MARVIN RICH



Many thanks to Vickie & David Vogel for preparing a fabulous Fall 2004 Quarterly meeting event. Held October 15-17 in Schulenburg, the weekend included a variety of fun and interesting activities. Enjoy the photographs and articles in this issue. Also, thank you to Beverly Beck Trachtenberg for organizing our fall meeting held July 11, 2004 at the Courtyard by Marriott, 3131 West Loop South in Houston. Photo memories from that weekend are featured in this issue.

Mark your calendar for January 14-16, 2005, for our Texas Jewish Historical Society Winter Board meeting in Galveston! This gathering promises a great time for all who make the trip!

Please welcome longtime Texas Jewish Historical Society Board member Barry Green, Tyler, Texas, to his new position as Parliamentarian. Barry will serve the Society in this capacity at general membership and Board of Directors meetings. Many members of the Society, including Barry, have observed the need for more expeditious business meetings. I have welcomed Barry's experience with other Jewish organizations and his excellent suggestions, which have resulted in getting our business accomplished much quicker. With Barry's help, we will have more time to enjoy the Society meetings and activities. I would like to thank Rusty Milstein for serving in this capacity for the first few meetings of this term.

I was in a quandary about what I should write about for this column. I certainly am not a rabbi so don't expect anything too deep. However, in my acceptance to serve as your president, I referred to our aging membership. It is too obvious when fewer members participate, and many of those who do use walking assistance. Even Blanche Sheiness no longer drives her car to the meetings. It must just be Houston, because she always drove when she lived in Alice. (Happy 91st Birthday Blanche!)

(President's Message, cont. page 3)

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SAVE THE DATE!

**Warm up to the Texas Jewish
Historical Society**

**Winter Quarterly Meeting
January 14, 15, 16, 2005
Galveston, Texas**

**All are welcome
and encouraged to come
enjoy the weekend!**

Book A Free Traveling Exhibit For Your Next Event or Program

By Jack Gerrick

Your organization can benefit from a display of old photographs, stories and a glimpse into the earliest beginnings of Texas Jewish history, provided free of charge by the Texas Jewish Historical Society. In cooperation with the Institute of Cultures in San Antonio, TJHS has developed two traveling exhibits on museum-quality reproduction foam board.

The exhibits include 25 large photos with descriptive literature, and can be displayed on self-standing easels or hung on a wall. The exhibit is packed in a waterproof box that can be shipped to you or your organization. Afterward, it should be returned to the Texas Jewish Historical Society using prepaid freight.

The Society will prepay the exhibit to the point of the showing. Over the past years, the exhibits have provided insight into Jewish history and have been shown in a number of venues including schools, synagogues, Hadassah meetings and events for children.

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE FALL 2004 ISSUE

Editor - Designer: Susan Elsner Furman

Assistant Editor: Davie Lou Solka

*Photographers: Susan Elsner Furman, Barry Green,
Marvin Rich*

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We hope you enjoy this issue of the Texas Jewish Historical Society news magazine. Your articles, oral histories, and photographs are welcome! Email them to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka, davielou@solka.net or mail to 501 Bermuda Place, Corpus Christi, TX, 78411. 361-852-5815.

We are unable to guarantee the safe return of your documents and photographs. Therefore, it is strongly advised that you provide color photocopies only, both for color and black and white originals.

If you have suggestions, comments or ideas regarding the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine, please email them to Editor Susan Elsner Furman at Susan@ElsnerFurman.com.

Thank you for helping to make the News Magazine an interesting and exciting part of Texas Jewish history.

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Gratefully acknowledges your gift to its

Endowment Fund

\$ _____

In _____
Of _____

An acknowledgment has been sent to the party you specified.

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

Donations To The TJHS Endowment Fund

Your donations to the Texas Jewish Historical Society help support important programs. Recent donations to the Texas Jewish Historical Society include the following:

- Marvin Rich – in honor of his Presidency of the TJHS, Hilda & Herschel Rich
- Ellen Kusin, get well wishes
- Mitzi Milstein on the death of her father
- Olive Bucher on the death of her husband, Arthur
- Mazel Tov to Congregation Beth Israel in Houston on their 150th Anniversary
- Mazel Tov to Congregation B'nai Israel in Galveston on their 136th Anniversary

Thanks to all who have made contributions to the Endowment Fund. To honor a friend or loved one, send the honoree's full name, type of honor (congratulations & occasion, memorial, etc.), and your name / donor name along with a check in the amount of your choice to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX, 78766-0193. An acknowledgement will be sent to you upon receipt of your gift. ♦ TJHS

Corrections: In the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Journal, April 2004, the following errors were noted in "Waco's Temple Rodef Sholom 125th Anniversary Celebration." Rabbi Wolfe Macht served from 1919-1952; Rabbi Mordecai Podet served for 24 years; correct spellings include Rabbi Alexander Schindler, A.J. "Joe" Schechter, Ellan Burke, Marcia Olmsted, and Harry A. Wood III.

What I am trying to say is, we need new, younger members who care about Texas Jewish history. Attracting Jewish students at universities would be a good source. Greg Myers is a primary example of doing this. I recommend that we renew our scholarship program for students to attend our Annual Gathering in Austin next April. The Symposium will be held on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, and the format is likely to appeal to our best prospects. We will send notices to History Departments of universities and to Jewish student organizations on Texas campuses. I am asking all members to also spread the word by contacting nearby colleges and Jewish organizations of interest. By starting now, we should have results.

I believe we should also support programs including Hillels and other Jewish Student Organizations on all Texas college campuses. We can do this by placing our new Texas Jewish Historical Society brochure and the news magazine at gathering sites. We also should contact directors of the organizations to offer programs about the Society. If we get even one started, it will be a foot in the door.

This will work two ways, both for the benefit of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and as a great experience for you to learn of the terrific jobs Hillels and other Jewish student groups are doing. At Texas A & M, Rabbi Peter Tarlow has been director for over 20 years for the student Aggies as well as in the Jewish community in Brazos County and the surrounding area where there is no synagogue. Past President Charles Hart is Secretary of their Board of Directors, and longtime member and past president, Buddy Freed, is also a long-time member of the A & M Board.

If you have any connection to Texas A & M, I encourage your support of their programs.

At The University of Texas at Austin, the Hillel just broke ground on a new \$6 million building to replace the 55-year-old facility. We will have the opportunity to see its progress in April 2005, during the Annual Gathering. UT has the largest Jewish student population in the state, and many of us have been associated with the great work there for a long time. Our founder, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, was the Director and helped to revive the programs, and I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Board following Milton Smith. The current Director, Rabbi David Kessel, has built participation in activities to an all-time high. The Hillel serves students of all interests, with student-led religious services from Reform to Orthodox, Israel support groups, and of course the Center of Social Interest. Many couples have found their spouses there, and like at A & M, lifetime friendships are made.

In Houston, the Hillel serves Jewish students at Rice University and the Texas Medical and Nursing Schools, and

has a presence on the University of Houston campus with the same types of activities as UT and A & M. I am not familiar with the activities at Texas Tech or at colleges in the North Texas area, but I hope that each of you will find out how you can help with the Jewish student centers at your local colleges. The Jewish college students of today are our future community leaders and Texas Jewish Historical Society members.

All of the best to y'all,



Marvin Rich
President

HONORABLE *MENSCHENS*



Mazel Tov to TJHS members **Barbara and Ben Rosenberg** of Sugar Land, proud maternal grandparents of **Zachary Mayer Welk** of West Palm Beach, Florida.

While hurricane Frances was battering his home in West Palm Beach, Zachary was safely born in Houston's Methodist Hospital. He arrived one month ahead of schedule, fittingly on Labor Day weekend. Zachary Mayer was born September 4, 2004 at 11:50 p.m., weighing 5 pounds, 15 ounces. Gena and Marc Welk are the proud parents. Paternal grandparents are Taube Cohen and the late George Cohen of San Angelo, and the late Rose and Max Rosenberg of El Paso. His paternal great-grandparents are Shirley and the late Nathan Levey of Aurora, Colorado, and Elsie and Robert Welk of Parker, Colorado.

Best wishes and Mazel Tov to Texas Jewish Historical Society past president (1986-1989) and founding member **Ginger Jacobs**. Ginger was honored with the Dallas Jewish Historical Society Founders Award at a High Tea held on November 21st at Dallas' Columbian Club.

Mazel Tov to **Mary Meyers Rosenfield** of El Campo, TX., who was inducted into the Governor's Texas Women's Hall of Fame for her work in Health and Human Services. The ceremony was held in the Senate Chamber in Austin on October 19, 2004.

MARGIE ABRAMS "CLEAN SWEEP" A HUGE SUCCESS

By Merilee Weiner

Never was the admonition "don't judge a book by its cover" more relevant than when applied to Margie Abrams, the retired founder of Associated Building Services. Maintaining a desk and the title of "Goodwill Ambassador," Mrs. Abrams made daily appearances at the office until illness ended that pleasure for her. Always immaculately groomed with beautiful jewelry to match, Margie Abrams' appearance belied her humble beginning, which had its inception in rural Georgia on March 4, 1928.

One of 11 children born to an impoverished sharecropper family, Margie learned early the meaning of backbreaking work on a farm. A quick learner, she took advantage of everything available for her to read. She remembers that the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *Atlanta Journal* were popular at the time. She had four favorite books. Hating her farm chores, she escaped as often as she could to the branches of a tall tree where she read and dreamed of a better life.

