

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980



A Quarterly News Magazine of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

Spring 2005

26TH ANNUAL GATHERING APRIL 8-10, 2005 EXCITING, INTERESTING, TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

Marvin Rich
Texas Jewish Historical Society President



It is with a great pleasure and pride that I report to you on the success of the Texas Jewish Historical Society's 26th Annual Gathering and The Texas Jewish History Symposium. The weekend was held April 8-10, 2005, at the DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 I-35 North, Austin, TX.

After enjoying a delicious dinner, we boarded the Austin Easy Rider buses and rode in style to Temple Beth Israel, where we enjoyed Shabbat services followed by a beautiful Oneg Shabbat hosted by TJHS Past President Milton Smith and his daughter, Lonnie Smith Karotkin.

Saturday morning, we enjoyed breakfast and then it was on to the Thompson Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin, where we were treated to comfortable seating and a fascinating, interesting day.

Lone Stars of David: A Texas Jewish History Symposium was perfectly planned. Co-editors Hollace Ava Weiner and Rabbi Ken Roseman invited the speakers and participants. Each is writing a chapter for the book, Lone Stars of David. All made excellent presentations. I am sure that Lone Stars of David will be the outstanding volume in the forthcoming UPNE / Brandeis University series in American Jewish History, Culture and Life! We all look forward to its production.

See President's Message page 9

IN THIS ISSUE...

26th Annual Gathering & Symposium	9
Board of Directors Announced	9
Photographic Memories	10
More Photo Memories	17
Galveston: A Weekend To Remember	14
More Photo Memories	17
Echo Hill Celebrates 53 Years	Cover
By Davie Lou Solka	
Frances Kallison Remembered	12
Kallison Agrees Jews Died at Alamo	16
By Hollace Ava Weiner	
Weisman & Co. Historical Marker	16
Free Texas Jewish History Exhibit	18
Offer Your Records Online	8
By Ima Joy Gandler	
Summer Meeting Announced	6
Letter from the President	Cover
TJHS Wishes & Memories	2
Endowment Fund	2
Give the Gift of Membership	18
Member Application	19
Welcome New Members!	19
New! Member Directory Page Insert	

Echo Hill Ranch – From Generation to Generation

Second Generation Owners Roger, Marcie and "Kinky" Friedman Serve Third Generation Campers
By Davie Lou Solka

Tom and Minnie Friedman filled a need for Jewish camping in Texas when they purchased the 400-acre Raven Ranch near Kerrville in 1952. Family rumor has it that Tom once said that since they couldn't afford to send their children to camp in the East, they would create one for themselves in Texas – and create one they did!

Echo Hill Ranch opened in June 1953 with 38 campers and 10 staff members. Many of the campers were the children of Tom's and Minnie's friends and colleagues. Minnie, (called "Aunt Min" by campers and staff), was Executive Director and the driving force behind the camp philosophy and programs. Tom, a.k.a. Uncle Tom, was Business Manager and Staff Educator in the early years. Little did they know that 53 years later, Echo Hill Ranch would be operating under their children's ownership, serving 100 campers and 40 staff members each session.

See Echo Hill, page 3

Texas Jewish Historical Society Wishes and Memories

Corresponding Secretary Selma Mantel sent the following notes and cards June 2004 through January 2005.

GET WELL WISHES

Leon Brachman
Jack Gerrick
Audrey Maislin
Dr. Louis Pink
Dr. Larry Wilk

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Margie Abrams
Dave Andres
Phyllis Falik
Robert L. Furman
(husband of Susan Elsner Furman)
Laurie Gindler
Dr. Louis Pink
Melvin Pomerantz
Estelle Rappaport
(mother of Larry and Helen Wilk)
Jack Schaevitz
Sondra Sugarman

MAZEL TOV WISHES

Annette & Howard Lackman
on the birth of their
granddaughter, Sadye Jane

Selma Mantel
on her son Matthew's
engagement to Jessica Lind

Barbara & Ben Rosenberg
on the birth of their grandson
Zachary Mayer Welk

Edith & Bernard Stolbun
on the birth of their great-granddaughter,
Zahara Hyman

Marilee Weiner
on her grandson Greg Gerstenhaber's
engagement to Courtney Bankler

Visit the Texas Jewish
Historical Society
website!
www.txjhs.org

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:

In Memory of Francis Kallison
by Mr. & Mrs. Joel Breslar

In Memory Dr. Louis Pink
by Laurie & Alan Selzer

Thanks to all who have contributed 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.

THE TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING 2005 QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE

Your articles, oral histories and photographs are welcome for inclusion in the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine. Email or mail them to Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka, davielou@solka.net, 501 Bermuda Place, Corpus Christi, TX, 78411, 361-852-5815.

Publisher-Editor
Assistant Editor
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Marvin Rich, Helen Wilk
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Proofreaders
Printer

Note: The Texas Jewish Historical Society cannot guarantee the safe return of your documents or photographs. It is recommended that *only* color photocopies of both black & white and color documents and photos are provided. We welcome your suggestions, comments and ideas. Send to Susan Elsner Furman, Susan@ElsnerFurman.com or mail to 6215 Berthoud Pass, Dallas, TX, 75252.

While "Echo Hill" is named for its 400-acres of beauty surrounded by hills, one could say, too, that the campers and staff members themselves are echoes of their parents and grandparents. Today, 60% of campers and staff are second generation, while 20% are third generation.

Tom and Min followed the examples set by their parents, who were very involved in their communities when they immigrated to the United States. Minnie's parents, Morris and Vally Samet, were in their mid-twenties when they arrived in Chicago via New York in 1906, after fleeing the pogroms in Kishinev, Russia.

