



# Texas Jewish Historical Society<sup>TM</sup>

November 2018 News Magazine

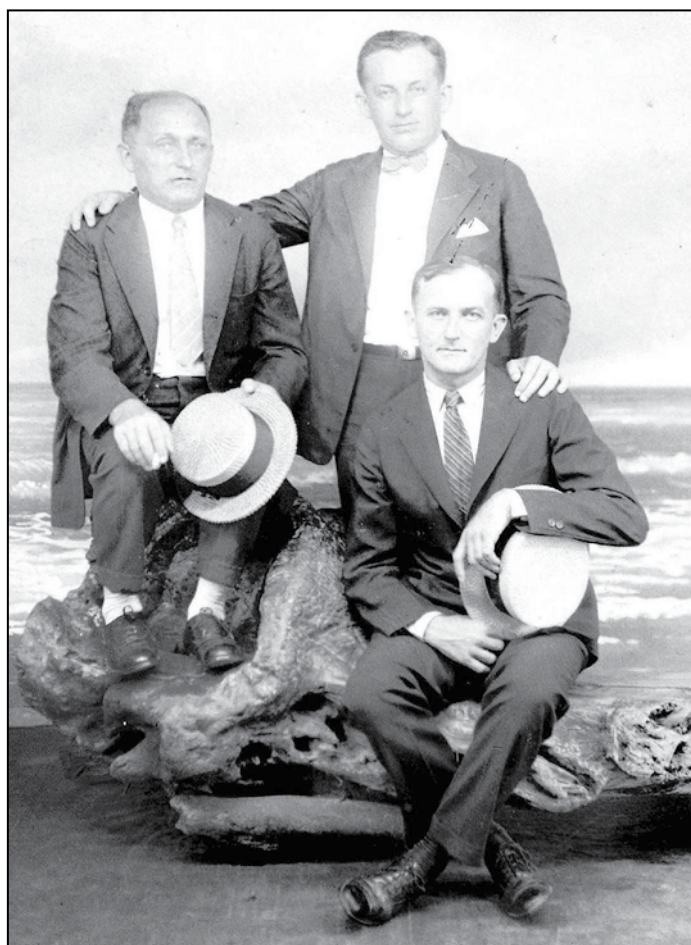
## Relatives, Retail, and Religion on the Rio Grande

by David Perl

“Are you related to Sam Perl, from Brownsville?”

I’ve heard that question a hundred times. And yes, he was my grandfather. Often the follow-up goes something like “my father took me down to Perl Bros. on Elizabeth Street to buy my first suit.” Much has been written about my grandfather, a colorful, larger-than-life character whose role as a respected downtown merchant and civic booster was only part of his legacy.

Sam’s brother Leon was the other owner of Perl Bros. In 1900 they had immigrated to Galveston from Podhajce, Austria, with their mother Rebecca, sister Belle and older brother Joe. My great-grandfather Wolf had arrived in Galveston one or two years earlier and escaped tragedy in the Great Galveston Hurricane, when



The Perl brothers. Left to Right: Joe and Sam. Seated in front: Leon.

the boarding house in which he was living escaped the worst of the destruction. My grandfather loved to tell the story that the rest of the family was due to arrive in the port of Galveston the very day of the storm but was instead diverted to New Orleans at the last moment.

Life in Galveston was hard. In addition to stints as a bookkeeper and traveling salesman, one of my grandfather’s earliest jobs was helping Rabbi Henry Cohen as a runner of sorts facilitating the resettlement activities associated with the Galveston Project. His brother Leon, on the other hand, left Galveston for Beaumont to learn the retail trade under the tutelage of his uncle Louis Perl.

Drawn by advertisements for “the Magic

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**Come to Brownsville for  
the Winter Board Meeting**

**January 25-27, 2019**

*Registration form in this issue.*

# Message from the President

by Davie Lou Solka

Abilene, Texas is a charming community with wonderful people. From the moment we arrived in Abilene, everyone was very welcoming, hospitable, and friendly. Located in West Texas, and a distance from other Jewish communities, Temple Mizpah has become the Jewish home for Abilene Jews. We were wine and dine and found the Jewish history in Abilene to be interesting, as we have discovered in other isolated Jewish communities. With the presence of the military (Dyess Air Force Base) and several institutions of higher education, Abilene has much to offer.

There have been Jews in Abilene since the late 1800s, but there was not a synagogue building until World War II began. Camp Barkeley grew and a large number of Jewish soldiers ar-



rived. The community welcomed them with open arms and at the request of the chaplain prepared to build a synagogue building, a fund raising campaign was begun. Donations were made by the Jewish and non-Jewish community, and the present building was built in one

month in 1942 at a cost of \$4,855! In addition to religious services, the congregation hosted weddings and many holiday celebrations – including a Seder in 1944 for 1200 people. The Seder was held at the Camp in the Mess Hall, where the kitchen had been cleaned and repainted; new dishes and pots and pans were purchased; and kosher meat came from New York and Chicago. The small group of the Ladies Auxiliary made over 2,500 matza balls!

We worshipped in the lovely sanctuary just as those servicemen and their families did. There have been a few changes, but basically, it's the same size building that was built in 1942. Camp Barkeley closed in 1945, and Dyess Air Force Base opened in 1952 with the romance between the Jewish soldiers and the Jews in Abilene continuing.

The highlight of our weekend was the unexpected (to most of us) jewel of Abilene—the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum. This museum explores the Division from Camp Barkeley and the ways these men participated in World War II. Included is a room dedicated to those who perished in the Holocaust and how the men of the 12th Division liberated satellite camps near Dachau. Eighth graders from area schools are brought here to learn about the Holocaust—as one of our group said to Bill Lenches, Executive Director/Curator of the Museum, “This is your Holocaust Museum.” I recommend that you visit the museum if you are in Abilene or nearby—it's worth the trip.