Caught one time after running away from home, she saved \$25, and for a second time, she left for the bus station. She asked the ticket agent, "How far can I go for \$25?" The agent sold her a ticket to Houston, Texas for \$18.75. When she arrived in Houston, she found a room in the old Heights section of town and began to scour the "Help Wanted" column in the newspaper. She answered an ad for warehouse help and approached the owner of an established mercantile business in

the area. He promptly told her "We want a boy for the job." The plucky young lady said, "Well, can't a girl do that job as well?" Seeing no reason why not, Margie got the job at Kaplan's Ben-Hur.

The year was 1945, and Margie was 17-years-old. It was right after the end of World War II. Margie always had an interest in religion, as long as it wasn't her own. She attended churches and synagogues, until she found one in which she felt comfortable and then converted to Judaism under the tutelage of Rabbi William S. Malev and the late revered teacher, Paula Victor.

At about the same time, Louis Gershen, along with his mother and sister, moved from Galveston to Houston. Their paths had crossed before when Margie attended services at Congregation Adath Yeshurun on Crawford Street, in what was then considered downtown Houston. Margie secretly hoped that Louis Gershen, the handsome Maintenance Supply Salesman she had met earlier, might be there. As luck would have it, he was present for the Shabbat Service and they renewed their acquaintance when he asked her for a date.

Margie and Louis Gershen were married in September 1946. She entertained his customers and by osmosis, learned the facets of the maintenance field. With his untimely demise eight years later, she couldn't completely give in to grief because of the responsibilities of their three small children, ages three, four and seven. Margie was

left with no support system, since Louis' mother and sister had moved back to Pennsylvania.

Although she did not have a formal education, Margie did not lack initiative or native intelligence. To support her family, she contacted her late husband's clients, seeking work as a cleaning lady. Once employed their referrals and her meticulous cleaning ethic satisfied her customers. Without even being asked, they referred her to others.

The fledgling maintenance enterprise eventually had contracts with VMI, the University of Houston, Compac (now Hewlett-Packard), and Motorola, to name a few. This self-employed cleaning lady's service expanded, little by little, until it grew into the \$13 million business it is today. But this is getting ahead of the story.

What does a struggling widow do with three small children? Because most of her work was done in the evening, she bundled them up and took them with her, parking the car in a protected environment where they slept or played until she finished her work. Margie tells of utilizing her seven-year old, Barney to dust the baseboards while she cleaned. As she says, "Barney literally learned the techniques of this business from the ground up. Exposed to clients' beautiful office furnishings, Margie developed an appreciation for the finer aspects of a prosperous life and honed her taste over the years by every means available to her.

(Abrams, cont. page 5)

(Margie Abrams, cont. from page 5)

Always a quick learner, over time she developed her own decided taste in furnishings, clothing and jewelry. Along the way she acquired a quick repartee as well.

Asked how the growing business entrepreneur trained employees, Margie replied, "I utilized good workers, who in turn trained the incoming workforce recruits. That increased their feeling of importance, and permitted the growth of undertakings we could competently handle." In the meantime, the office duties had been delegated to personnel employees.

Currently, the company president is Barney Gershen, a graduate of Texas A & M, with an MBA from Harvard University. The Building Maintenance Firm also has in its employ daughter, Marcia, who earned her degree in teaching. She is now the firm's human resources director. Margie's third child, George, prefers his profession as a Drug Rehabilitation Counselor.

Meanwhile, Margie Abrams' business social life had not been inactive. She joined numerous business organizations, and was recognized in the industry as an "Enterprising Woman." Mrs. Abrams is also a member of Hadassah, and enjoys her Women's Group of Professionals. She is a member of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, where in June 1971, she married Abe Abrams, a retired leasing agent for a large car firm. They enjoyed many years of marriage until his death in February 2003.

Margie Abrams' wonderful wry sense of humor serves her well now that Parkinson's disease curtails her activities. Even that does not stop her. Aided by a specially equipped van, an attendant, and a building with a wheelchair-accessible ramp, she recently made a dramatic appearance at a luncheon whose invitation requested "guests wear hats." Selecting one from her handsome collection, Margie sailed into the event in her motorized electric wheelchair, garnering compliments all around.

With her continuing spunky attitude, Margie Abrams' winning ways make strangers into instant friends. Her attitude about life is phenomenal. Her most proud accomplishment of late is advancing 12 steps on her own two feet, while utilizing her therapy bars. Her goal is to walk again. She has the determination and the will. "If ye will it, so shall it be." ◆ TJHS

Editor's note: Sadly, Margie Abrams lost her lengthy battle to Parkinson's disease on Thursday, Oct. 14, 2004. Services were held at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, and she was laid to rest in Beth Yeshurin Cemetery (Allen Parkway) on October 17, 2004.

THE OBITUARY OF MARGIE GERSHEN ABRAMS

FROM THE ©2004 JEWISH HERALD VOICE
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Margie Gershen Abrams was a member of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, where she was a past board member, past president of Sisterhood, a docent for its Judaic museum and a Life Member of Hadassah. She was a member of the Houston Chamber of Commerce, Executive Women International and the National Association of Women Business Owners. Margie also was a member of the River Oaks Women's Breakfast Club and a founding member of the Paul Parker Memorial Scholarship at the University of Houston Hilton School of Hotel and Restaurant Management. She was an active supporter of the Jewish Community Center, Women Helping Women, Dress for Success, the Houston Area Women's Center and local recovery centers.

Margie was preceded in death by Louis Gershen, her first husband to whom she was married for eight years, and her second husband, Abe Abrams, to whom she was married for 32 years. She leaves behind a large and loving family, including her son, Barnett Gershen and his wife, Sam Knight Gershen; daughter, Marsha Gershen Turney; son, Louis Gershen; daughter-in-law, Klair Grace and her husband, Stephen; stepdaughter, Beverly Schaffer and her husband, Michael; grandchildren Jennifer Turney, Meredith Schaffer, Louis Gershen and Mallory Gershen. She is also survived by her brother, Dan McKinney and his wife, Louise; brother, Ralph McKinney and his wife, Ruth; sister, Marcelle Wise; sister-in-law, Lee Abrams and assistant and caregiver for 19 years, Bertha Mata. She also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, friends and loving caregivers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Margie Gershen Abrams Endowment, c/o the Jewish Community Center, 5601 S. Braeswood, Houston, TX 77096.

◆ TJHS

FORMER TJHS BOARD MEMBER PHYLLIS BINSTOCK HIRSCH FALIK DIES AT 78



Phyllis Binstock Hirsch Falik, age 78, passed away from cancer on October 13, 2004 surrounded by her family at a Houston hospital. She was laid to rest at 3 p.m. Thursday, October 14, 2004, in Barnett Sanctuary at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, 4050 S. Hulen St., Fort Worth, Texas. Rabbi

Alberto "Baruch" Zeilicovich, Mrs. Falik's nephew, Rabbi Joshua Taub, and Javier Smolarz, ritual director of the congregation, officiated. Following committal prayers, Phyllis was laid to rest in Ahavath Sholom Cemetery. Phyllis was a former board member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and past membership chair. TJHS members visited the lovely old Hirsch home in Marshall during a Gathering in Longview.

Phyllis died one month to the day from the Texas State Historical Marker dedication ceremony for the former Joe Weisman & Co Department Store location at 211 N. Washington Avenue in Marshall, Texas. Mrs. Hirsch Falik was the widow of Joe Hirsch, last of the Weisman-Hirsch family members to own the once-popular department store whose 116-year history was celebrated at the dedication.

Formerly of Marshall and Fort Worth, Phyllis Binstock Hirsch Falik was born August 4, 1926, in Denver, Colorado. The daughter of Morris and Clara Binstock, she attended The University of Texas at Austin, where she met and fell in love with Joe W. Hirsch of Marshall. The couple married August 14, 1947, beginning a 47-year journey through life together. Their union brought forth three children – Jeanie, Carol and David, who in turn produced two sons, Henry Hirsch of Fort Worth and David Hirsch of Kansas City, and four grandchildren, Steven, Valerie, Elliott and Melissa Hirsch.

A founding member and president of the Marshall

Symphony League, Phyllis was president of the Jewish Ladies Aid Society and the Marshall Jayceettes, and was instrumental in the building fund drive for the Marshall Public Library. Phyllis was an active member of Temple Moses Montefiore, Temple Emanuel in Longview, Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Fort Worth, and Congregation Beth Israel in Houston.

Phyllis and Joe moved to Fort Worth in 1986, where she was co-owner of Party Affair and was active in the Texas Jewish Historical Society and the Arthritis Foundation. Her husband, Joe, passed away in 1994, and five years later, Phyllis married Harold Falik on Oct. 2, 1999 and moved to Houston.

In addition to her husband, Joe, and her parents, Phyllis was preceded in death by her son, Dr. David W. Hirsch, who died in 1990; brothers, Abe and Robert Binstock; sisters, Beck Bowers, Goldie Myers and Shirley Waldman. Survivors include her husband of five years, Harold Falik of Houston; daughters, Jeanie Hirsch Luskey and her husband, Henry, of Fort Worth and Carol Ann Hirsch Freirich and her husband, David, of Mission Hills, Kansas; grandchildren, Steven E. Luskey of Fort Worth, Valrie A. Luskey of Dallas, Elliott J. Freirich of Chicago, and Melissa A. Freirich of Austin; sister, Sylvia Fine of Dallas; sisters-in-law, Toni Binstock of Denver, Frances Rosengarten of Los Angeles, and Mary Stern of Ontario, California, her extended Falik family; and very special friend, Raymond L. Hall of Hanover, New Hampshire. Mr. Hall started working for Joe Hirsch, mowing grass at the age of 12, and later worked at the store. He is currently writing a book about Marshall. Her family respectfully requests that memorial contributions in Mrs. Falik's name be made to Congregation Ahavath Sholom or the M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Fund in Houston.