Morris was the principal of a Jewish school in Russia. He spoke five languages and continued as a teacher after arriving in the United States. He later worked as a real estate agent in Chicago. Vally led the Ladies Aid Society for the Jewish Blind in Jerusalem. During World War II, she received an American Red Cross commendation for her many hours devoted to knitting sweaters for soldiers overseas. She was a Life Member of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and Hadassah. They kept a kosher home and their family was involved in Chicago Jewish life. They had five children: Barney, Allan, Minnie, and twins Eli and Hank.

Barney, Allan and Hank are still living. Barney was an artist and involved in marketing and design in Chicago. Allen moved to Kansas City, where he worked in sales and sales management. Minnie received

her Bachelor of Science Degree in Speech and Education from Northwestern University and served as a speech therapist in the Chicago public schools. Eli was a physician and surgeon in the Chicago area. Hank's career was in marketing and finance. He is a long-time leader in his synagogue.

Milt Galatzer, the Samets' first cousin, was a well-known Major League Jewish baseball player. He played for the Cleveland Indians from 1931 to 1936 and for the Cincinnati Reds for one year.



Tom and Minnie Friedman 1948

Tom's parents, Hyman and Eva Friedman also immigrated to the United States from Russia. They arrived in Chicago in 1910, where Hyman was a tailor and helped organize the Chicago Garment Workers Union in the 1920s. They opened a dry cleaning and tailor shop in early 1930. Eva was the bookkeeper while Hyman did the tailoring and cleaning. He was very committed to the Labor Movement and was an early and active Zionist.

They had two children, Seymour ("Tom") and Dorothy. After graduating high school, Dorothy moved to Massachusetts where she raised

her family. After Seymour played Tom Sawyer in a high school play, adopted the name, Tom, as his own. He graduated the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and earned his Masters in Psychology from Northwestern University.

Tom and Min were very involved in the Yiddish Theater at Chicago's Jewish People's Institute (JPI), a community center, athletic club, Yiddish Theater, job-training center and social center in the 1930s. They worked on the sets and Tom played occasional bit parts in the Yiddish Theater. Even though they were attending different colleges, their relationship flourished. They married after earning their Masters degrees in 1941. Tom then entered a Psychology Doctoral Program at the University of Chicago and Min worked as a speech therapist in the Chicago public schools.

Their world changed drastically on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and World War II began. Tom enlisted in the Army and Air Force, and in January 1942, he began two years of training to be a Navigator on a B-24 Bomber with the 8th Air Force. When Tom's orders for combat arrived, Minnie was pregnant with their first son, Richard (known today as "Kinky"). Tom was stationed in England for seven months with the 389th Division of the 8th Air Force, and flew over Germany 35 times. He held eight decorations and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He stated that his proudest moments in life were his contribu-

See Echo Hill, page 4

tions to the destruction of Hitler's Germany during the combat tour. He was just 23-years-old.

After the war, Tom was looking for work in Chicago when a friend at the JPI told him of a position to organize an office for the Anti-Defamation League in Houston, Texas. It would be for one year, but the salary was great – \$3,600. Tom and Min could afford a green Plymouth convertible, which is how they arrived in Houston. With the help of the GI Bill, they built a house in West University Place. The entire block consisted of new homes built by young couples that were starting a new life after the War. Min went to work as one of the first speech therapists in the Houston Independent School System. The one-year job became a two-year job, and Tom and Min started feeling very much at home in Texas. They decided to stay in Houston, where they built their family and careers.

Roger, their second son, was born in 1948, and the Friedman's became active members of Temple Emanuel. Tom was named Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council and became involved in Houston politics.

Looking for new challenges, the idea of starting a children's camp became their passion. Thinking that summer camping was great for children and there being few Jewish summer camps in Texas, they built upon their dream.

In the 1950s and 1960s, when the Friedman's were building Echo Hill

Ranch into a well-respected institution in the Texas Jewish community, they continued their involvement in the Houston community. Min was Chapter President of B'nai B'rith Women and served as District 7 President from 1954-55. She also served on the National B'nai B'rith Women Leadership Committee and developed leadership training for the organization. She is remembered as a quiet and strong leader who built and improved the organization throughout Texas. She mentored many young women into leadership positions.

The Friedman's moved to Austin in 1959, so that Tom could complete his Doctorate in Psychology, which was interrupted in 1941 by the beginning of World War II. He received his PhD three years later, and was offered a position in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Texas. Their third child, Marcie, was born in 1961.

Tom and Min became involved with Israel Bonds and were honored for their contributions to the organization. Tom served for many years on the Board of Directors at the University of Texas at Austin Hillel, and was instrumental in helping it grow. Both held leadership positions in Congregation Beth Israel.

Min and Tom loved the Ranch and the Hill country. They visited frequently during the year and always spent their summers at the Ranch. They often took their children to the Ranch for Hill Country Thanksgivings and Passover Seders, where non-Jewish neighbors were invited.

They were proud of their Jewish identity and Jewish roots, and they enjoyed cultivating friendships across all religious and socioeconomic groups. They taught their children and others how people are more alike than they are different.

Min loved the natural world of the Hill Country, cherishing her hummingbirds, wildflowers and beautiful sunsets at the Ranch.

Each Memorial Day, they packed up and left the city for the Ranch, where they lived until Labor Day. A camp and well-known institution, Echo Hill was also the family homestead - a retreat that held the family together. "Kinky", Roger and Marcie all have countless memories of their childhood on the Ranch.

"Kinky" (Richard) attended the University of Texas in the 1960s and entered the Peace Corps for several years, serving in Borneo. Upon his return to the United States in 1968, he began his career as a songwriter and country music singer. He moved to Nashville in 1970, and with Roger serving as his first manager, Kinky formed the legendary band, "Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jew Boys". Together, in 1973 they planned a road tour that crossed the country, promoting Kinky's first album on Vanguard Records. The band and its five records were critical successes and established Kinky as a creative, funny – and often serious – writer of country music ballads. By the mid-1980s, Kinky had become a mystery writer. He has published 16 novels to date.