As I said, the people of Abilene were so welcoming and led by Barbara “Bunny” Pollack and Sybil Crane, gave us many memories of another successful TJHS weekend. Thanks to

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## The Texas Jewish Historical Society November 2018 Quarterly News Magazine

The Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine is published four times annually. Stories about Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents. Please provide color photocopies or scans at 300 dpi or greater in gif, tif, or jpg format, and send electronically to Editor Jack Solka at [jack@solka.net](mailto:jack@solka.net) or by mail to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, 512-527-3799. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

**Editor** Jack Solka  
**Layout/Design Editor** Alexa Kirk

Note: The Texas Jewish Historical Society is unable to guarantee the safe receipt and/or return of documents and photographs. It is strongly recommended that you provide color photocopies of both color and black & white documents. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

*Visit us on the web at [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org).*



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# Isaac Solka 1905 - 1986

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by Jack Solka

This is Isaac Solka's life story. His family name at birth was Tzalke. When he lived in Mexico from 1924 to 1945, his name was modified to Calka. Since his brother George spelled his name Solka, my father changed the name to Solka when we moved to the U.S. in 1945.

My father, Isaac Solka (Yitzchak Tzalke), was born in Goworowo, Poland, around 1903 to 1905, in a small shtetl of approximately 2,000 Jews. Goworowo is 50-60 miles from Warsaw. The later date of birth is according to my father's official documents, but he was probably born earlier. He recalled being told at the start of World War I (1914 or 1915), that as an orphan, he should have had a bar mitzvah by the age of 12. His father, Yaakov Tzalke, died of an infected tooth when my father was a toddler. My father's mother, Ruth Tzalke, died three years later from a "broken heart."

According to taped interviews with my Uncle George in 1991, he, my Aunt Edna, and my father were 7, 5, and 3 years of age when their father died. My father was the youngest of the three children. After the death of their parents, my father, and his brother and sister lived with relatives eating meals at different houses, since all of their relatives were poor and could not feed the children all the time. My father lived for a while with his grandfather who had three different wives. My father remembers that the third wife was not nice to him. He recalls



*Isaac Solka, Age 22 or 24. Photograph taken in Mexico*

times when the family was sitting at a table waiting to eat, and his plate was never filled. When my grandfather noticed this, he told his wife to feed the child. She put some food on his plate and told my father to choke on it. I heard this story many times growing up.

During World War I, Goworowo was the scene of many battles between the Germans and the Russians. Ultimately, the residents of Goworowo were marched to the nearest train station 25 miles away and sent to Russia for the duration of the war. According to my uncle's taped interviews, the three kids moved around and lived in at least four cities before returning to Goworowo at the

end of hostilities. While living in Russia, George was old enough to be drafted into the Russian army. When they were going places my father would ride or walk ahead of my uncle and acted as a "look out." He would signal his older brother if they were rounding up young boys to be conscripted into the Russian army.

However, the "facts" as remembered by my father and uncle changed from time to time. Thus, the information in this story might not be totally accurate. But its lessons to be learned are relevant today because they speak to my father's character.

When my two sisters and I were growing up, we frequently asked our father about his growing up years in Poland. We were seldom successful.

From time to time, Dad would throw us a "bone" to make us stop asking questions, then he would change the conversation to the present asking us questions about school, work or our other activities. He never wanted to hear about anything bad that happened to us or to others. As an example, we could not mention that an airplane had crashed, talk about automobile accidents, or that people had died. We had to talk "nice" or not talk at all at the dining table.

As a small child, my father did not know his age or his birthday. He told us that during his teen years, he realized that other kids had birthdays and got small presents. One day he

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## Fall Board Meeting in



*The group who attended the fall board meeting in Abilene, Texas.*



*Marianna Parvaresh and Dr. Marc Orner, President of Temple Mizpah, prepare for Havdalah Services.*



*Photo above: Vickie Vogel, John Campbell, Gayle Cannon, and Sheldon Lippman in front of Temple Mizpah in Abilene, Texas. Photo below: The registration desk was staffed by Susan Lewis, Jack Solka, Gary Whitfield, and Bob Lewis.*




*The ark and bimah at Temple Mizpah in Abilene, Texas.*



## Notes from the Board Meeting

At the October, 2018, in Abilene, the following business occurred:

- A moment of silence was held in memory of past president Debra Winegarten, who died in Austin, September 10, 2018.
- At the Annual Gathering in Houston in April, 2019, the Outstanding Historic Preservation Award will be presented to Babette Samuels of Corsicana for her efforts to preserve and document the Corsicana Jewish cemetery, and for her ongoing efforts and enlisting help of other entities to preserve the iconic Corsicana synagogue building, Temple Beth-El. The Major Historic Project Award will be presented to Lynna Kay Shuffield for her work in data collection and submission of required forms to the Texas Historical Commission, leading to numerous Texas Historic Cemetery designations. Awards Committee Co-Chair Barbara Rosenberg presented the report.
- Speakers Bureau Co-Chair Jan Hart announced that she and Charles spoke to the *Chavurah* in Georgetown Sun City, in July, and were well received. Many membership forms were distributed.
- Travel Chair Vickie Vogel announced that there will be a trip to Toronto, Canada in September, 2019.
- A Heritage Presidential Pin Program was set up so that a past president may pass their past president's pin to another past president. It is voluntary for a past president to participate, and if they or their family want to donate the past president's pin to the program, it will be sent to the current president who will see that it is passed to a future past president. It will be offered to an outgoing president if they want to wear it and the pin would be known by the first owner's name. Past presidents prior to this date may participate if they so choose. 

*At right: David Beer and Bob Lewis looked over artifacts displayed at the museum. Below: Bob Lewis and Dr. Marc Orner; President of Temple Mizpah.*



*TJHS members visited the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum. Shown are photographer Ronald W. Erdrich of the Abilene Reporter-News; Bill Lenches, Executive Director and Curator of the museum; and Jennifer Lenches, Project Director and Coordinator Living History Program Administrator for the museum.*



*Gayle Cannon, Barbara Rosenberg, Jan Hart, Sally Drayer, Charles Hart, and Susan Lewis view a display at the 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum. Behind Charles Hart is Gary Whitfield.*



Valley”, Leon asked his younger brother to join him in his quest to start a business of their own. In 1926 Leon and Sam bought a men’s clothing store named The Fashion from Brownsville merchant and fellow Austrian Jewish immigrant Joe Joachim, renaming the store “The Fashion-Perl Bros.” But it wasn’t long before it was known as just “Perl Bros.”