Portions of this article were excerpted from the ©Marshall, Texas newspaper; Nov.13, 2004 and the ©Jewish Herald-Voice, October 21, 2004. ◆ TJHS

LONGTIME TJHS MEMBER, AUTHOR, HISTORIAN RUTHE LEWIN WINEGARTEN OF AUSTIN DIES AT AGE 74

Ruthe Lewin Winegarten passed away on June 14, 2004. A longtime member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and co-author of a TJHS-sponsored publication, *Deep in the Heart, The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews* (with C. Schecter, Eakin Press, Austin, 1990) Ruthe earned her Bachelor of Anthropology Degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Ruthe Winegarten left a legacy of 18 award-winning books, with the majority focusing on Texas women's history. She served as research historian for the Texas Women's History Project and was a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association. Two of her books on Texas women won the Liz Carpenter Award for Best Book of the Year and the Fehrenback Award. The Texas Library Association honored her most recent book, *Las Tejanas*, co-authored with Teresa Palomo.

"We needed to know what work each other did, and not hang back or be modest out of some misguided politeness or anti-elitism," wrote Raymond, a doctoral student in the University of Texas at Austin's English Department. "At such moments, Ruthe wasn't the feminist ideal of my generation (concerned about process, solicitous, concerned about everyone's feelings), but the

older, ferocious, take-no-prisoners kind of feminist warrior who knew what we were up against."

An activist author who wrote 18 books focused mainly on Texas women's history, Winegarten's influence and history ranged well beyond her writing. Among other projects, she worked as a research historian for the Texas Women's History Project, which former Governor Ann Richards helped organize. "Ruthe Winegarten was a scholar and an enormous influence on the history of Texas women," Richards said. "Her commitment to having the stories of women's lives be part of our history was a driving passion in her life. We owe her a debt for her work and her friendship."

Born in Dallas in 1929, Winegarten began her public life as an activist. She worked on the 1946 gubernatorial campaign of Homer Price Rainey, a former University of Texas president who was fired when he refused to censor liberal professors and texts. Winegarten briefly served as a poll tax collector, before the U.S. Supreme Court declared the poll tax unconstitutional. She went on to fight segregation and improve services in a neglected part of Dallas.

She helped lead Dallas' Jewish

Welfare Federation and served as Director of the Dallas Regional Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. She became a writer in the early 1970s, taking doctorate-level classes at UT-Dallas. She began collecting oral histories and then wrote books about black and Hispanic women in the state, as well as other groups that helped shape Texas history without getting much attention from its historians.

"She was tireless in terms of trying to bring to light the histories of people and the lives of people who had been forgotten," said Theresa May, assistant director and editor-in-chief of the UT Press, Winegarten's publisher. "I think she was the best kind of role model because she was never pushy or abrasive. She was just persistent. A very gentle woman, but not one to be trifled with, either."

Ruthe is survived by her children Martha Frances Wilson, Marc David Sanders and Debra Lou Winegarten; daughter-in-law Cynthia Gay Huyser; brother Larry Lewin; numerous extended family members. Burial was at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, June 17, 2004, at Mayfield Park, off 35th Street near Laguna Gloria.

Portions of this article were excerpted from the ©Austin American-Statesman, Stephen Scheibal, June 16, 2004. ♦ TJHS

26TH ANNUAL GATHERING SLATED FOR APRIL 8-10, 2005 IN AUSTIN LONE STARS OF DAVID: A TEXAS JEWISH HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

By Helen Wilk

Mark your calendar and get ready for the Texas Jewish Historical Society's 26th Annual Gathering, slated for April 8, 9 and 10, 2005 in Austin, Texas. Plans are underway for a unique Annual Gathering and Book Project Symposium. The Lone Stars of Texas: A Texas Jewish History Symposium will highlight the weekend on Saturday, April 9 in the Thompson Conference Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

The Center for American History and the Texas State Historical Association are joining with the Texas Jewish Historical Society to co-host the symposium. Hollace Weiner and Rabbi Kenneth Roseman, co-editors of the TJHS book project, tentatively titled *Lone Stars of David*, will introduce several authors. Each author will present a brief synopsis of the chapter he or she proposes to write for the book, giving Society members an opportunity to learn more about the book's content. Lone Stars of David is being partially funded by the Texas Jewish Historical Society and will be published by the

University Press of New England / Brandeis Press as part of the Brandeis University series edited by Jonathan Sarna, "The Jews in America."

Tentative plans for the 26th Annual Gathering include Friday afternoon Board meeting at our headquarters hotel, the Doubletree Hotel at IH-35 & 290, followed by a catered dinner, Shabbat services and an Oneg Shabbat at Congregation Beth Israel hosted by TJHS Past President, Milton Smith and his daughter, Lonn Karotkin. Saturday's Symposium will be followed by dinner in the Doubletree and an entertaining evening that will include an opportunity to visit with our TJHS friends from around the state. Sunday morning our General Business meeting will bring the 26th Annual Gathering to its conclusion.

Mark your calendar today for April 8, 9 and 10, 2005 in Austin, Texas for what promises to be an interesting and fun-filled Annual Gathering and Symposium. ♦ TJHS

RAISINS & ALMONDS & TEXAS OIL!



Jan Statman's latest book, *Raisins & Almonds & Texas Oil!* has been published by Eakin Press, Austin, Texas. This is the first description of Jewish life in the Great East Texas Oil Boom of the 1930's-1950's.

The story is told in the words of the remarkable people who lived it. Describing the same astonishing events from vastly different points of view, they weave the fabric of a community. Witty and poignant, these recollections make for a most entertaining historical work that reads like a novel.

To purchase your copy, contact Jan Statman at 903-663-0645. Total cost is \$30.26, including tax and shipping (\$26.95 plus \$1.81 tax and \$1.50 shipping). Jan is also available for speaking engagements. To make arrangements for her to speak to your group, call Jan at 903-663-0645.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Leonard & Pauline Graivier
5509 Lindenshire Lane, Dallas, TX 75230

Joel & Kay Levy
49 Briar Hollow Lane, #2102 Houston, TX 77027

Etta Naman
3350 McCue Rd. # 1102, Houston, TX 77056

William & Claire Reingold
3350 McCue Rd., # 1503, Houston, TX 77056

Dr. George & Carol Starkschall
3538 Mesquite, Sugar Land, TX 77479

Roanne Nelson Stern
1400 Herman Dr., # 17-E Houston, TX 77004

K'NESSETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE IN BAYTOWN, TEXAS CELEBRATES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

By Mervin Rosenbaum

On Sunday, November 2, 2003, Congregation K'nesseth Israel in Baytown, Texas, celebrated its founding and 75th anniversary. More than 150 members, former members and their descendants from cities including Longboat Key, Florida; Unionville, Connecticut; and Austin, McAllen, San Antonio and Houston, Texas, attended the celebration.

Mervin Rosenbaum served as Master of Ceremonies, and Karen Aarons conducted an afternoon service. Service participants included Baytown Mayor Pete Alfaro and TJHS member Don Teter, who chronicled the synagogue's past. A beautiful, bountiful array of refreshments followed the 75th Anniversary program. Beverly Mann chaired the committee that prepared the Oneg in the adjoining Community Hall.

The congregation's history began with the Goose Creek oilfield boom in 1917. The population in the area, now known as Baytown, was about 2,000. The people had come from all parts of the country seeking work in the oilfields. Of those, two families were Jewish. By 1920, there had been considerable growth in the area. Goose Creek and Pelly had been incorporated, and the Humble

Oil and Refining Company had begun operation of the Baytown Refinery.

The Jewish community had grown to 12 families. Realizing the necessity for a place of worship, they rented a building and began holding Friday night and Saturday morning services. On November 3, 1928, 20 members incorporated the

Major events in the history of the congregation include many weddings, with the first one taking place on January 19, 1931. Other events included the burning of the mortgage in 1943, and a rededication on May 6, 1979, celebrating the congregation's first 50 years and the amending of the Articles of Incorporation to extend them in perpetuity.



The size of the congregation has varied over the years, reaching a peak of 47 families in 1947. Its current membership is 28 families. There have been five Rabbis from 1930 to 1953. Since then, the size of the congregation has not provided enough resources to support a rabbi. As a result, lay members conduct religious services. Approximately 20 years ago rabbis and knowledgeable lay people, who had been hired from other areas, conducted

High Holy Day Services. However today local members conduct all services, including monthly Friday night services.

Recent gifts made by congregants to the synagogue include new front doors and red carpet in the Sanctuary.

The congregation and property was purchased for a synagogue. The synagogue was completed in 1930, and was designated a Texas State Historical Landmark on March 22, 1992. The historical medallion for this designation was unveiled at a program with Texas Jewish Historical Society then-president, Faye Brachman of Fort Worth attending.

High Holy Day Services. However today local members conduct all services, including monthly Friday night services.

Recent gifts made by congregants to the synagogue include new front doors and red carpet in the Sanctuary.

◆ TJHS

Would You Like To Cruise Jewish History In the Caribbean?

Let Rusty Milstein know your thoughts today!

Would you like to be part of a history-making cruise with members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society? We are taking a survey to gauge interest in joining together for a Caribbean Cruise to ports of call with a Jewish History.