See Echo Hill, page 5

A well-known writer, cultural critic and entertainer, in 1996, Kinky, with the support of friends and family, founded the Utopia Animal Rescue Ranch at Echo Hill, a sanctuary for unwanted or injured dogs and other animals. Kinky was invited to both the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush White Houses. He writes a monthly cultural commentary column for Texas Monthly Magazine. In January 2005, Kinky Friedman announced his candidacy as an Independent for Governor of Texas and is already campaigning as a serious challenger in the Fall 2006 Gubernatorial election.

Tom and Min's second son, Roger attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and returned to Texas working as a Juvenile Probation Officer and Assistant Director at Echo Hill.

After managing Kinky's band and musical career in Nashville, Roger attended graduate school in 1976 at the University of Maryland, where he received his Masters Degree in Social Work and his PhD in Psychology in 1981.

Roger joined the faculty of the School of Social Work at the University of Maryland in 1981, and by 1985 he was the leading consultant in developing the country's first statewide family-centered program in public child welfare. He has written many articles and has helped develop

family-centered mental health and child abuse prevention programs across the county.

Roger maintains a private clinical practice in family and couples' therapy in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is a Clinical Faculty Member of the University of Maryland School of Social Work, is on the faculty of the Child and Family Institute at



Jewish Social Services in Rockville, Maryland, and serves on the Editorial Board of the New Mexico State University Family Preservation Journal. Roger teaches eighth grade at Temple Emanuel Religious School in Kensington, Maryland, and holds leadership roles on the Board of Directors and in the development of the Religious School.

Roger met his wife, Roz Beroza, while in graduate school. The couple married in 1981. Roz is a clinical social worker. She has maintained a private practice in family and individual therapy since 1982. They have three children. Amanda is a junior at the University of Vermont, Michaela is a high school sophomore, and David attends 7th grade.

Since Tom's death in 2002, Roger and Roz have served as Executive Directors of Echo Hill Ranch. Together with Camp Director Katy Wolf, they manage the summer camp program. The Friedman's are committed to maintaining Echo Hill Ranch Camp as an important institution for the Jewish communities and children of Texas.

Tom and Min's youngest daughter, Marcie, graduated Yale University and earned her Masters in Zoology from the University of California in Berkley in 1986. Beginning in 1980, Marcie served as Director of Echo Hill, with Tom serving as Executive Director. Marcie

became a Certified Camp Director with the American Camping Association and did a great deal to further the programs and recruitment of children from Texas and around the nation.

Marcie has worked with the American Red Cross National Headquarters and serves with the American Red Cross International Social Services Department. She helped develop family-to-family communication programs for Third World countries' natural disaster refugees in Turkey, Central American and Asia. Since 2002, Marcie has served as the delegate heading the first official office of the American Red Cross in Vietnam. She was awarded a special commendation when the Vietnamese Red Cross named her

See Echo Hill page 6

SAMET AND FRIEDMAN FAMILIES, CHICAGO 1948.



Standing, left to right: Tom Friedman; Minnie Friedman's brothers Hank Samet, Allen Samet, Eli Samet, Barney Samet. **Seated:** Min with son, Richard ("Kinky"); Min's parents, Vally and Morris Samet; Barney's wife, Gertrude, with son Craig.

Echo Hill, continued from page 5

Humanitarian of the Year for organizing a multimillion-dollar soymilk program for impoverished school children.

Min passed away in 1985. In 1997, Tom married Edythe Kruger of Austin. They shared five wonderful years together, traveling, enjoying family and continuing their contributions to the Austin Jewish Community. Tom remained directly involved in operating Echo Hill until his death in August 2002.

Echo Hill Ranch Camp celebrated its 50th Anniversary in June 2002, with 350 former campers and staff as "Uncle Tom's" guests, remembering and rejoicing in the important role Echo Hill played in their lives. Tom and Min Friedman profoundly influenced thousands of children. Many alumni say that their best childhood memories are of their summers at Echo Hill.

Many members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society fondly recall attending Echo Hill Ranch. TJHS Past President Charles "Chuck" Hart continues to serve as Wrangler

for the Ranch, where he met his wife, TJHS Board Member Jan (Siegel) Hart. Their grandchildren are among a growing number of third-generation Echo Hill campers. Roger and Roz Friedman are committed to continuing Echo Hill Ranch Camp as a family-owned, small, nurturing environment that provides a unique child-centered, non-competitive program model. Roger and Roz, along with their siblings Kinky and Marcie are exploring expanding Echo Hill's services to populations of "at-risk" children who would otherwise be unable to experience the growth and joy of fine summer camping, including children in foster care, those recovering from illnesses, and children who have experienced traumatic losses.

In June, Echo Hill Ranch Camp, www.echohill.org begins its 53rd summer of generating oral histories – many from the grandchildren who are the legacy of first-generation of campers who have shared memories of their summers living Tom and Minnie Friedman's contributions to Texas Jewish history.

■ TJHS

Summer Board Meeting Saturday – Sunday July 9-10, 2005 at the Galleria Courtyard by Marriott Houston, Texas

The Texas Jewish Historical Society's newly elected Board of Directors will hold its first meeting on Sunday, July 10, 2005 at the Houston Galleria Hotel, 3131 West Loop South. All TJHS members are invited to attend.

The weekend will begin on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. with a Dutch-treat seafood and Greek dinner at Mykonos Island Restaurant. Dinner will be followed by entertainment by a Greek band.

The Board meeting will be held Sunday morning, beginning with breakfast and followed by a classic salad lunch.

Meeting registration is \$25 and includes Sunday breakfast and lunch. Reservations are due to Beverly Beck Trachtenberg by June 24, 2005.

Hotel reservations must be made by June 30 to receive the \$67 special TJHS room rate. Rooms may be reserved at the Courtyard by Marriott by calling toll-free 1-800-228-2800 or 713-961-1640. To reserve a room at its adjoining sister property, the Fairfield Inn, call toll-free 800-321-2211 or in Houston, dial 713-961-1690. Parking is free.