Joe Joachim was certainly not the first Jewish merchant in Brownsville. Jewish immigrants had lived in Brownsville since before the Civil War. Jewish families active in the retail trade before the Perls included the Dorfman, Bollack, Bloomberg, Raphael and Wiesenthal families, and also included several Jewish merchants operating businesses across the border in Matamoros. Jews distinguished themselves in various political and civic endeavors, with G. M. Raphael serving as acting mayor in 1876, and Benjamin Kowalski elected to that position in 1912.

While a Hebrew Benevolent Society and cemetery was first established in 1868, not until 1932 did Brownsville’s Jews have a synagogue building in which to worship. Sam Perl served



*Sam and Leon Perl in Front of their First Brownsville Store, circa 1926.*

as lay rabbi of the congregation from shortly after he arrived in the Valley and for almost fifty years, even earning from the county permission to legally preside over life cycle events such as weddings and funerals. Temple Beth-El grew, and in 1951 dedicated a new, larger facility, partly financed by Friday night poker events organized by Sam Perl.

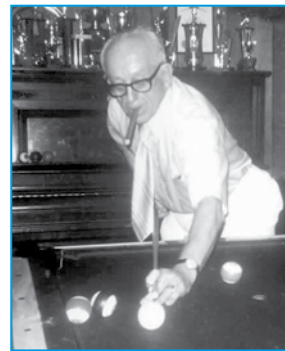
Sam Perl was not my only historically significant Brownsville relative. My maternal grandmother’s third cousin was Morris Edelstein, a Lithuanian immigrant to Eagle

Pass in 1906, where his brother Abraham had lived for several years and was a carpet merchant. In 1913, Morris moved to Brownsville and opened Edelstein’s Better Furniture there, which became a large, multi-site enterprise and would continue to serve the Valley for over one hundred years. Shortly thereafter, Morris met and married Yetta Wiesenthal, whose family coincidentally hailed from the same small Austrian town from

whence the Perls emigrated. The Perls and the Edelsteins operated successful Elizabeth Street stores and became very close friends.

One of Morris’ sons, Ruben, became a civic and religious leader in his own right. Ruben served as Brownsville mayor from 1975 - 1979, founded the Brownsville Public Utilities Board and was the primary driver behind what became the local United Way organization.

Many honors were  
*continued on page 13*



*Rabbi Sam Perl*

## Texas History Day Award

**by Willie Braudaway**

Texas History Day 2018 was held at University of Texas at Austin on April 28, 2018, where the Texas Jewish Historical Society sponsored two Jewish History Awards. Texas History Committee members Willie Braudaway, Jane Manaster, and Hollace Wiener read and judged three papers and awarded the following:

- First Place Junior Paper for \$100 to Max Grinstein for “When Conflict Follows Compromise: The Red Cross and The Holocaust.”
- Second Place Junior Paper for \$50 to

Macario De Leon for “The Zabinskis and the Warsaw Zoo.”

- Texas Jewish Historical Society First Vice-President Nelson Chafetz presented each winner a personalized certificate of the award created by Willie Braudaway. Each winner also received copies of the Judges’ complimentary comments on their papers. Texas History Day Coordinator Mary Katherine Marshall offered the following kind words to the Texas Jewish Historical Society: “Thank you all so very much for everything. The kiddos were very excited.”



*Max Grinstein, First Place Junior Paper Winner*

decided that his birthday was going to be December 18th and that he was born in 1905. These are the dates that became official in all of his government documents. Other members of the family remember different versions of how Dad's birthday was determined. The only document that I



*Isaac Solka, age 15 or 16.  
Photograph taken in Poland.*

was able to locate with a date was the citizenship certificate Dad received when he became a citizen of Mexico. It stated that he was born in Poland in 1905. No month or day was mentioned. The citizenship certificate was dated November 28, 1930.

After World War I, Dad and his brother, George, were in Warsaw living with families and working as apprentice shoe makers. At first, my father cleaned the house and the work area. It was common at that time for orphans to be brought in as apprentices and live with the family of the shoemaker or tailor. My father became an expert shoemaker and customers frequently asked that my father make their shoes. When he left Goworowo to go to Warsaw, he saw his first carriage that was not pulled by horses. He was frightened and hid by

the side of the road.

Dad related one of his experiences aboard the ship that brought him from Europe to Cuba. The trip was long and the food had to be purchased from the ship's store. He traveled in steerage class. His funds were limited after he accidentally used a 5 or 10 dollar bill to clean himself after a trip to the toilet. First class passengers were located in the upper levels. One day, he observed a first-class passenger eating a fruit, peeling it and throwing the exterior portion overboard. The peeling landed near him. He picked up the discarded portion of the fruit and proceeded to eat it. That was my father's introduction to bananas. After my mother and father married, she introduced him to many fruits and vegetables that were not common food in Poland. He claimed that in Goworowo there were tomatoes and lettuce, which was considered the food given to the horses.

By the time my father was 8 or 9 years old, he was expected to work for his upkeep. One of his uncles had a fruit orchard. The orchard gave my father an opportunity to earn his keep. He remembers sleeping in a small "dog house" located at the edge of one of the orchards. During the days he would gather the fruit that had fallen from the trees and save them for his uncle to pick up. He also was expected to keep the village kids from stealing the fruits. His diet consisted of the fruit he picked from the trees and once a week he was given a hot bowl of potato and beef soup. The potatoes were plentiful; however, traces of the beef were only evident at the bottom of the bowl.

Although he was in Russia for a total of four years from 1914 to the end of the war in 1918, my father did not remember much of the time that he was there. He did remember

selling newspapers in the street in Russia. Many daily extras newspapers were published giving accounts of the battles.