If you are interested in participating in this journey, please contact Rusty Milstein at hrmilstein@prodigy.net or drop him a line at 608 Ruthlynn Dr; Longview, TX 75606-3726. Be sure to include your ideas, thoughts and any connections you may have with cruise lines, Jewish historical sites in various ports of call, and more.

Rusty will report his findings to the Society at the Winter meeting, being held January 14, 15 and 16, 2005 in Galveston. Information will also be included in our next issue of the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine. Please send your feedback to Rusty Milstein by December 28, 2004. Thanks for your help!

Check out the
Texas Jewish Historical Society website!
<http://www.txjhs.org>
Email txjhs@yahoo.com



Vickie & David Vogel welcome guests to the TJHS Fall 2004 weekend

Do You Know a UT Law School Grad from the 1800s?

Do you know someone who attended the University of Texas at Austin Law School prior to 1890? If so, Mike Widener needs your help.

Widener, Head of Special Collections, Joseph D. Jamail Fellow in Law Librarianship, is hoping to identify the first Jewish graduate of the UT School of Law. According to his research, Sidney Lionel Samuel of Fort Worth, Texas received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1890. If you know of anyone who graduated prior 1890, please contact Mr. Widener at mwidner@mail.law.utexas.edu. His website is <http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/rare/>

If you are interested in confirming the name(s) of UT Law School alumni, Mr. Widener is happy to share his University of Texas Law School Alumni Association class listing, which begins with 1884.



The Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum in Schulenburg, Tx., was part of the TJHS Fall 04 weekend tour. See more photos on pages 13-15.

FORT WORTH'S FIRST JEWISH SETTLER

By Hollace Ava Weiner

Fort Worth's first Jewish pioneer, Simon Gabert, was a Union soldier and a Purple-Heart hero, who lived to the age of 74 with a bullet fragment in his left thigh. That information came to light this summer when a Fort Worth librarian, piqued by a footnote in a history journal, dug deep into National Archives records to research Simon Gabert's background.

Previously, the file on Simon Gabert at Fort Worth's Beth-El Congregation Archives was woefully thin. About all we knew was that Gabert, a German immigrant, had settled in Fort Worth in 1856 when Cowtown was an outpost on the Trinity River. A few years later, he traveled further west, lured by gold rush fever. In 1880, he returned to Fort Worth with a wife and six children, joined the Knights of Pythias Lodge, and became one of Beth-El Congregation's founding fathers.

According to a great-grandson, Louis Bassist, Simon Gabert was also a Civil War veteran who fought for the Union.

Eager to verify the great-grandson's account, the Temple Archives passed along that report to a Civil War historian documenting the service records of each Union and Confederate veteran buried in Fort Worth's Hebrew Rest Cemetery. (There are half a dozen.) Gabert's name did not turn up on Civil War rosters from the western territories. The trail was cold.

Then an article I wrote about Fort Worth's pioneer Jewish community appeared in January's Southwestern Historical Quarterly. A footnote stated that we had been "unable to locate the army unit in which Gabert served."

That footnote turned into a challenge for archivist Max Hill, assistant manager of the Fort Worth Public



Library's Genealogy/Local History Division. He began researching Civil War pension records. Sure enough, Simon Gabert had received a veteran's disability pension. After he died in 1911, his wife Balbina Levy Gabert applied for a widow's pension. This resulted in a voluminous stack of records that the librarian uncovered at the National Archives. They fill in the details of Simon Gabert's life.

Private Gabert enlisted in the Union Army in St. Louis, Missouri, August 10, 1861. He served in the 4th Regular Missouri Cavalry, also known as "Fremont's Hussars."

During the Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas on March 7, 1862, his commander, Major General Samuel R. Curtis, gave him a dispatch to deliver to General Franz Sigel. Traveling on horseback, Gabert dodged enemy fire. "They was firing at me during all my journey," he wrote in his pension application. He felt a sting in his leg, but continued on.

A day or two later when Gabert removed his boot, "the ball came out." A bullet had entered and exited his thigh and dropped into his boot. A month or so later, his army unit reached a field hospital in Columbus, Ky., where the wound was dressed. Bullet fragments remained in his thigh. The injury did not impair Pvt. Gabert's performance. It only gave him "pain," he reported, when the "weather changed." Committed to ending the "war of rebellion," Gabert reenlisted in 1864 and was "mustered out" in New Orleans after the surrender.

He moved back to Texas, specifically to Navasota, a wooded city north of Houston. There, on March 16, 1868, he married Balbina Levy in a religious ceremony officiated "by a rabbi." Balbina, born in 1843, was also a German immigrant. The couple moved in 1880 to Fort Worth where Gabert worked as a cotton merchant and where their seventh child was born in 1882.

(Settler, cont. page 12)

Among the friends and relatives who wrote affidavits on the family's behalf were Balbina's brother, Herman Levy, and his wife, Marie Levy of Houston; S.S. Cohen, a brother-in-law from Navasota; M. Cohen of Navasota; Abe Lewin, who grew up in Navasota with Balbina; Erna Y. Kuttner of Waco and Solomon Sampson of Independence, Missouri. Sampson wrote that he and Gabert enlisted in the Army together. He also lived with Gabert

for six or seven years in Navasota and for several years in Fort Worth.

Among the civic figures to file affidavits assisting the Gaberts with their pension applications was Major K. M. Van Zandt, whose log cabin remains a landmark in Fort Worth. Van Zandt, who was instrumental in starting Confederate Veterans chapters, had apparently made peace with the past and helped his ailing comrade.

Author's note: Simon and Balbina Gabert and four of their offspring (Gus, Mayer, Morris, and Ray) are buried in Emanuel Hebrew Res. Cemetery in Fort Worth. A daughter, Pauline Bassist, is buried in the Beth-El Section of Greenwood Cemetery. The other Gabert children were Rebecca and Jerome. If TJHS members know of any Gabert descendants with additional information, please contact hollacew@charter.net. ♦ TJHS

SCHULENBERG IN OCTOBER A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

By Susan Elsner Furman

Autumn colors, interesting sites, wonderful people and fond memories best describe the Fall 2004 meeting of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, held October 15 – 17, 2004 in Schulenburg, Texas. Vickie and David Vogel of La Grange and their dedicated team of helpers organized a flawless weekend that included homemade cooking, homegrown stories and down-home hospitality.

More than 50 people attended the weekend, including residents of the Schulenburg area, many of whom joined the Society after attending the events.

The weekend began with a Dutch-treat dinner at locally owned Frank's Restaurant, followed by Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat services at Temple Israel. Saturday's activities began with a morning service at Temple Israel, followed by a tour of the Jewish section in the Hallettsville City Cemetery and the old Hallettsville Jewish Cemetery, established in the 19th century. Additional tour sites included the Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum and historical home, a tour of the old Jewish Cemetery in La Grange, the new Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center, and the Monument Hill State Historic Site.

A dinner featuring native foods and warm hospitality capped off the day at Temple Israel, followed by an evening of stories and memories shared by residents whose families settled in the Schulenburg area. Texas Jewish Historical Society Board members met Sunday morning in the Temple, where they enjoyed a delicious breakfast of Kolaches, followed by the meeting. The host hotel was the Executive Inn. ♦ TJHS

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM VICKIE & DAVID VOGEL

We would like to thank Texas Jewish Historical Society President Marvin Rich for giving us the opportunity to host the Fall 2004 TJHS weekend in Schulenburg. Thank you also to TJHS members and members of Temple Israel, Edith and Bernard Stolbun, who provided refreshments for Friday's Oneg Shabbat, and to Samylu Rubin, who helped with registration and the welcome bags. Many thanks to Samylu and Norman for helping with the clean up. We appreciate all the TJHS members who attended the weekend. They were so gracious and patient!

Warmest regards,
Vickie and David Vogel

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES FROM THE TJHS FALL 2004 WEEKEND



Rusty & Mitzi Milstein



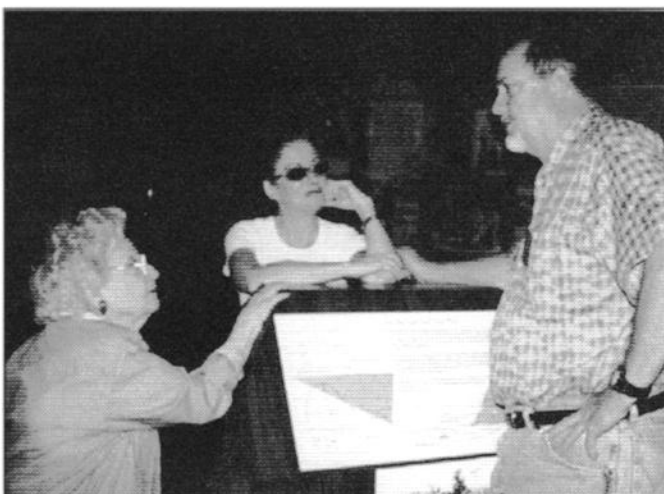
Barry Green and friend in the new Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center, La Grange



The Shul in Schulenburg



David Bach and Gary Whitfield, Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville



Blanch Sheiness, Sherry Zander, Gary Whitfield in the Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum, Schulenburg

Below Monument Hill State Historic Site 414 State Loop 92 is built into the side of a slope, with two stories of stone and a large wooden attic on 40.4 acres, one mile south of La Grange, in Fayette County. The tomb was acquired by the State of Texas in 1907 and transferred to Texas Parks and Wildlife in 1949. In 1956, the Archbishop of San Antonio and the citizens of Fayette County deeded an additional 3.58 acres to the site. Another 36-acre tract, including the Kreische Brewery and Kreische Home was added in 1977. The park was opened in 1983, after archaeological study and stabilization. Members of the Kreische family lived in the house until 1952. The restored house is largely intact with few modern modifications. For more information, see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/monument/monumenttext.htm>.