You will receive a registration card in the mail in the near future.

Saturday's 26th Annual Texas Jewish Historical Society Banquet in the University of Texas Club on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin featured a delicious dinner and relaxing entertainment by Cantor Marie Betcher. A new Board of Directors was elected the following morning at our Annual General Meeting. Many thanks to all new Board members, whose service continues through 2007, and to those Board members who will continue serving out their terms. We are delighted to have some new faces on the Board, and look forward to an exciting year ahead, one of new ideas and inspiration to guide the Society into the future.

The weekend was topped off with an announcement of a wonderful gift – The Ruthe Winegarten Research Fellowship in Texas Jewish History. The gift is in memory of Debra's late mother, longtime TJHS member Ruthe Winegarten, who passed away last year. The Society's Grant Committee will announce criteria for the Award in the near future.

Unfortunately, not all Board positions are filled, and WE NEED YOU! When I call on you to serve, please accept the honor and responsibility. Please contact me to volunteer your service before you receive my call, and know that your help will be welcomed and greatly appreciated! Plus, you will have an amazing experience!

Our Annual Gathering was a tremendous success because of the two years of hard work, dedication and planning by the

26th Annual Gathering Chair and Symposium Coordinator, Texas Jewish Historical Society Past President Helen Wilk. Helen made ALL the necessary contacts, from securing the DoubleTree Hotel, to planning each meal, to arranging the Symposium and Saturday's banquet. She began dedicating hundreds of hours to developing this spectacular weekend after the Board approved funding the *Lone Stars of David* book project two years ago.

Not only did Helen secure the Thompson Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin, but she promoted our Society and its mission to more than 2,000 history-buffs by generating cooperation with the University of Texas Center for American History. The Center mailed the Symposium Program and Registration Form to its entire membership and co-hosted the symposium. Our second co-host, The Texas State Historical Association publicized the event in its quarterly journal.

We also extend a special thank you to Past President Charles Hart, who secured free bus transportation to the weekend events, enabling participants to travel the City of Austin in comfort and safety without having to deal with the hassles of driving in heavy traffic and locating a parking space!

Our Summer 2005 TTHJS Board Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, July 10, 2005 at the Houston Galleria Marriott Hotel. We will enjoy a Dutch-treat dinner on Saturday evening and have our first meeting of the new Board of Directors on Sunday.

Thank you again to everyone who has volunteered to serve the Society. All members are welcome to attend. To serve on the Board, please contact me at shirelmarv@aol.com to arrange to attend your first meeting as a new board member! We truly would love to have you!

I would also like to thank our publisher and editor of the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine, Susan Elsner Furman, who lost her husband of 17 years suddenly on February 23, 2005. Bob was just 46-years-old. This tragic event greatly affected her life and the lives of their 11- and 7-year-old children, Amanda and Jason. Throughout this difficult time, Susan remained devoted to marketing the Annual Gathering, developing, writing and producing all the registration materials and brochures used during the Gathering, as well as producing this issue of our news magazine. If you have a moment, please express your appreciation for the outstanding job she completed under the most difficult circumstances. Contributions may be made to the Robert Furman Children's Fund at State Farm Credit Union, 17308 Preston Rd., Dallas, TX 75252.

Enjoy this issue of the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine. We look forward to your active involvement in the coming months.

Sincerely,



Marvin Rich
President

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECORDS ARE ONLINE

By Ima Joy Gandler, TJHS Archivist

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Records needs your memorabilia. Researchers will be grateful for any information you can provide about Texas Jews.

To access the Center for American History's Jewish Historical Society Records online, go to the TJHS website at www.txjhs.org. In the left margin, click on **TJHS Archives**. You will be linked directly to the archive website.

NOT included in the Texas Jewish Historical Society Records are selected Texas Jewish Collections archives and manuscript collections. Obtain lists in this category online at www.can.utexas.edu/guides/Jewish.html Texas Records Jewish Historical Society.

To successfully access the information, it is important that the word Records is underlined. We welcome your originals and/or copies into the Texas Jewish Historical Society Records Collection.

Appropriate records and documents for the Online Records archive are listed below. Before donating your items, please contact Texas Jewish Historical Society Archivist Ima Joy Gandler, 3001 Wooded Acres, Waco, TX 76710, phone 254-772-5715. For information regarding placement of your items, contact the Center for American History Registrar, Stephanie Malmros smalmros@mail.utexas.edu or phone 512-495-4555 FAX 512-495-4542.

BELOW ARE SOME RECORDS THAT MAY BE INCLUDED ONLINE

Personal Papers

- Bar and Bat Mitzvahs
- Birth/Death certificates
- Circumcisions
- Confirmations
- Consecrations
- Diaries
- Family trees
- Graduation certificates
- Histories
- Invitations
- Journals
- Legal records
- Letters
- Marriage certificates and records
- Memoirs, recorded or written
- Naturalization papers
- Newspaper clippings
- Obituaries
- Oral histories, recorded or written
- Passports
- Photographs and photo albums (identified and unidentified.)
- Programs
- Report cards
- Scrapbooks
- War records

Business Records

All records excluding active records required to operate a current business

Organizational / Religious Records

- Brochures
- Charters
- Correspondence
- Membership lists
- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Newspapers
- Programs
- Yearbooks

Printed Materials

- Prayer books
- Other books

Literary Productions / Writings

Audio / Sound Materials

Artistic Materials

For more information, contact Ima Joy Gandler at 3001 Wooded Acres, Waco, TX 76710, phone 254-772-5715.