My father never had a formal education. As a young boy, he tried to attend cheder—the Jewish school in Goworowo. He was sent home because there was no one to pay the required fees. Somehow, he learned to write and read Yiddish, Spanish and later English when we moved to the United States in 1945. He had a wonderful memory and remembered names, faces and telephone numbers with ease.

My Aunt Edna was the first of the three siblings to leave Goworowo. She went to Warsaw to live in a relative's house and help with the household's chores. The Tzalke (Solka) family had relatives in San Antonio, Texas, so Aunt Edna and Uncle George went there to be with three aunts on my paternal grandfather's side of the family.

Immigration laws required the return of illegal immigrants to their country of origin, and my uncle, who had crossed the Canadian border without adequate documents, was forced to leave the United States. He was allowed to go to any country that would accept him. Cuba accepted him. After settling in Cuba, my father joined him there. While living in Cuba, my father made a living by selling ties to American tourists in Havana. I have recently obtained a photograph of my father and my uncle taken in Cuba in August, 1924. The following year Dad and my Uncle moved to Mexico.

After World War I, my maternal grandfather left Germany because the economy was in disarray and moved to Mexico City. My grandmother, my mother and her two sisters came to Mexico a few years later in 1926. My father and grandfather became friends and spent time playing dominos. One rumor, that has never been verified,

*continued on page 8*



is that my father won my mother in a game of dominos.

For their first date, Dad took Mother to a theater. My grandmother went with them and was sitting behind them in the theater. My father attempted to kiss Mother and received a slap in the face. Some months later Dad asked my grandfather if he could marry Mother. My grandparents were delighted with the prospect of having my father join the family. Mother, when asked, was not sure. She asked my grandmother for her opinion. Her response was that my father was an “arbeiter” meaning a worker and that she would never be hungry if she married him. In 1932, an adequate amount of food was a major concern for most families.

Prior to meeting Mother, my father was working in a small oil town called Ebano, Mexico, south of Ciudad Victoria, selling religious items and blankets to local residents. When he entered a residence without a cross displayed, he would tell the family that it was dangerous to be without religious symbols. He was a good salesman. When we had the dry goods store in Corpus Christi, he taught me something that I will never forget. You ask a customer how many or which one. If you only ask, “do you want this shirt?” you give the customer an opportunity to say no.

My parents married February 21, 1932. Dad remembers getting a little drunk during the wedding reception. After the reception, Dad and my mother took a taxi to their apartment. Dad fell asleep. After driving for a long time, police stopped the taxi and asked my father where they were going. After he gave the police the apartment’s address, the policeman told my father that they were near the airport a long distance from their apartment. My parents were being kidnapped by the taxi driver.

In 1932, my father opened a shoe repair store and named it “La

Victoria.” It was located at #12 Calle Victoria in Mexico City. Eventually, he added new shoes for sale. When the family moved to Corpus Christi in August 1946, he named his store Victoria Dry Goods Store. He wanted to continue the name of his business in Mexico.

My sister Ruth was my parent’s first child. She was named after my father’s mother. She was born December 18, 1932 – the date that my father had selected before to be his birthday. I was born May 20, 1935, and was named after my father’s father. When Mother was expecting me, my Uncle George teased my father that I was going to be another girl. He told my father that the Neuman’s (my mother’s family) only had girls. My mother had two sisters. Well, my father challenged my uncle to a \$50 bet that I would be a boy. My father collected the \$50. My sister Genie was born April 4, 1942 (her original name was Eugenia. She did not like the name and had it changed legally to Genie as an adult). I remember that as a nine-year-old kid, I had to rock Genie’s crib until she fell asleep before I could go out and play.

In Mexico Dad worked long hours. He would leave the apartment early in the morning to go open his shoe repair shop and often returned home after we were asleep. However, on Fridays, he would close the shop



*Isaac Solka, Edna Solka Ducler (sister) and George Solka (brother). Photograph taken in Poland circa 1920.*

earlier and stop by the grocery store to buy herring, salami, and dark bread. We always looked forward to festive Shabbat dinners.

Dad expanded his small shoe repair shop to a store that only sold new shoes. In Mexico, legislation at that time did not allow him to terminate employees without having to pay high penalties, so he gave the shoe repair portion of the business to his employees. He operated the shoe store with only one employee. Although my father always hoped to move to the U.S. to be closer to his brother and sister, his plans were reinforced by a tragic incident. Dad had developed a close friendship with the owner of a toy store next to his shoe store. One evening, his friend was outside

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his store. He was approached by a person asking for a cigarette. When he replied that he did not smoke, he was assaulted with Anti-Semitic insults and the assailant proceeded to kill him by cutting his neck.

In May 1945, my father travelled to San Antonio, Texas, to attend my cousin Ruth's wedding. While in San Antonio, he met a friend of the family that was either an attorney or accountant. He asked my father why he was still living in Mexico since all of his family was in the U.S. My

parents' quotas.

Within six weeks of my father's return to Mexico after the wedding, my parents were notified that the family had been approved to immigrate to the U.S. My father sold his shoe store, Mother sold or gave away all of our household items and we packed everything we wanted to take with us into five large suitcases. Dad changed all his pesos into approximately \$5,000 dollars. The plan was to purchase everything new once we reached our new home in America! My father

we moved into a small one-bedroom apartment with no servants. My older sister lived with my Aunt Edna. She had a daughter, also named Ruth, two years older than my sister. My three-year-old sister Genie moved in with my Uncle George and Aunt Ida. Their daughter Marcia was five years older than Genie.

In the beginning of 1946, my Aunt Edna, her husband Jake, and their daughter Ruth moved to Corpus Christi. Yes, we had three Ruths in the family. All were named after my father's mother. Our entire family moved into the house previously occupied by my Aunt Edna and her family. When school was out in May 1946, Mother took the three of us back to Mexico City. We lived with my grandparents. Some years later I found out that Mother refused to return to the U.S. until Dad made arrangements for the family to move out of Refugio.