Marvin Rich, Vickie Vogel, Isyjean Korenek, Rusty and Mitzi Milstein at the Monument Hill State Historic Site.

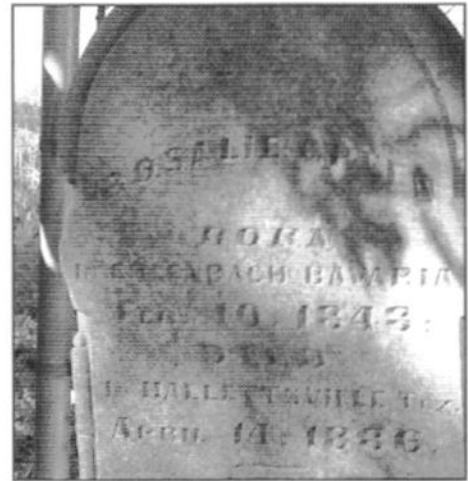


Monument Hill State Historic Site

MORE MEMORIES FROM THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL



After the Board Meeting, on the bima at Temple Israel, Schulenburg



▲ Headstone of Rosalie Green, born in Bavaria in 1843, buried in the Old Hallettsville Jewish Cemetery in 1886.

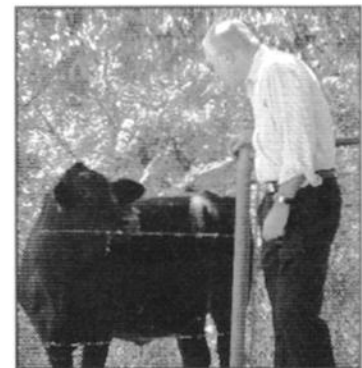


Jewish Cemetery in La Grange



Barbara Rosenberg & Mitzi Milstein tout the benefits of a TJHS membership to a visitor who stopped by the La Grange Cemetery.

Ben Rosenberg steps in to help with the recruiting process. "Try it, you'll like it." ▼



Sherry Zander places a stone on a Zander headstone. To her knowledge, there is no relation. ◀



▲ David Bach & Roy Elsner view the interesting woodsman headstones in the La Grange Jewish Cemetery.



2004 WEEKEND IN SCHULENBURG, HALLETTSVILLE & LA GRANGE, TEXAS



Carol Reidy and Mary McCormick, Bastrop, Texas, visit with TJHS members.

Saturday night dinner at Temple Israel featured foods native to the Schulenburg area. ▶



Lynn Greenberg, Babette Weiser and others discuss Saturday evening's program.



Taking a break in the La Grange Cemetery.



Davie Lou and Jack Solka visit with Isyjean Pinchin Korenek after her Saturday evening presentation.



◀ Roy Elsner, Odessa, Texas, stands next to the new Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center's sign in La Grange. Elsner's parents immigrated to the United States from Czechoslovakia.



TJHS members enjoy Friday night dinner at Frank's restaurant before services.



Listening to Saturday evening's speakers at Temple Israel in Schulenburg

DR. NORMAN RUBIN

*Presented by Samylu Rubin at the Texas Jewish Historical Society Fall 2004 quarterly meeting weekend,
October 16, 2004, Temple Israel, Schulenburg, Texas*

Norman Rubin from Hallettsville, Texas, and I would like to tell you about my local ancestors – the Rubin-Klein families who settled in this area. *(As presented by Samylu Rubin on behalf of Dr. Norman Rubin.)*

My Dad was Eli Rubin, the eldest of six children (four girls and two boys) born in Kiev, Russia, in January 1903. Eli went to New York when he was about nine-years-old. He spoke no English, but made rapid advancement in the first through third grades to be with his peers. He loved and participated in all sports – baseball was his favorite. He opposed Lou Gehrig at first base in high school games. Eli studied to become a Cantor.

My Mom, Ruth (Sis) Klein, was the only daughter and the middle child between six brothers. She was born in Manor, Texas in April 1906. She received most of her education in Texas, but in her teens her family moved to New York, so her Dad, Louis Klein, could try manufacturing clothing. It was during this time that Ruth's brothers were involved in neighborhood sports. Who should they meet and bring home to their sister's Sweet 16 birthday party – you guessed it – Eli! That's all it took, but they waited for Ruth to graduate from high school before they married.

Granddaddy Klein decided manufacturing was not for him and so he returned to Texas – this time to La Grange. Two sons, Myke and Moe, and daughter Ruth, had married New Yorkers and returned to Texas with the rest of the family.

Granddaddy Klein started each of his sons and his son-in-law in the dry



Dr. Norman Rubin

goods business in different small towns no further than 35 miles from La Grange.

Moe and Ruth, with their children, Shirley (Morris) Berger and Stuart (first wife, Jan, and second wife, Flo) moved to Flatonia. Myke and Anne Vogel Klein and their children, Adele (Herb) Kalman and Marilyn (Harry) Halpin moved to Schulenburg. Charles and Clara

Holland Klein moved to Columbus with their children, Evelyn (Morton) Eneman, Maxine (Bernard) Wishnow, and Herbert (Lolly). Sidney and Lil Klein, with their son, Mickey (Susan) and later, Sidney's second wife, Rose, lived in Waco and Smithville.

Herman and Cora lived in Yoakum and Texas City with their daughters, Marlene Wells (Tony) Fernandez and Linda (Cone) Clark. Larry and Marian lived in La Grange, and Eli and Ruth Rubin lived in Hallettsville with their children, Esther (Dr. Edward) Wall, Annette (William) Gedaly, Martha Lea (Albert) Stein, Norman (Samylu Michaelson), and Sylvan (Reba Juran). Samylu and I are the only children who remained in this area.

I am an Optometrist and have been active in Temple and civic endeavors. I have been a life-long citizen of Hallettsville, with the exception of the 10 years spent completing my professional education and time spent in Military Service. I graduated from Hallettsville High School, and attended the University of Texas at Austin and Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. I was a First Lieutenant in the Medical

(Rubin, cont. page 17)

Service Corp in Okinawa, serving in the capacity as Optometrist for the personnel. I returned to Hallettsville, where I have been in practice for almost 50 years.

I have been president of several organizations, including Temple Israel, the Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce, Hallettsville Independent School District Board of Directors, Hallettsville Rotary Club, Hallettsville Public Housing, and the South Central Optometric Society. Currently I hold the reins of our Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville, and have led the Community Seder for Temple Israel for 50 years. I received the Man of the Year Award from the Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce and served on the Hallettsville School District Board of Directors for 28 years.

I married the former Samylu Michaelson from Gonzales, and we have three sons – Jay, Howard and Paul. All of them became a Bar Mitzvah in Temple Israel in Schulenburg with Rabbi Roy Wolter from Houston officiating. They received their religious training from Temple Emanu-El in Houston and in Victoria, Texas. All three boys were Eagle Scouts and received the Ner Tamid Award at their Bar Mitzvah ceremony. They have all blown the shofar for holidays at Temple Israel since they were 10-years-old.

Jay Rubin is an ophthalmologist and married Jeanne Shoss from Houston. They live in San Antonio with their three children – Brian, Robyn and



Norman & Samylu Rubin at the Fall 04 TJHS weekend

Robert. Howard Rubin is a dermatologist. He lives in Dallas. Howard married Melanie Lurie from Dallas, and they have three children – Brent, Jillian, and Ross. Paul Rubin is a pedodontist, and is married to Staci Shapiro from Plano. They live in Frisco, Texas.

Eli and Ruth knew no strangers. They helped organize most of the civic clubs in Hallettsville. Eli was a founding father of the Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce; Rotary Club, where he served as District Governor; Temple Israel, which began in the Odd Fellows Hall in Hallettsville; the Boy Scouts of America, where he received the Silver Beaver Award. The Hallettsville Golf Association awarded him the Best Area Left-Handed Golfer Award. He was a volunteer coach after store hours for

all sports in the public school. Eli was also the Rabbi and Cantor for Temple Israel, unless a student rabbi from UAHC (now URJ) was available.

The flood of 1940 took Eli out of the clothing store into Annuities and Insurance. There were not many people within a 100-mile radius who didn't know the name Eli Rubin.

I often asked my Dad what he remembered of his early life in Russia. He would never answer until Samylu and I went to Russia with Laurie and Bob Gindler. He told me the following story.

“My family always observed the Sabbath, and my mother did all the cooking early Friday. The Cossack soldiers would make a point to raid the Jewish farms on the Sabbath and eat a lot of the cooked food. What they didn't eat they would throw on the ground or give to the animals. Thus we were left with no food until Saturday night. When we heard the soldiers' horses, my mother told me to hide in the haystacks until I was sure the soldiers were gone; otherwise they would have taken me with them as their personal servant. That's all I remember, and I never want to talk about it again.”

Almost all the founding members of Temple Israel are gone, but we are still holding on to our Jewish heritage the best we can. We still go by the saying, “the last one out turns off the light.”

◆ TJHS

GROWING UP JEWISH IN SCHULENBURG, TEXAS

*Presented by Isyjean Pinchin Korenek at the Fall 2004 Texas Jewish Historical Society Board meeting weekend
October 16, 2004, Temple Israel, Schulenburg, Texas.*

My name is Isyjean Pinchin Korenek. I am a seventh generation Jew currently living in Rockdale, Texas. I was born on May 17, 1943, in Houston, Texas. My parents were Harold Jean Pinchin and Carmen L. Schwartz Pinchin. They resided in Schulenburg, Texas, and were the owners of Center Furniture Store. I was named Isyjean after my grandfather, Isy Schwartz, and my father, Harold Jean Pinchin.