■ TJHS

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Marvin Rich	Houston
Vice President	Mitzi Milstein	Longview
Vice President	Jan Seigel Hart	Temple
Vice President Beverly	Beverly Beck Trachtenberg	Houston
Recording Secretary	Sherry Zander	Dallas
Corresponding Secretary	Selma Mantel	Houston
Treasurer	Ben Pfeffer	Houston
Historian	Blanche Sheiness	Houston
Archivist	Ima Joy Gandler	Waco
Parliamentarian	Barry Green	Tyler

BOARD MEMBERS - 2005-2007

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY</u>
Elaine Albin	Rockport
Leon Brachman	Fort Worth
Leah Burstein	San Antonio
Sally Drayer	Dallas
Doris Epstein	Laredo
Winston Heidenheimer	Cisco
David Hoffman	Evant
Sherman Kusin	Austin
Barbara Lack	Victoria
Marvin Leshin	Corpus Christi
Yetta Leshin	Corpus Christi
Keith Rosen	Bellaire
Vickie Vogel	La Grange
Debra L. Winegarten	San Antonio

BOARD MEMBERS 2006-2007

(SERVING 2ND YEAR OF TWO-YEAR TERM)

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

26TH ANNUAL GATHERING AND SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS!

By Susan Elsner Furman

"Hollace Ava Weiner did a tremendous amount of work with the presenting authors, and Ken Roseman did a wonderful job moderating the Symposium," says Helen Wilk, 26th Annual Gathering Chair & Symposium Coordinator.

"We are very grateful to the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin for co-hosting the Symposium and for making it possible for the TJHS to reserve the Thompson Conference Center at University rates." Wilk noted that several members attended the Symposium as a result of their mailing registration forms to the organization's 2,000 members. "The Texas State Historical Association also was a tremendous help, co-hosting the event and publicizing it in their quarterly publication."

"I would also like to thank the Planning Committee: Dolly Golden, Patti Maltz, Charles Hart, Jan Hart, Sheila Rosenfield, Audrey Maislin, Lonnie Karotkin, Milton Smith, Ruth Miller, Jack Seriff, Sookie Seriff, Arnie Popinsky, Sydelle (Syd) Popinsky & Elaine Albin. Their hard work, commitment and dedication really helped make the weekend successful," she said..

The 26th Annual Gathering & Symposium were dedicated to the memory of Frances Kallison (1908-2004), a charter member and past president of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. A detailed report will be presented to the new Board of Directors at the July 10, 2005 Quarterly Weekend in Houston.

■ TJHS

SYMPOSIUM & BANQUET HIGHLIGHT TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 26TH ANNUAL

Below: 26th Annual Gathering Chair & Symposium Coordinator Helen Wilk, and co-editors Hollace Ava Weiner & Ken Roseman, Ph.D. the Jewish History Symposium in the Thompson Conference Center on Saturday, April 9, 2005. Texas Jewish Historical Society President Marvin Rich welcomed attendees to the afternoon session.



Helen Wilk



Hollace Ava Weiner



Rabbi Ken Roseman, Ph.D.



Marvin Rich

Panel One - Immigration

Conversos & Pioneers. Do They Matter?



Panel One: Mimi Reisel Gladstein, Ph.D, Jan Statman, Bryan Edward Stone, Sylvia Cohen.

Migration to the Oil Fields: Scrap Metal Kings



Bryan Edward Stone



Jan Statman

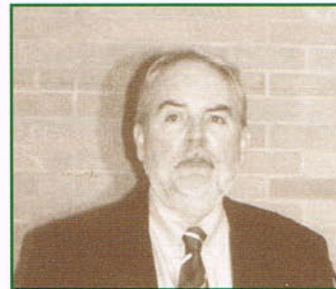
The Wild West Welcomes Holocaust Survivors



Sylvia Cohen



Mimi Gladstein, Ph.D.



**Dr. Don Carlton - Director
Center for American History
The University
of Texas at Austin**



**James C. Martin
Interim Director
Texas State Historical
Association**

GATHERING IN AUSTIN, APRIL 8-10, 2005. WEEKEND OFFERS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Panel Two – Establishing Institutions

**Civil War Veterans
Coalescing Into
Congregations**



Gary Whitfield

**Deep in the
Heart of Palestine:
Zionism in Texas**



Stuart Rockoff, Ph.D.



Sherry Zander (Little Synagogues on the Prairie); Gary Whitfield; Dr. Stuart Rockoff

Panel Three – Entrepreneurs of a Different Stripe

**The Zales:
Diamonds for
the Rough**



Lauraine Miller

**Neiman Marcus:
Minding the Store
& Society**

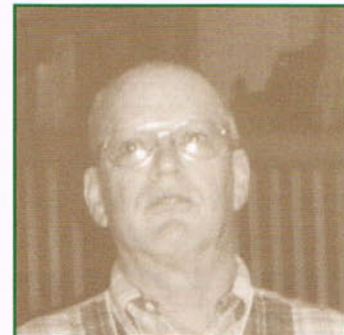


Rose Biderman

**West of Neiman's: Best
Little Dept. Store in
Sweetwater**



Jane Bock Guzman, Ph.D.



**Rusty Milstein discusses
his family history**

Panel Four – Changing The Landscape

**The Hand He Got Dealt
Was Del Rio**



Doug Braudaway

**Opening Legal Doors
for Women: Hermine
Tobolosky**



Gladys Leff, Ph.D.



Symposium in the Thompson Conference Center

FRANCES R. KALLISON DIES AT 96

San Antonio Express-News©, Cathy Frye and TJHS Member Hollace Ava Weiner
Contributed to this Story

Frances R. Kallison, a charter member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and its president from 1982 to 1984, died in her Olmos Park home Thursday, December 30, 2004. She was 96. A second-generation Texan, memories of Frances Kallison will warm our hearts for many years to come.

Mrs. Kallison knew death was near. She called on one of her grandchildren to chronicle her life, apologized to her youngest daughter for "being so much trouble" as her body began to fail, and repeatedly thanked caregivers for their time and patience.

Among the earliest researchers to approach Texas Jewish history as a subject for scholarly study, Frances Kallison's article, "*Was It a Duel or a Murder? A Study in Texan Assimilation*," was published 32 years ago in the *American Jewish Historical Quarterly*, earning her a permanent place on Southern Jewish history reading lists.