When our family moved to Corpus Christi in 1946, there were two commercial areas where most of the retail businesses were located. These were identified as Downtown and Uptown. They were separated by an actual hill and by the socio-economic residents that they served. The downtown area was also known as "La Playa" meaning "The Beach." Shops in this commercial area served the upper and middle income residents of the city. Uptown shops identified as "Leopard Street Stores" served lower income and blue-collar workers which included the bulk of the Mexican-American families in Corpus Christi and the surrounding agricultural communities. My father's store was located at 908 Leopard St. Being fluent in Spanish, my father was able to communicate with his customers with ease.

Four blocks of Leopard Street contained seventeen stores primarily owned by Jewish merchants. The four blocks started at the edge of the

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*The Solka Family in 1948—Jack, Genie, Rose, Isaac and Ruth*

father told him of his many attempts to obtain entry visas for his wife, who was born in Germany, and for himself, who was born in Poland, so the entire family could move to the U.S. at the same time. The friend informed my father that the quotas had recently opened as World War II was coming to an end. The American embassies could process entry requests easier and much faster where they could verify backgrounds and police records such as my parents' versus the refugees from Europe. Mother would come in under the German quota while my father would be allowed to come under the Polish quota. My sisters and I, as minors, would come in under our

waited twenty-one years to come to the U.S. legally.

We traveled by train and arrived at the border in Laredo, Texas on October 20, 1945. Our final destination was San Antonio the following day. Uncle George was waiting for us at the train station and took us to Refugio, Texas, where we stayed until May 1946, while my father learned how to conduct "business" in the U.S.

Mother had a hard time making the cultural adjustment from a city of over 8,000,000 residents to a town of just 5,000 people. In Mexico, we occupied a large apartment and Mother had two household servants. For the first few months in Refugio

hill that separated the downtown and uptown shopping areas and terminated by a large Sears store four blocks away. These seventeen shops would make a good case study of the transition by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe to successful merchants in many small towns in the U.S. Most of the shop owners started by being peddlers or pushed carts with their merchandise either in Corpus Christi, other towns in southern U.S., or the New York City area. Most graduated to small store fronts, then to larger stores like the ones in Corpus Christi. However, the offspring of the merchants on Leopard Street became doctors, attorneys and other professionals. This pattern could be found all over the U.S. However, the downside to these humble, hard-working families is that their children generally did not return to Corpus Christi. The children of these Leopard Street merchants settled in Houston, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, and other large cities.

Most of the Jewish merchants in the area had a group that helped other

was verified, it would be divided by the number of merchants and each participant would give an amount which varied from \$5 to \$25. None of the group was ever told who was the recipient of the funds and the recipient was not told who made the contributions. In the 1950s and 1960s even a \$15 contribution was a respectable amount.

In Corpus Christi, my father worked long hours. He would open the store around 7:00 AM to accommodate some customers on their way to their jobs. Victoria Dry Goods Store served low income blue collar and farming families. The store had merchandise that supplied their needs. Most items sold were men's and women's shoes, women's wear, men's work clothes, and underwear. During the summer months, the store sold cotton picking bags used by the "braceros" from Mexico that traveled the state picking cotton and vegetables. My father knew most of his customers by their first names. He advanced credit to a limited number of families.

On some Sunday afternoons he and my mother would go to the homes of some of his credit customers and collect payments. One Sunday, they drove to a small farm town near Corpus Christi called Gregory. When he visited the family, he found out that their child was

ill and that one of the windows was broken and a cold wind was blowing in. He asked the mother what was happening. She told my parents that her husband had not worked in weeks and that they did not have any money to make payments to him and was not

able to take their child to the doctor. My father immediately handed money to the woman and asked her to have



*Brothers George and Isaac Solka, circa 1930*

the window repaired and to take her child to a doctor. A few months later he refused to accept repayment for this amount. He did accept payment for the merchandise they had obtained from the store. My father was never able to make large donations to charitable causes, but he made numerous donations quietly in small amounts.

In 1976, Dad closed his store in Corpus Christi and my parents moved to Dallas. Initially, my folks indicated that they would live there for six months and see if they liked living in Dallas. They did. My sister and her husband, Genie and Herb Weitzman, made a house available to my parents. Mom continued to live there after Dad passed away in 1986, and lived there until she passed away in April, 2014. A few weeks after my parents arrived in Dallas, my father got bored. He told my mother that he had hung up all the pictures and that he had nothing else to do. He had no other interests other than family and work. My brother-in-law, Herb Weitzman, made some calls and Dad began to work at

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*Isaac and Rose Solka on their 25th wedding anniversary, February 21, 1957.*

Jews in Corpus Christi when there was a need. The group functioned as follows: when one of the members of the group learned that some family in the Jewish community needed financial help, he would determine the amount required. After the amount



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# - Restoration of Baytown's Congregation - K'Nesseth Israel Has Begun

by Joan Linares

Over a year ago when Hurricane Harvey hit the Baytown area, one of the city's historical buildings felt repercussions from the storm. The torrential rain exacerbated water-related issues at Congregation K'Nesseth Israel making it impossible to hold worship services there. Members held their services in the community building which is adjacent to the synagogue.

Congregation K'Nesseth Israel leaders waited several months before seeking contractors to restore the historical synagogue. Due to the tremendous flooding in Baytown, contractors were scarce and congregation leaders felt it more important that individuals who lost their homes to flooding should have priority in getting the much needed help.


Congregation K'Nesseth Israel has a small membership as Baytown's Jewish population has declined over the years. The restoration needs for the synagogue and neighboring community building were more than the small membership could take care of by themselves. A "Save Our Synagogue"

fundraising campaign was launched in January of 2018. Shana Bauman, Treasurer of Congregation K'Nesseth, was instrumental in spearheading the fundraising efforts. Letters were sent to former members of Congregation K'Nesseth as well as descendants of those former members. Donations came in not only from Houston area friends but supporters from all across the country. One Mah Jongg group from Fort Worth, Texas sent a donation. Many individuals gave generously to the restoration project as they held fond memories of growing up in Baytown and attending services at Congregation K'Nesseth. The congregation reached out to the local Baytown community for help and members were touched by the support shown by their neighbors. Shana Bauman and Congregation President Joan Linares also sought grants from various sources. Grants were received from Houston Jewish Federation, Al and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation, San Antonio Jewish Federation, and the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Member Denise Havenar serves as

the Project Manager for the restoration project. She has worked tirelessly for months in this endeavor. Denise is coordinating with Phil Rivers, a Houston architect, who is serving as the consultant for the project. Congregation K'Nesseth is extremely fortunate to have this team working to restore the historical synagogue and adjacent community building.