My great, great, great, great-grandmother on my Dad's side, Veronika Morell Schwarz, was born in Weissenburg, France on March 25, 1804. On October 28, 1835, she married Michael Schwarz, a butcher, who was born on April 18, 1811. The couple made their home in Busenberg, Rheinpfalsa of Bavarian Germany. After their marriage, Michael Schwarz changed his vocation to be a haberdasher. Veronika was active in the new business. In 1854, Veronika was widowed. For a five-year period after Michael's death, Veronika successfully managed the dual responsibility of the business and rearing five children.

In 1859, Veronika immigrated to the United States of America, settling in Hallettsville. Between 1859 and 1866, she was responsible for bringing the six Schwarz brothers from Germany to this area of Texas. Veronika died in 1870. She is buried in the old Rest Haven Jewish

Cemetery, located in a field along a railroad track near Gonzales, Texas.

My great, great grandparents were Joseph August and Henrietta Judith Schwarz August. Joseph was born



Isyjean Pinchin Korenek

in 1829 and Henrietta was born in 1838. They were married on January 12, 1860 in Hallettsville.

Joseph August and Samuel Pepper co-owned a mercantile establishment, which was reportedly one of the largest and most successful of its time in Texas. Grandma Henrietta Judith died in 1878. Grandpa Joseph lost his eyesight before he died in 1907.

My great, great grandfather on my father's side was Abraham (Abe) Finkelstein, the son of the Russian Czar's stable master. Abe was born in 1848. At the time, male Jews were persecuted in Minsk Poland, Russia.

Abe's mother disguised him as a girl, dressing him in a hoop skirt and

putting him on a ship bound for England. Grandpa Abe was only nine-years-old at the time. Into the skirts' lining, his mother had sewed gold coins. During the voyage, my grandfather worked as a cabin boy in order to pay for his passage. Upon arriving in England, he went to live and work in the Rothschild's home. As a teenager, Abe boarded a ship and sailed to Australia, where he worked for a time as a gaucho. In 1857, he immigrated to the United States.

In 1833, Abe Finkelstein married Fannie August, daughter of Joseph and Judith Henrietta Schwarz August. Abe and Fannie Finkelstein later became owners of the nationally famous Fink Hotel, which she inherited. The Fink Hotel in Hallettsville, Texas, was well known for its home-cooked meals, which were served family-style. One would often observe "Mr. Abe Fink," as he was called, playing dominoes on the porch or in the lobby of the hotel. Prior to Jewish worship services, my grandfather Abe would put the Torah into a wheelbarrow and cart it from the Fink Hotel to the Odd Fellows Hall.

Although Grandpa Abe was too young to be a soldier in the Confederate Army during the Civil War in the 1860's, he did serve as flag bearer and bugle boy. It was

(Growing Up, cont. page 1)

reported that my grandfather habitually and proudly carried his service documentation on his person. After the war, Grandpa Abe became a traveling salesman. Fittingly, he sold hoops for skirts as one item of his stock in trade.

Abe and Fannie Finkelstein had four children – Henrietta Finkelstein Rudnick, born in 1883; Raye Finkelstein Greenbaum, born in 1885; Dave Finkelstein, born in 1888; Bonnie Bessie Finkelstein Pinchin, born in 1891. Grandpa Abe died in 1933, and Grandma Fannie died in 1938.

I am the great granddaughter of Ralph Pinchin and Bonnie Bessie Finkelstein Pinchin, residents of Texarkana, Texas. Grandpa Ralph was a railroad claims agent. They had one child, my father Harold Jean Pinchin, born on October 9, 1915. After their divorce, Grandma Bessie and my dad moved to Hallettsville and lived in the Fink Hotel. Grandpa Ralph was born in 1887. I am unaware of his date of death. Grandma Bessie died in 1957.

My great uncle, Henry Greenebaum, and my great aunt, Raye Finkelstein Greenebaum, also resided in Hallettsville until approximately 1948, when they moved to Schulenburg, Texas.

My namesake – my grandfather on my mother's side – Isy Schwartz, was one of two sons of Max Schwartz and Josephine Reichman Schwartz. He was born in Schulenburg in February 1893. Grandpa Isy was a Texas Aggie,

Schulenburg Masonic Lodge Master, and 32nd Degree Shriner of the Arabian Temple in Houston, Texas. He bought and sold horses and mules, and also sold feed seeds at Schwartz Brothers. He married Emmy Russek Schwartz on May 17, 1914. She was born on May 4, 1894, the daughter of a well-known and affluent Schulenburg family. The Russeks were from Busenberg, Rheinpfals, of Bavarian Berman, and lived on the Schulenburg land prior to the formation of Schulenburg, Texas. Isy and Emmy were blessed with two daughters – my aunt, Rosemary Schwartz Baylor (Hermis), and my mother, Carmen L. Schwartz (Pinchin). Grandpa Isy died at age 49 of cancer in October 1943. I am uncertain of my Grandma Emmy's date of death.

My dad went to Texas A & M University as well as the University of Texas at Austin. However, Daddy always considered himself a diehard Aggie. During World War II, he was the registrar on the hospital ship, the USS Dogwood, which was constantly in combat zones. Its service was first in the European Theater and then the Pacific Island Complexes.

I remember one cool, crisp, winter day when I was about two-years-old, when my mother, Carmen L. Schwartz Pinchin, dressed me in a pink coat with a matching pink hat. Then she and my dad took me to the bus station in Schulenburg. They placed my little suitcase and me on a Greyhound Bus in the seat behind the bus driver – named Jake – and sent me on my way to visit Grandma

Bessie and Aunt Raye for the weekend at the Fink Hotel.

As a very young child, I attended Aunt Susie Steiner's Sunday school in Columbus, Texas. I remember when Temple Israel of Schulenburg was built in 1951. It was located on property donated by the Hirsch Schwartz family. The Bohlmann Brothers constructed it. My mother was the seamstress who made the curtains for the Temple, and my father laid the original floor tile and carpeted the bima. Together, they installed the satin lining and the braid-work for the interior of the Ark. That lining is still in the Ark today. My great-grandmother, Bonnie Bessie Pinchin was the first secretary of Temple Israel in Schulenburg. She was also responsible for raising the funds to purchase the piano, which is still used today.

When I was between the ages of six and seven, I became a Brownie Girl Scout. I remained in Girl Scouting all through my school years. When I was eight-years-old, I received recognition for selling 450 boxes of Girl Scout cookies, and was crowned Girl Scout Cookie Queen. From fifth through twelfth grades, I was a member of the only Girl Scout Band in the world. We marched in the Houston and San Antonio Battle of Flowers parade. I was also a member of the Schulenburg Shorthorn High School Band, directed by Billy Jacobs and later by Claude Marty, Jr. I played first chair clarinet and marched on the far right of the front row.

(Growing Up, cont. page 20)

When I was about eight-and-a-half-years-old, my parents separated. My brother, Henry, (who is eighteen months younger than me) and I went to live with Grandma Bessie and Aunt Raye. I remember helping them make their famous charosis for the Temple Seder, which was held each year.

Morris Levein, from La Grange, Texas, taught his daughter, Frances and me Hebrew during our Sunday school lesson in Temple Israel.

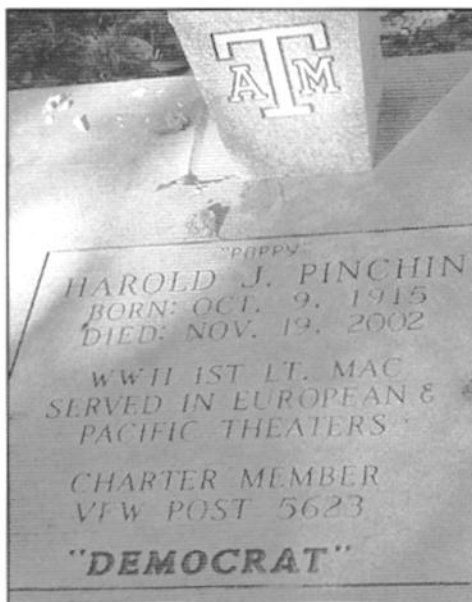
While growing up, we had student Rabbis from the Hebrew Union College conduct our High Holy Day worship services. The Rabbis would stay in the Von Mendon Hotel on Highway 90 (Summit Street), across the street from where I lived. I remember them coming to our house frequently to visit and/or have a meal when they did not have anything else scheduled.

When I was preparing for my Confirmation, I corresponded with one of the student rabbis, Arnold Kaiman, as a means of receiving some of my religious training. Felice Schwartz, my Sunday school teacher, also assisted in my Confirmation training.

During my high school years – 1957-1961 – I would sing the High Holy Day Services, along with Mrs. Carol from Weimar, Texas. Mrs. Janette Alexandar from La Grange was the Temple's organist. Rabbi Robert Kahn, from Temple Emanuel El in

Houston, confirmed Frances Levein and me in 1959 at Temple Israel in Schulenburg. After Confirmation I taught Sunday school for two years. Sarah Lippmann's two sons, Sheldon and Irwin, were in my class.

My brother and I continued to live with Aunt Raye until we graduated and married, which was after Grandma Bessie passed away. My sister, Carla Pinchin Haydon, who is 17 years younger than me, was born March 7, 1960. After my parents



Harry J. Pinchin headstone in Hallettsville, TX

divorce, my Dad received custody of my sister. They lived in Houston until she graduated from high school.