A giant in both intellect and stature, Mrs. Kallison was born in 1908 in Fort Worth where her furniture-merchant father and her grandfather and uncles were among the founders of Beth-El Congregation. She attended Vassar College and graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in economics.

Returning to Texas in 1931, she married San Antonio native Perry Kallison, who endeared himself to thousands of South Texans through his decades-long radio program,

"Kallison's Trading Post." His family's enterprises included a legendary farm-and-ranch store and a sprawling cattle ranch. She delighted in naming and registering her husband's cattle.

From the moment she and her husband exchanged "I dos" at the



Frances Kallison and children, 1948

Menger Hotel, Frances Kallison embraced her new life. The couple spearheaded dozens of civic, agricultural, and Jewish causes, among them rounding up a herd of angora goats for an Israeli kibbutz. But the woman who always had season tickets to the opera and symphony never lost touch with her Texas roots.

Beginning in childhood, she remained an avid horsewoman, often riding in the Battle of Flowers Parade as a Captain of the Women's Auxiliary of the Bexar County Sheriff's Posse, a precision riding team that performed in parades and raised money for San Antonio's

children's and military hospitals. She was a charter member of the organization.

Mrs. Kallison channeled her love of history – particularly that of Jewish Texans – into the numerous organizations she joined including the TJHS National Council of Jewish Women; several state and national Jewish historical societies; the Bexar County Historical Commission, of which she was a vice-chairman and acting chairman; a co-founder of the nonprofit Visiting Nurse Service. She served for 15 years as a trustee of the San Antonio Museum Association and the Witte Museum and was on the Board of the American Jewish Historical Society.

In the mid-1960s, Mrs. Kallison was instrumental in the state's Jewish history having incorporated into a permanent exhibit at the University of Texas Institute of Texan Culture in San Antonio. Convincing the Institute to include Jews in the multicultural exhibit was only half the battle. Mrs. Kallison also overcame objections from at least two Reform rabbis who wrote letters insisting that Judaism was not a culture but a religious strain akin to Protestantism. Mrs. Kallison won that fray. She was not as successful in her campaign to remove the Christian cross from the grave of Jacob de Cordova, a Jewish pioneer buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. Cordova intermarried. His descendants, none of whom practiced Judaism, refused to alter his gravestone.

See Kallison page 1

Mrs. Kallison referred to herself modestly as an "amateur historian and archaeology buff," but academics across the nation frequently turned to her for help with their research into Jewish history.

Once described in the national Jewish weekly, *Forwards*, as "a Southern lady who never left home without a pair of white gloves, even on trips to the grocery," Mrs. Kallison explained that in the summertime, the gloves kept her from burning her hands when she opened her car door. The gloves also kept her hands warm when she reached into the frozen food section.

The youngest of Kallison's three children, Ravicz, and her sister Maryann Friedman note that Mrs. Kallison possessed a formidable intellect. When Ravicz headed to college, Kallison promptly enrolled at Trinity University, where she earned a Masters in Biblical Archaeology in 1977. Her thesis chronicled "100 Years of Jewry in San Antonio." As a "mature student," she established herself as a confidante and mentor to numerous young friends on campus.

"We used to laugh because students would call panicked about their

exams, and I remember her counseling them over the telephone," Ravicz said.

Mrs. Kallison's often intimidating intelligence was matched by a quiet desire to help those in need. "She



Frances Kallison and husband, Perry, with children Mary Ann Friedman, Perry "Pete" Kallison, and Frances "Bobbi" Ravicz

was a brilliant woman," Ravicz said. "But she also was a selfless woman, and that showed itself to the end." She remembers the Happy Hour Nursery School, one of her mother's pet projects, created for blind children too young to leave home for state institutions. And she remembers how her mother would call area department stores and arrange shopping trips for the families of disabled preschool children.

Daughter-in-law Julie Kallison remembers a woman who warmly welcomed her into the family,

patiently explaining cherished Jewish traditions to her son's non-Jewish wife. "When we became engaged, she had saved this one-carat diamond earring of her mother's to give to her son's fiancé," Julie Kallison said. "She had it made into a pendant for me - just two days after we announced our engagement." A month before her death, Mrs. Kallison gave Julie an evening bag that had belonged to her own mother-in-law. Inside, she had tucked a hanky once carried by her mother. "She knew she was nearing the end, I think," Julie said.

On the last night of her life, the elderly woman told her caregivers she was tired. "Goodnight," she said, and uttered her last words: "Thank you for all your help."

Frances Kallison was remembered and buried in San Antonio on January 2, 2005 with Rabbi Barry Block of Temple Beth-El officiating. Preceded in death by her husband, Perry Kallison, and a son, Perry "Pete" Kallison - the former owner of Kallison's Western Wear, she is survived by her daughters, Maryann Friedman of Washington, D.C., and Frances "Bobbi" Ravicz of San Antonio, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

GALVESTON IS SITE OF TJHS QUARTERLY WINTER WEEKEND JANUARY 14 – 16, 2005

The Quarterly Winter Weekend at The Hilton Galveston Island Resort was kicked-off with TJHS Founder **Rabbi Jimmy Kessler** conducting Shabbat services from his pulpit, Congregation B'nai Israel. Services were followed by dinner at the **Pelican Club**. Saturday featured a tour of the **tall ship ELISSA** and the Texas Seaport Museum, where the group watched **"West of Hester Street,"** a quality production by Allen & Cynthia Mondell that tells the story of how Jews came to settle in Galveston. The remainder of the day was spent enjoying lunch, shopping, exploring The Strand, walking along the beach and collecting seashells, playing bridge and other games in the Hilton Resort lobby, and watching awesome sunsets over Galveston Bay. Saturday evening's delightful dinner at **Gaido's Pelican Club** restaurant was highlighted by friendship, conversation and a side-splitting presentation by **Meyer Reisweg**. The weekend was capped off Sunday morning with breakfast and the Quarterly Board meeting. **A World of Thanks to Marvin and Shirley Rich** for all their efforts and hard work organizing a very special weekend!