After months of fundraising and planning, the restoration began in the early part of October. The reconstruction process is expected to take several months to complete. Plans to celebrate the culmination of the restoration project will be in conjunction with the 90th anniversary of the synagogue on Sunday, April 7, 2019, at 2:00 PM.

For more information or to make a donation contact Denise Havenar at [denise\\_havenar@yahoo.com](mailto:denise_havenar@yahoo.com), Shana Bauman at [shanabauman@yahoo.com](mailto:shanabauman@yahoo.com), or Joan Linares at [joantlinares@gmail.com](mailto:joantlinares@gmail.com). The mailing address for Congregation K'Nesseth Israel is P. O. Box 702, Baytown, Texas 77522-0702. 


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*Isaac Solka, continued from page 10*

an Army-Navy Surplus Store for the following ten years until just a few months before his death. The store was located near Love Field and many of the customers were Mexican Americans. He was able to continue talking Spanish to the store's customers as he did for 30 years in Corpus Christi! He loved to tease young ladies and ask them for a date. He did that when my mother was in the store while she heard the conversations! They seemed to take his teasing well and usually asked if my mother would give them permission! Mother also worked at the store part time.

While I was gathering information for this article, I came across an early photograph of my father taken in Mexico City just prior to or after the time he and mother married. I noticed the ring he was wearing in the photograph. After my father passed away in 1986, Mother gave me the ring. I remembered the ring since Dad had showed it to me before their move to Dallas in 1976. The ring was totally smooth so my sister Genie arranged to engrave his initials "I. S." When Mother gave me the ring, it was bent out of shape and separated in the back. To my amazement the ring I have is the same

as the one my father wore over 80 years ago in the photograph.

Dad passed away on December 11, 1986. His prostate cancer was not detected early enough to treat it. We were informed by the doctor that he had the cancer for over 15 years before it was discovered. PSA tests were not available at that time. It has been over 30 years since my father left us, but I think of him frequently. He loved his family and taught us how to love our families. My father was a happy man after leaving Poland and was satisfied with what he had. In his own way, he thanked God for his good fortunes. 



# The Texas Jewish Historical Society Grant Application

The mission of the Texas Jewish Historical Society is to expand and enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Jewish presence in Texas and the history of Jews from their first arrival in the State to the present.

We solicit applications for research projects that are in this spirit.  
Deadlines for submission are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

## Application Form

The Texas Jewish Historical Society will consider applications from individuals and non-profit organizations in any written or visual media. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title and Description of project.

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Briefly outline personal and professional background information that support this application.

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What is the anticipated budget for the project? Are you seeking additional support from elsewhere?

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Please detail the timeline of your project.

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Completed project must acknowledge TJHS support. A copy or account of the completed project should be submitted to the Society's archive at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

*Send applications to: TJHS Grant Committee: P.O. Box 10193, Austin TX 78766-0193, or email to [grantchair@txjhs.org](mailto:grantchair@txjhs.org).*

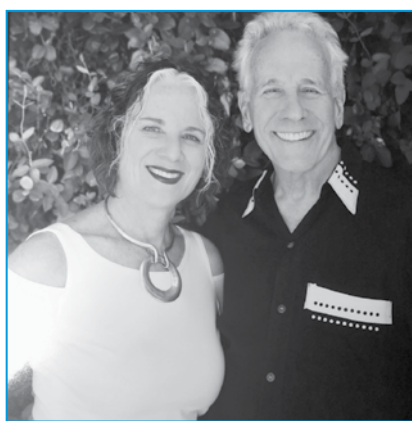


# Meet Your Board

**Rabbi Jimmy Kessler** is the Founder and First President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. He is the Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation B'nai



Israel in Galveston. When he was a rabbinical student at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati, Ohio, he discovered that there were no cards on Texas Jews in the card catalogue in the school's library. Several years later, he wrote letters, held a meeting, and the Texas Jewish Historical Society was born. (Read the full story on our web site.) He was the Director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Texas in Austin before assuming the pulpit in Galveston. He was the first rabbi in the history of Freemasonry in Texas to be elected the presiding officer of a Masonic lodge. He serves as the Chaplain of the Galveston County Sheriff's Office and as a visiting Rabbi at UTMB. Jimmy and his wife, Shelley, enjoy their children, Brandie & Andy Kessler, and Jenny Kessler and Nick Buis; and grandchildren, Samara, Jakxon and Ruthe. In July, a street near the Temple was renamed Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Drive in honor of his Double-Chai Anniversary at Congregation B'nai Israel.



**Cynthia & Allen Mondel** of Dallas, are the founders of Media Projects, Inc., a non-profit company producing and distributing documentary films. They have produced over forty award-winning films about historical subjects and social issues, such as women's issues, mental health, Anti-Semitism, Texas history, immigration, and drug abuse. Cynthia is now working on *Sole Sisters*, a film about women's life stories told through their shoes. She is also working on a film about the experiences of female inmates told through their shoes as part of the Dallas County Jail Art Education Program. She is active in women's issues. Allen taught in the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone, West Africa, after graduating from Williams College. He has been a teacher, a newspaper reporter and for the past fifty years, a documentary filmmaker. Cynthia and Allen are the proud grandparents of five-year-old Juan Jose. Cynthia is making sure he is a feminist. To learn more

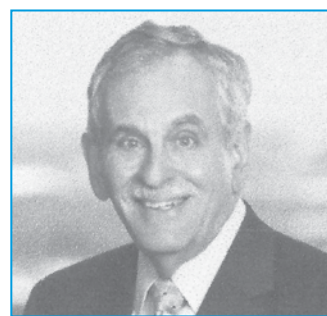
about the Mondells' work, visit [www.mediaprojects.org](http://www.mediaprojects.org) and [solesistersfilm.com](http://solesistersfilm.com).