William Edward Korenek and I were married on October 28, 1961. Rabbi Schatel of Beth Israel performed the ceremony in my parents' home in Houston, Texas. Willie, the son of Frank Korenek and Annie Janecka

Korenek of Weimar, was born on September 7, 1942, at his grandparent's home in Dubina, Texas. Willie and I now live in Rockdale, Texas. We have two children and six grandchildren.

Our daughter, Denise Korenek Meyer, was born May 1, 1962, and married Harvey Meyer on May 6, 1989. They have three children – Ashley Nicole Meyer, born August 9, 1994, and twins, Britny Dawn and Dustin Vaughn Meyer, born January 1, 1996. They live in Schulenburg.

Our son, Darrell Lynn Korenek, was born January 18, 1967, and married Miki Moerbe Korenek on December 17, 1986. Their three children are Christina (Tina) Renee Korenek, born January 30, 1989; Parker Lynn Korenek, born March 20, 1992; and Abigail (Abbie) Leigh Korenek, born March 15, 1996. They live in Weatherford, Texas.

From 1974 to 1976, I took night classes from Temple Jr. College at their Taylor and Cameron, Texas campuses. In the fall of 1976, I attended the University of Texas at Austin and graduated on May 1, 1980 – my 37th birthday. My graduation was two weeks prior to my daughter's high school graduation. I began teaching, and this is the beginning of my 25th year.

My mother, Carmen L. Schwar (Pinchin) died in February 2002, and my father, Harold Jean Pinchin died on November 19, 2002. ♦ TJH

THE GINDLER FAMILY HISTORY

Presented at the Fall 2004 Texas Jewish Historical Society Quarterly Meeting weekend, Saturday, October 16, 2004, Temple Israel in Schulenburg. The family was represented by Marian Gindler, Bob Young & Bob Gindler.



Bob Gindler

My mother, Esther Gindler, died at age 98 in 1994. She spent the last few years of her life at Seven Acres Jewish Center in Houston. When she was 95, Mom told me she wanted to marry again, but would like a younger man this time...I replied, "At your age you'll have a heckuva time finding an older one!" Anyway, this passed, and she never found the right person to replace my father, Henry Gindler, who died in 1947 at age 59.

I was assigned the task of selecting a stone to mark my mother's gravesite. While viewing memorials in the Hallettsville Jewish Cemetery, I noticed that many had identical Hebrew symbols above the deceased's name, including all those in the Rubin-Klein portion of the cemetery. Before ordering the monument, I asked my friend Dr. Norman Rubin to interpret the Hebrew Letter. He shrugged his shoulders, thought a moment about his uncles who had been merchants in Schulenburg, La Grange, Smithville, Flatonia and Columbus,

and replied, "I guess it means Shop at Klein's." Well, I didn't want to put this on my mother's headstone, but then a rabbi eased my mind telling me the letters said, "Here Lies..." so my mother's stone has the traditional Hebrew symbols.

In 1912, at age 24, my father, Henry Gindler, a shoe cobbler by trade, migrated to Beaumont, Texas from Vertushany, Bessarabia, a part of Rumania. After working at his trade for a few months in Beaumont, he noticed an ad in the Houston Post where a Cobbler's widow in Weimar was seeking someone to work and possibly take over her late husband's business.

Henry took the train to Weimar, liked what he saw, and set up business on the north side of the business district. One day, a smooth-talking shoe salesman called on the young cobbler and told him the real money was in selling shoes, not just repairing them. Like his sons did in later years, young Henry bought too much inventory, requiring a larger building than his modest shoe repair shop. He rented a much bigger facility across the street and added kitchenware, school supplies, fabrics and clothing to his stock of shoes. Thus, in 1913, Gindler's was born and operated as a general mercantile store until the owner's untimely death in 1947. During this time, he learned to speak five languages to communicate with his customers, many of who were immigrants like he, but spoke only German, Czech or Spanish.

Our father truly loved this country and he enlisted in the Home Guard and served on the Weimar School Board for many years. His devotion to civic work and the community he lived in rubbed off on his sons, Otto, Davis and Bob, who were later active in their respective communities. In 1914, Henry married Alice Sherman, and a year later the couple had a daughter, Lillian, who passed away in 1982. Lillian married Sam Ginsberg in 1934, and prior to his death in 1971 Sam managed Gindler's Columbus, Texas store.

Lillian and Sam had two sons, Alan and Leon, who pursued careers in education. Leon Ginsberg is currently a Professor of Social Studies at the University of South Carolina, and has written many books currently used in Social Studies courses throughout the world. Alice Sherman Gindler died July 24, 1917 from complications in childbirth. She and her infant daughter are buried in Weimar.

On May 6, 1920, on his first trip back to Europe since leaving there, Henry Gindler married Esther Soffer at Bulti, Bessarabia. He brought his family and his bride's family back to the United States following the wedding. Henry and Esther had three sons: twins Otto and Davis, born July 28, 1924, and Robert, born June 2, 1929.

(Gindler, cont. page 22)

Upon their father's sudden death in 1947, Otto and Davis, who had both just returned from military service during World War II, and Robert, who had graduated from high school that May, formed a partnership to continue the family business. The two older brothers took turns managing the store, while one of them and Bobby, (as I was known), attended the University of Texas at Austin. All three eventually earned degrees in Business Administration. The business expanded to other towns in South Central Texas and at one time we operated Gindler's Department Stores in Weimar, Hallettsville, Gonzales, Columbus, La Grange, Yoakum, and Smithville, and Ben Franklin Variety Stores in Weimar, Hallettsville, and Gonzales.

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they've gone from your life. I've learned that making a living is not the same as making a life. My brothers and I truly believed and practiced this, and often we devoted as much time to putting something into the communities we lived in as we did to expanding our business.

Otto married Marian Meinert of Hallettsville in 1949 and moved to Weimar, where he established our first Ben Franklin Store. Davis and I worked at the department store across the street until I enlisted in the Army during the Korean War in 1952. In 1954, I married Laurine Lam, a Chaplain's daughter, at Ft. Lee, Virginia. Following my discharge from the service, I

returned to Hallettsville to manage a store that we had acquired that spring from Lautersteins. Laurie and I still live in Hallettsville, where we operated a Gindler's store until 1998. We have two children. David is a software engineer, and lives with his wife, Alyson, and our two grandchildren, Drue and Brett, in Georgetown, Texas. Anne lives in Talkeetna, Alaska.

Otto and Marian had three sons, Larry, Jack and Bruce, and a daughter, Melissa. Larry was married to Linda Johnson and passed away in 2001 following a bout with Leukemia. Jack, a CPA in Austin, is married to Maureen Brewer and they have two children, Sam and Emily. Bruce, also a CPA in Gonzales, married his high school sweetheart, Lisa Farek. They have two sons, Andy and Brent. Melissa (Missy) and her husband, Lee Elmore, have two daughters – Judy Ann Elmore and Layla Danelle Elmore, who recently married Tom Lombardo of Chicago, Ill. Missy teaches school in the Dallas area.

Otto died of a sudden heart attack in 1993 in Gonzales, where he and his wife, Marian lived since 1963. During the time he resided in Gonzales, Otto served as president of the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants Committee. He founded the Gonzales United Way and served on its board for many years. He was a member of both the Sam Houston and Capitol Area Councils of the Boy Scouts of America, past

president of Rotary, the tri-county Texas Exes Association, and a charter member of the Gonzales Area Development Corporation. In 1991 The Gonzales Chamber of Commerce awarded Otto it's highest honor – the Citizen of the Year.

Davis Gindler currently resides in Weimar with his second wife, Judy. He and his late wife, Beverly Lanier Gindler, who passed away in 2000, have two children. Henry married Brenda Lange, and have two grandsons – Chase and Grant. Daughter Phyllis married Kent Roberts. The couple has two daughters, Kara and Erin. Phyllis is a Senior Buyer for Foley's Houston. Henry and his wife, Brenda, own and manage a Texas Burger / Subway Restaurant on Interstate-10 in Weimar.

Davis is a charter president of The Weimar Lions Club and is still an active member. He was Mayor of the City of Weimar from 1978 till 1982, president of The Texas Retailers Association 1980-1982, and was voted Outstanding University of Texas Bachelor of Business Administration Graduate in 1980. He has been a member of the VFW & American Legion, an active Mason and a Shriner, and has been associated with Gindler's Department Stores for over 50 years.

That leaves me. Since arriving in Hallettsville in 1954 with my bride, Laurie, I served as Cub and Explorer

(Gindler, cont. page 25)

WORLD WAR II CARD CONNECTS YESHIVA STUDENT WITH GRANDFATHER HE NEVER KNEW

By Hollace Ava Weiner

When Regina S. Gernsbacher died in 1950, she left behind a light blue lingerie box filled with letters and memorabilia from Jewish soldiers she had befriended during World War II.

Throughout the war, "Reggie" Gernsbacher spearheaded Fort Worth's Jewish U.S.O. Committee. In that role, she made certain that Jewish GIs stationed across North Texas received home hospitality for Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover or whenever they were homesick for a bowl of chicken soup.

Reggie's lingerie box of letters ended up in the Beth-El Congregation Archives. Two items from that box were selected by New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage for a current exhibition called "Ours to Fight For: American Jews in World War II."

The artifacts, which are on loan to the Battery Park Plaza Museum through December 31, 2005, are a Passover flier advertising a community Seder for soldiers and a membership card issued by the Jewish Welfare Board to Pvt. Rudolf Haar.