Ruth Heidenheimer and Mitzi Milstein



Meyer Reisweg's entertaining presentation at the Pelican Club capped off a fun-filled weekend.



Samylu Rubin, Gladys Leff, Vickie Vogel



Gladys Leff, Barry Green & Barbara Rosenberg



A happy Barbara Rosenberg



Davie Lou Solka, Lynn Greenberg, Elaine Albin



Sam Rubin, Vickie & David Vogel, Rusty Milstein



Don Teter, Rabbi Kessler, Gertrude Teter, Blanche Sheiness, Ima Joy Gandler, Helen & Larry Wilk

Gulf Coast Weekend Featured Tour Of Seaport Museum, Friends & Entertainment



Board member Roy Elsner and others
"give orders"



Hilton Galveston Island Beach Resort offered
picture-perfect sunsets.



Saturday's tour of the
Tall Ship, ELISSA and
visit to the Texas
Seaport Museum were
memorable weekend
highlights.



Lynn Greenberg,
Selma Mantel, Hook
'em Milstein, Jake
Trachtenberg



Rabbi Jimmy Kessler and
Meyer Reisweg enjoy a
moment together.



Barry Green, Blanche Sheiness and
Susan Elsner Furman at the Texas
Seaport Museum.



KALLISON CONCURS: THREE JEWS DIED AT THE ALAMO

By Hollace Ava Weiner
(as told to her by Bobbi Kallison Ravicz)

Late in life, Frances R. Kallison changed her mind about whether Jewish partisans fought at the Alamo. "Three Jews...did die in the Alamo," she wrote in papers found among her personal effects shortly after her death on December 30, 2004 (see related story, page 12).

Mrs. Kallison, a charter member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society previously stated that no Jews were present at the famous San Antonio Battle for Texas Independence. According to her daughter, Bobbi Kallison Ravicz, Mrs. Kallison recanted her statement. "Alas, in papers sent or written last fall, she renounced the idea of no Jews in the Alamo."

A portion of the letter states, "Thirty years ago or so, when I made the statement that no Jews died with the Alamo...I based my statement on (incomplete) records. Then...people doing research...began to find a number of (Jews among) the Alamo garrison. There was a finding of a Jewish man named Wolf..."

Mrs. Kallison wrote that a friend of hers visited London on a pleasure trip. "There he found the ministry records of a synagogue (paper) that stated that Mrs. Wolf was leaving the two boys. Mr. Wolf was finally able to migrate to Texas with his two sons."

"The next thing, Mrs. Wolf and his two sons turned up at the capital of Texas. When Texas was a Republic of its own, records showed that he married a lady named Darst. It was reported that he and his eldest son (were) given this task of blowing up...the Alamo gunpowder, which they did. In another record, it talked about the younger son...on the back wall of the Alamo. He was...blown down... That would make three Jews who did die in the Alamo."

Her letter continues, "This changed my statement that there were no Jews that died in the Alamo. I apologize...for misleading anybody."

Rabbi Henry Cohen, the first chronicler of Texas Jewish history, identified A. Wolf as a Jew. Other historians including Natalie Ornish in *Pioneer Jewish Texans*, and Harriet and Fred Rochlin in *Pioneer News: A New Life in the Far West*, have also written that Mr. A. Wolf, listed among those who died at the Alamo, was Jewish.

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HISTORICAL MARKER BESTOWED ON JOE WEISMAN & COMPANY BUILDING

Excerpted from the
Marshall News Messenger © 2004, Sandra Cason

The Joe Weisman & Company Building in Marshall, Texas, received a historical marker on Saturday, November 13, 2004. Addressing those gathered for the dedication, Dr. Raymond L. Hall of Syracuse University, says he met the final owners of Joe Weisman and Company when he was a 12-year-old boy looking for a summer lawn-mowing job.

Dr. Hall recalled his surprise to how cordially Joe Hirsch and his wife greeted him. "These were wonderful people," he said. "Their actions contradicted what I had been told about how whites would treat African-Americans in the early 1950s." Hall remembers thinking, "Why are these people being so nice?" They hired him on the spot. Hall was promoted from Lawn Maintenance to Delivery Boy at Joe Weisman's, and at Hirsch's urging, he returned to remodeling the store's exterior.

The Hirsch's, who were the last owners of the business that was touted to be "the finest department store in East Texas," acted out of the spirit of charity, as did Joe Weisman and his family. Dr. Hall says they deeply believed in giving to others and that there was something deeper; they were Jewish. This gave them something in common with African-Americans. "Jews knew what the South was about. This was the Bible Belt. They needed to "fit in," but also had a strong desire to maintain their cultural integrity."

Hall says he "understands what Joe Weisman and Company meant to this community." Phyllis Binstock Hirsch Falik, the last survivor of the Weisman store legacy, died on October 13, 2004 – one month to the day of the marker dedication (see obituary, Fall 2004 issue, TJHS News Magazine).

Assistant City Manager Janet Cook reported on the project's history, noting that the Hirsch family donated the structure to the city. "With the help of a \$1.4 million grant, the Weisman Building was restored to its original condition, allowing it to, once again, be the catalyst for downtown economic development as it had been 106 years ago when it was built in 1898."

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**MORE PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORIES FROM
THE TJHS 26TH ANNUAL GATHERING AND WINTER QUARTERLY WEEKEND**



U.T. Alum, Rusty Milstein helps Aggie Charles Hart learn how to sit in a Lucky Longhorn Chair at the 26th Annual Banquet



Ben Rosenberg's report at the Winter Board Meeting in Galveston



Cantor Marie Betcher entertains at the Annual Gathering



Barbara Rosenberg looks on as Alan Livingston reviews the new directory at the Winter board meeting



Getting business out of the way in preparation for the Annual Gathering April 8, 2005



Attorney Lonnie Schooler and TJHS President Marvin Rich explain Ebsco Publishing's proposal to distribute the TJHS Quarterly News Magazine to libraries around the country

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR TJHS MEMBERSHIP? MEMBERSHIP ALSO IS A GREAT GIFT

It's time to renew your Texas Jewish Historical Society membership and to consider how many memberships you would like to purchase for gift-giving.