**Marvin Rich** is a long time member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society Board. He served in many positions, including President in 2004-2006. Marvin grew up in Houston, and lives there now with his wife, Shirley- also a



long time TJHS Board Member. Until recently, when health problems prevented Marvin and Shirley from attending meetings, Marvin was the official photographer for the meetings.

**Lionel "Lonnie" Schooler** is one of the founding members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. He served as President in 1984-1986, and has remained as the "official" legal counsel for the




Society. He and his wife, Marsha, live in Houston. 

## Relatives, Retail, and Religion, continued from page 6

bestowed upon Sam Perl for his active involvement in Brownsville's civic life. He was proclaimed "Mr. Friendship" in 1969 for the role he played at forging closer ties between Brownsville and Matamoros. Much earlier, Sam had helped conceive Charro Days, a cross-border celebration that is now

celebrating its 82nd year. After his death in 1980, a portion of East 12th Street leading to an international bridge was renamed for him to commemorate the role he played in bringing the communities of Brownsville and Matamoros together. Of course, regional cohesiveness was good for

business, too. Perl signed off his daily radio program each time by reminding his audience that "at Perl Bros., we do love everybody." And so he did. He is still remembered today as "Mr. Brownsville," a man devoted to the Jewish community and the larger community of Brownsville. 

# From Our Archives

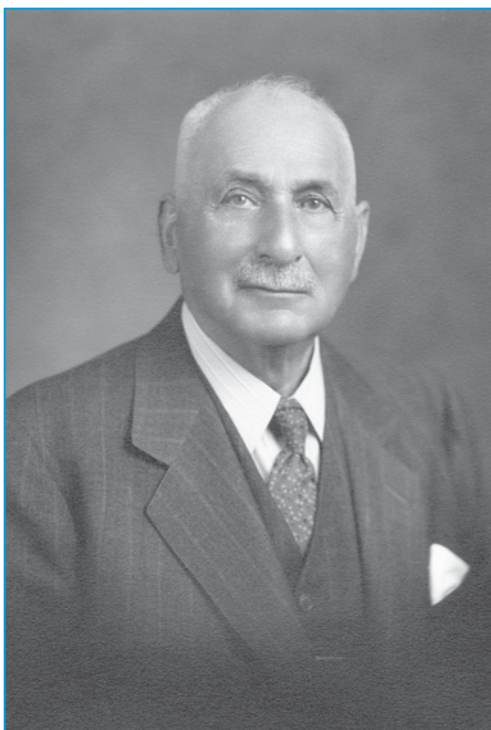
*This column is based on information in the TJHS Collection, housed at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas campus in Austin. It has been supplemented with online research. If you have corrections or additions, please submit them in writing to the TJHS editor at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org). We want our archives to be as complete as possible.*

## Popular Dry Goods and the Golden Twins

by Vickie Vogel

I'm easily distracted when rooting around in our archives at the Briscoe. I ran across a form labeled "Cameraman's Dope Sheet." It was for a CBS program, telling the cameraman where to cut to and when. Who knew? I regained my focus with a folder labeled Surveys and Questionnaires 1991-1993.<sup>1</sup> It contains a survey of source materials, asking our members what kinds of family records and photographs they have, as well as records of clubs, organizations, businesses, events, movements, oral histories, Jewish newspapers, manuscripts, government documents, recipe books compiled by Jewish organizations, etc. I do not know if there was a follow up to collect these items, but since Don Teter was president from 1993-1995, I'm confident an effort was made. A second form in the folder asks for useful information about the member for our archives. The questions are:

1. Where and when did your family first enter the United States?
2. Give original family names and changes, if appropriate.
3. When and where did your family first settle in Texas? List cities or towns in which they resided.
4. What was life like? Was there a synagogue, a Jewish cemetery, organizations, etc?
5. How did the family earn its living?
6. Tell any unusual happenings you or a member of your family experienced in the community.



*Albert Mathias. Photo courtesy of Steve Blumenthal.*

I challenge you to answer these questions, and email/mail me or TJHS Archivist Sally Drayer and we will put them in the archives. We learn a bit about several families from the questionnaires that were returned. From those tidbits, more was learned from findagrave.com, Google searches, and descendants still active in TJHS. It's like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. Some pieces are missing, and some seem to be from a different puzzle, but I've put them together as best I can. In most cases, information from the ques-

tionnaire was just a starting point.

In 1882 Albert Mathias of Germany landed in New York, followed by Frieda Cohen Mathias in 1892.<sup>2</sup> Albert & Frieda settled in Ysleta, then in El Paso, as did Maurice Schwartz, who arrived in Galveston in 1898 at the age of 16. His Uncle Adolf Schwartz was a merchant in Juarez prior to 1900. His store was called Tres B (for bueno, bonita, barata - good, pretty, cheap). He and his wife Fanny, also from Hungary, moved to El Paso to be with a Jewish community. Adolf opened the Fair Store, but in 1902 he fell ill, closed the store, and became a silent partner with Maurice in the Popular Dry Goods Company. The Popular was known for its clever marketing, such as double stamp days, clearances, and mark-downs. They had a large number of loyal, life-time employees, many of whom were Hispanic. The Popular was the first store in El Paso to hire African-American clerks. Maurice and Adolf often disagreed politically. Maurice gave credit to the rebel Pancho Villa, and Adolf sided with the Maderistas, i.e. the Mexican government. There were times when soldiers from both sides were shopping in the store, unbeknownst to each other.<sup>3</sup>

There was no synagogue in El Paso before 1898. The Mathias family had a wholesale dry goods, furniture

*continued on page 15*



and appliance business. Albert built (around 1930) the first high rise hotel (18 stories) for Conrad Hilton, according to the questionnaire.

Maurice, who was born in 1882 to Mayer and Fannie Blaugrund in the Czechoslovakia/Hungary area, led a rich religious and philanthropic life and was honored for his contributions to El Paso civic growth. Frances Schwartz Blumenthal was his daughter and the one who filled out the questionnaire. Albert and Frieda were her grandparents, as Schwartz had married their daughter Hedwig (d. 1981). Maurice and Hedwig had three children: Herbert, Albert (known as "Sunshine")<sup>4</sup> and Frances.