Who was Pvt. Rudolf Haar? Presumably, he was just another soldier passing through Fort Worth.

However, a rabbinical student at New York's Jewish Theological Seminary visited the Museum of Jewish Heritage this summer and recognized Pvt. Rudolf Haar's name. It was his grandfather. The rabbinical student, Ben Adler, who was raised in San Antonio, never met his grandfather and was therefore eager to learn more.

He contacted the museum staff for additional information about Pvt. Haar. When the museum reached me, I checked the index of the Regina Gernsbacher Papers. Sure enough, it mentioned a letter with a previously indecipherable signature that turned out to be Rudolf Haar's. Together, with the grandson, we pieced together



**Regina "Reggie" Gernsbacher was a lifeline
to Jewish soldiers stationed in Texas.**

Photo: Courtesy, Beth-El Congregation Archives, Fort Worth

the rest of the story.

Pvt. Haar was a native of Vienna. On Kristallnacht in 1938, when the Nazis smashed the storefronts of Jewish-owned businesses, Haar was beaten up and interned at Dachau concentration camp. The Nazis told prisoners that if they could obtain visas to leave the Third Reich, they would be released. Rudolf Haar's brother, Otto, could not obtain the necessary papers and subsequently perished.

Rudolf immigrated to the States and joined the U.S. Army. For basic training he was assigned to Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells. He ended up in the base hospital complaining of excruciating headaches, which his family attributed to beatings received at Dachau. Lonely and in pain, on April 4, 1943, Pvt. Haar wrote the Fort Worth office of the Jewish Welfare Board:

(Gernsbacher, cont. page 27)

A LETTER FROM POLAND

Larry Norton, Laredo, Texas

The following letter is not from a history book or the Holocaust Museum or from Yad Vashem. It is an actual letter that was written by my Father's sister in Poland on August 24, 1939 – one week before the invasion of Poland and a few weeks before the beginning of World War II. The letter is from my Grandfather, Lazar Nurzec, in Zabłudow, Poland to his brother-in-law, Isadore Punya, in Chicago. Isadore Punya became known as

24 August 1939

My Dear Brother,

With trembling hand I take the pen now to write you a letter, living through the heart-rending experience that occurred this morning in our "shtetl" (village). And who knows maybe more such. My beloved brother, please excuse me for this "introduction" to this letter, but I could not have begun in any other way.

For the past several days, it seems if the whole world is cooking as inside a pot (about this I cannot write to you). Today I woke up at 6:00 a.m. What had happened? On the street there were wagons, people gathered together standing here and there. It seems to be a different kind of morning. Yes, it carries with itself the "good" news. I do not want to express it with an entire statement. In short, by the first "auto" (tram or bus) at 7:00 a.m. both Jews and Christians went to say good-bye to the deportees. Beloved brother "Shmulkeh", if you had been here today, you would also have been taken away. Those who served together with you have gone away. We would also have been taken away together with those who were by the "auto" banging their heads on the walls. They took young fathers away from their children. The crying reached the heavens.

Among them: Moshe Becker, Soria, Myshke of Rezise, Segalowich, the writer (author), and many more. Civilian passengers were not allowed to travel. By the 10:00 a.m. "auto" still the same. There occurred such "pictures" (scenes) that are difficult to articulate in writing. Now it is noon. The streets are not empty yet,

Isadore Becker, who was active in the Chicago Zabłudow Verein Landsmansaftn Organization.

It appears to refer to the many Jews being taken away for service in the Polish army. After my father passed away in 1991, I discovered it in his desk. When I showed it to my uncle all he could do was sob – he could not translate it for me. A visiting rabbi took a copy and had it translated for me.

for soon will arrive an "auto" with a full car of farmers, Christians from the villages who must travel through. My dear, I cannot write you more, because before my eyes stand the mothers, wives, and children who are taking leave for who knows how long.

And by us at home? What do we have? We sit and wait. For what? Who knows? Nobody wants to show money and no one is working. And here suddenly and entirely unexpectedly I am standing in the street and the mailman brings me a letter from you containing an inquiry about the pass from Warsaw and a ticket to Podotek.

Everyone surrounded me thinking who knows what! But I saw nothing, only your letter, and with one leap I ran into the house, and imagine our joy upon receiving word that you had sent us money. In the meantime the money is still not here. We have cried out all our tears. While I am writing these words, I am shedding tears. I do not know if they are tears of joy or of – who knows what. Better not to mention it. I have had to interrupt my writing for a minute; I looked outside at the street, my grandmother called me to look out. The streets are full. No children or carriages have remained. The gentiles are drunk and are all over the streets. My dear brother, I must conclude, for I have a great headache. But, in one word, it is horrible. As the situation will change I will write later. Be well, and the next letter should be a better one. And send regards to the entire family.

(Letter, cont. on page 25)

(Letter, cont. from page 24)

Notes: My father's nickname was "Shmulkeh." He served two years in the Polish Army before immigrating through Mexico to the United States, where he served four years in the U.S. Army. The reference "Those that served together with you have gone away," refers to his acquaintances in the Polish Army.

On July 12, 1941, 5,000 Jews from Bialystok and Zabłudow were murdered at the Petrasha Fields and the death camps outside the city. On November 1, 1942, the Nazi transported by wagons all the remaining Jews from Zabłudow imprisoned in the ghetto near the leather factories in Bialystok. First, they were tortured in the army camp of the 10th Cavalry Unit. From there they were sent to the death camp at Treblinka where they were killed by gas on November 10, 1942. My Grandfather and scores of aunts, uncles, and cousins died at Treblinka.

My Father's first cousin, Seymour Norton, worked as a slave laborer and was then sent to Treblinka. He survived the Holocaust and now lives in Corpus Christi. He has told of one cousin who perished after jumping from the train to the death camp and other relatives murdered by the Poles after the war. One of his first jobs as a slave was dismantling Jewish cemeteries and using the headstones to pave streets for the Nazis. Additional information is at <http://www.zabludow.com/zabludowletter.html>

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(Gindler, cont. from page 22)

Scout leaders, president of the Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, president of the Tri-County Texas-Exes Association, president of the Hallettsville Lions Club, and president of the Lavaca County Flood Control District.

From 1964-1970, I served three terms on the Hallettsville City Council. In 1994-1996, I served as Chairman of the Texas Retailers Association. I was a charter member and founder of the Lavaca County Emergency Medical Service (EMS), serving as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) from 1973-1980, and have since provided CPR and first aid training for instructors, healthcare providers and lay personnel. I am past president and founder of South Texas CPR Associates, an Emergency Cardiac Care Training Center for the American Heart Association covering 12 rural counties in Texas. I was twice awarded Hallettsville Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture's Citizen of the Year Award, in 1958 and 1989, and the Golden Crescent Regional Citizenship Award in 1990. We are all members of Temple Israel in Schulenburg.

My wife, Laurie has chaired two expansions of our local Hallettsville Library, and has been active as both a Girl Scout and Cub Scout Leader, has helped to organize and serve on the Board of the Hallettsville United Way, and was named Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in 1982.

Our family has learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance. We have learned that you should not go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back.

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SUMMER 2004 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IN HOUSTON JULY 10-11, 2004

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Board of Directors met in Houston, Texas the weekend of July 10-11, 2004. Saturday evening, members enjoyed a Dutch-treat dinner in the Bayou City Restaurant. The Board held its business meeting on Sunday morning, July 11, in the Courtyard by Marriott hotel, located at 3131 West Loop South. Beverly Beck Trachtenberg organized the weekend.



David Bach, Max Stool, Ima Joy Gandler and Lynn Greenberg visit over dinner at the Bayou City Restaurant



Roy Elsner, Helen Wilk, Jake Trachtenberg and Alan Livingston enjoy company and conversation



Blanche Sheiness sittin' pretty



Beverly Beck Trachtenberg and Elaine Albin



TJHS President Marvin Rich and First Lady Shirley Rich



Meeting of the Texas Jewish Historical Society Board of Directors July 11, 2004



Jimmy Kessler, Ima Joy Gandler, Blanche Sheiness, Elaine Albin, Helen Wilk, Roy Elsner at Board meeting.

If you want to do something for a sick soldier, I would like you to send somebody from your social workers up to the hospital to see me so I can talk to someone from the outside world. You certainly would do something very helpful without much effort. I am in ward B-13. Thank you in advance. I remain very sincerely yours, Pvt. Rudolf Haar.

Reggie Gernsbacher apparently visited Pvt. Haar. Soon after, the 37-year-old soldier was transferred to San Antonio's Brook Army Hospital where he died from a brain tumor April 29, 1943. His widow, Erna Haar, who lived in Houston, later married Martin Epstein and raised her family in San Antonio. His niece, Eleanor Siegal, was the first in the family to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage and spot Rudolf Haar's Jewish Welfare Board card. She alerted her cousin, the rabbinical student. Coincidentally, back home in San Antonio, Rudolf Haar's descendants are friends with Claudia Gernsbacher Bankler, the granddaughter of Reggie Gernsbacher. The story has come full circle.

Among the rewards of archival work are coincidences such as this, whereby scraps of paper tucked away in a lingerie box become the basis for illuminating a life story.

To learn more about the exhibit, "Ours To Fight For: American Jews in WWII," which continues through the end of 2005, look up the Museum of Jewish Heritage's Internet page <http://www.mjhnyc.org/index.htm>. ♦ TJHS



Texas Jewish Historical Society Membership Form

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

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