Help strengthen the preservation of Texas Jewish history with the gift of a membership – whether for a birthday, anniversary, or to honor any milestone in that special someone's life.

Membership in TJHS is also an excellent gift for students and other young Jewish Texans or history buffs who will enjoy receiving the Quarterly Magazine, attending weekend events and learning about their Texas Jewish heritage.

Member benefits include:

- ❖ Professionally written and produced quarterly Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine, chock-full of oral histories, photographs, articles and information
- ❖ Membership Directory
- ❖ Invitation to Quarterly Weekends in communities around the state, featuring interesting and entertaining speakers, tours and an opportunity to meet new people and maintain longtime friendships
- ❖ Invitation to the Annual Gathering
- ❖ Opportunities to discover your Texas Jewish roots
- ❖ Much more!

Simply complete the membership form on the adjacent page. You may photocopy the form prior to completing it so that you can give more than one gift of membership, or download the form from www.txjhs.org. To receive a membership brochure or if you have questions regarding membership in the Texas Jewish Historical Society, please contact TJHS Membership Chair Elaine Albin, 1893 Bay Shore Drive, Rockport, TX 78382, phone 361-729-6487, or email e_g_k@hotmail.com.

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BOOK A FREE TRAVELING EXHIBIT FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT OR PROGRAM

As Jewish organizations throughout the United States celebrate the 350th Anniversary of Jews Coming to America, your organization can enjoy scenes from days gone by and much more with the Texas Jewish Historical Society's Traveling Exhibit.

In cooperation with the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio, the Texas Jewish Historical Society's recently updated, two traveling exhibits are on museum-quality reproduction foam board and include 25 large photos with descriptive literature, stories, and a glimpse into the earliest beginnings of Texas Jewish history.

Each exhibit can be displayed on self-standing easels or hung on a wall. They are packed in a waterproof box that can be shipped to your organization. The Society prepays the exhibit to the point of the showing, and afterward, the organization returns it to the Texas Jewish Historical Society using prepaid freight.

The exhibit is free of charge, and is offered for a designated time-period based on availability.

Over the years, the Texas Jewish Historical Society's Traveling Exhibit has provided insight into Jewish history and has been shown in a variety of venues, from schools and children's events, to synagogues, Hadassah get-togethers and other gatherings.

For more information and to book an exhibit, contact Jack Gerrick, 4308 Sarita Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109, phone 817-927-8765, Fax 817-924-5595 or email him at texbed@aol.com.

TEXAS JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

YES! My dues payment to the Texas Jewish Historical Society is enclosed.

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Contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law. Clip and mail form with a check made payable to Texas Jewish Historical Society to P.O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193.

Welcome New Members! Clip & place in your TJHS Member Directory

NEW TJHS MEMBERS – SPRING 2005			
Joella Werlin and Robert Autrey 705 N. W. Winchester Terr., Portland, OR 97210 Email: jwerln@famiLore.com	Phone: 503-224-7973 Fax: 503-224-1407		
Martin and Pamela Cirkiel (Johnson) 1201 County Road 138, Hutto, TX 78634 Email: marty@cirkielaw.com	Phone: 512-759-8421 Fax: 512-759-3947		
Congregation Agudas Achim Address Change P.O. Box 1056, Laredo, TX 78042 Email: caalaredo@sbcglobal.net	Phone: 956-723-5244 Fax: 956-723-4593		
Madelaine K. Covens (Karchmer) 2525 Turtle Creek – Apt. 405, Dallas, TX 75219 Email: madelinekc32@msn.com	Phone: 214-520-3983		
Echo Hill Ranch Att: Roger Friedman, Exec. Dir. 9826 Capitol View Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 Email: RSF9826@aol.com	Phone: 301-587-7403 Fax: 301-588-4041 Website: www.echohill.org		
Forrest "Woody" and Esther Fox (Dziengel) 5607 Jackwood, Houston, TX 77096	Phone: 713-777-2113 Fax: 713-777-6937		
A. A. Hoppenstein 2626 Howell St., #700, Dallas, TX 75204	Phone 713-621-8038		
Judy and Jon Harris (Leff) 15 Greenway Plaza - # 9-E, Houston, TX 77046 Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven Inc. P.O. Box 3251, New Haven, CT 06515	Phone: 512-442-7464		
Jerard Less P.O. Box 1766, Austin, TX 78767 Email: jerardless@sbcglobal.net	Phone: 210-495-5705		
Melvyn and Barbara Levine (Macow) 16103 Santa Cathrena, San Antonio, TX 78232 Email: blevine1@sbcglobal.net	Phone: 512-454-2224 Fax: 512-454-2285		
Arnold and Sydelle Popinsky (Schuman) 5101 Crestway Dr., Austin, TX 78731 Email: spopinsky@aol.com	Phone: 979-690-6427		
Barry and Kay Russ 4016 Stony Creek Lane, College Station, TX 77845	Phone: 512-345-5740 Fax: 512-345-5942		
Irwin and Helen Salmanson 4207 Cat Mountain Dr., Austin, TX 78731 Email: hsalmanson@austin.rr.com	Phone: 915-532-5959		
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**Texas Jewish Historical Society
Summer Board Meeting
Sunday
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**Courtyard by Marriott Hotel
Houston Galleria**

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Hotel reservation must be made by June 30
Meeting Reservation by July 5th

TJHS Special Rate - \$67/night



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Renew your Annual
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that you can
continue receiving**

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See related article and your
membership application inside this
issue of the Texas Jewish Historical
Society News Magazine.**

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