By 1938, many American Jews understood a catastrophe was looming for the Jews in Europe. Maurice and his brother Nandor Schwartz frantically tried to rescue their endangered relatives. With the help of both Texas senators, Tom Connally and W. Lee O'Daniel,<sup>5</sup> they brought out

four nephews before the war. After the war, they were able to rescue four nieces who had been in concentration camps.<sup>6</sup>

Herbert and Albert joined the army in 1942. When Herbert died in 2009 at the age of 92, his obituary added information to the family history.<sup>7</sup> Herbert served as chairman of the board of the Popular (La Popular to many of its customers), and as president of Temple Mt. Sinai, was a member of the Rotary Club, and was active with the Life-long Learning Institute at UTEP. When the El Paso Holocaust museum was being organized in the mid-1980s, Albert donated a display case



*Maurice Schwartz and son Herbert Mathias Schwartz. Photo courtesy of Lee Schwartz.*



from the Popular Dry Goods Company, which he co-owned.<sup>8</sup>

Frances married Alfred Blumenthal, who was born in Thorn, Germany in 1912. He was a millinery buyer

*Photo courtesy of Dolly Golden. Left to right: Rose Antweil, Sarah Golden, Mace Golden, Morris Antweil, and Labe Golden. Child is Alan Joe Antweil. Not pictured: Bessie Antweil Golden (Labe's wife). Morris was Bessie's brother.*

for one of the largest stores in Germany, but in 1933, he fled to the United States to his mother's sisters in Toledo, Ohio. After Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the army and was stationed in Fort Bliss, where he and Frances met. He served 28 months in the Pacific theater, then returned to El Paso, married Frances and went to work for his father-in-law at Albert Mathias and Company, a wholesale distributor for radios, refrigerators and appliances. Alfred and Frances had two sons: Mark and Steve. Alfred retired from the company as Chairman of the Board. He served as President of Temple Mount Sinai, the El Paso Jewish Federation, the Downtown Kiwanis, and chairman of the Conference of Christians and Jews. In retirement, he took up watercolor painting, and served as chairman of the Rio Bravo Watercolorists. He co-founded the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center.

*continued on page 16*



*Caption: Fort Worth wedding of Labe and Bessie Golden. l. to r. first row: Estelle Shanblum, Marie Cohn, Ruth Gilbert, Ida Antweil, Bessie Antweil, Labe H. Golden, Lizzie Goldman, Fanny Antweil, Henrietta Wolf, and Bess Lipschitz. Second row: Melville Goldman, Mace Golden, Hannah Antweil, Dr. A. Antweil, Dr. Maurice Cohn, Sol Weinstein. Third row: Dr. M. Silverman and Eddie Gilbert. Flower girls in front are Jessonda Gilbert and Sylvia Silberman. The attendees were identified on. p. 220 of Deep in the Heart. Photo courtesy of Gary Nye.*

Al developed cancer himself, and died at home surrounded by his family at the age of 94.<sup>9</sup>

Maurice Schwartz died in 1954 and is buried in Temple Mt. Sinai Cemetery in El Paso.

The Popular's four locations were operated by the Schwartz family until 1995 when El Paso's largest locally owned department stores closed.<sup>10</sup>

Another questionnaire is for the Golden family. The respondent does not give his/her own name, but states E. Golden arrived in Corsicana from Ellis Island in 1876 from Odessa, Russia, and then traveled by boat to Galveston in 1880. The family name

was Honigmann, but was Americanized. Golden had three children with his first wife (name unknown to the respondent): Lizzy, Pace, and Ben. After she died, he married Sarah Golden and had three children: Mace B. and Labe H. Golden (twins), and Toby Golden Schwartz (1893-1965).<sup>11</sup>

Once again, findagrave comes to the rescue to fill in some gaps. E. Golden is Edward Harris Golden (1860-1930).<sup>12</sup> His first wife was also named Sarah, hence the confusion of the respondent. The first Sarah died in 1890.<sup>13</sup> Her son Pace (1886-1926) died in Graham, TX and is buried in Corsicana.<sup>14</sup>

Edward Golden's second wife was Ida Sarah Golden (1867-1922).<sup>15</sup> In 1894, she gave birth to twin boys—in different months! Labe was born before midnight on November 30, and Mace was born ten hours later on December 1.<sup>16</sup> Mace used to say a young doctor delivered Labe and thought he was through. "He came back later and found me," Mace said.<sup>17</sup> As schoolboys, the teachers put labels on them and finally put them in different classes to tell them apart. A Corsicana cigar maker named a line of cigars after them. The Golden Twins Cigars had their picture on the box. Before opening their own store, Labe and Mace clerked in different shops, sometimes giving customers the feeling they were being followed from store to store.

Labe (1894-1978)<sup>18</sup> married Bessie Antweil Golden (1902-1981) of Fort Worth.<sup>19</sup> One of their children, Erwin Pace Golden, was to be a camp counselor in Colorado. Arriving at camp, he jumped into the swimming pool, but it was not completely filled. He broke his neck, and although paraplegic, he had a successful career in real estate.<sup>20</sup> He died in 1992 at the age of 55.<sup>21</sup> There were three other children, J. Y., Eileen, and Norene, who lives in California.<sup>22</sup> J. Y. had a military uniform business in San Antonio.<sup>23</sup>

The younger twin, Mace (1894-1979),<sup>24</sup> was also a lifelong resident of Corsicana, and like his brother, a veteran of World War I. He met Sarah Alterman (1898-1994)<sup>25</sup> when he was stationed in San Antonio. Mace and Sarah were the parents of TJHS member Ed Golden (1931-2018), Allen Golden (1925-2016) and Ruth Elaine Golden Miller (1922-2013).<sup>26</sup>

At the end of the war, Labe and Mace opened Golden Brothers in Corsicana, a western wear and general dry goods establishment. During the

*continued on page 17*



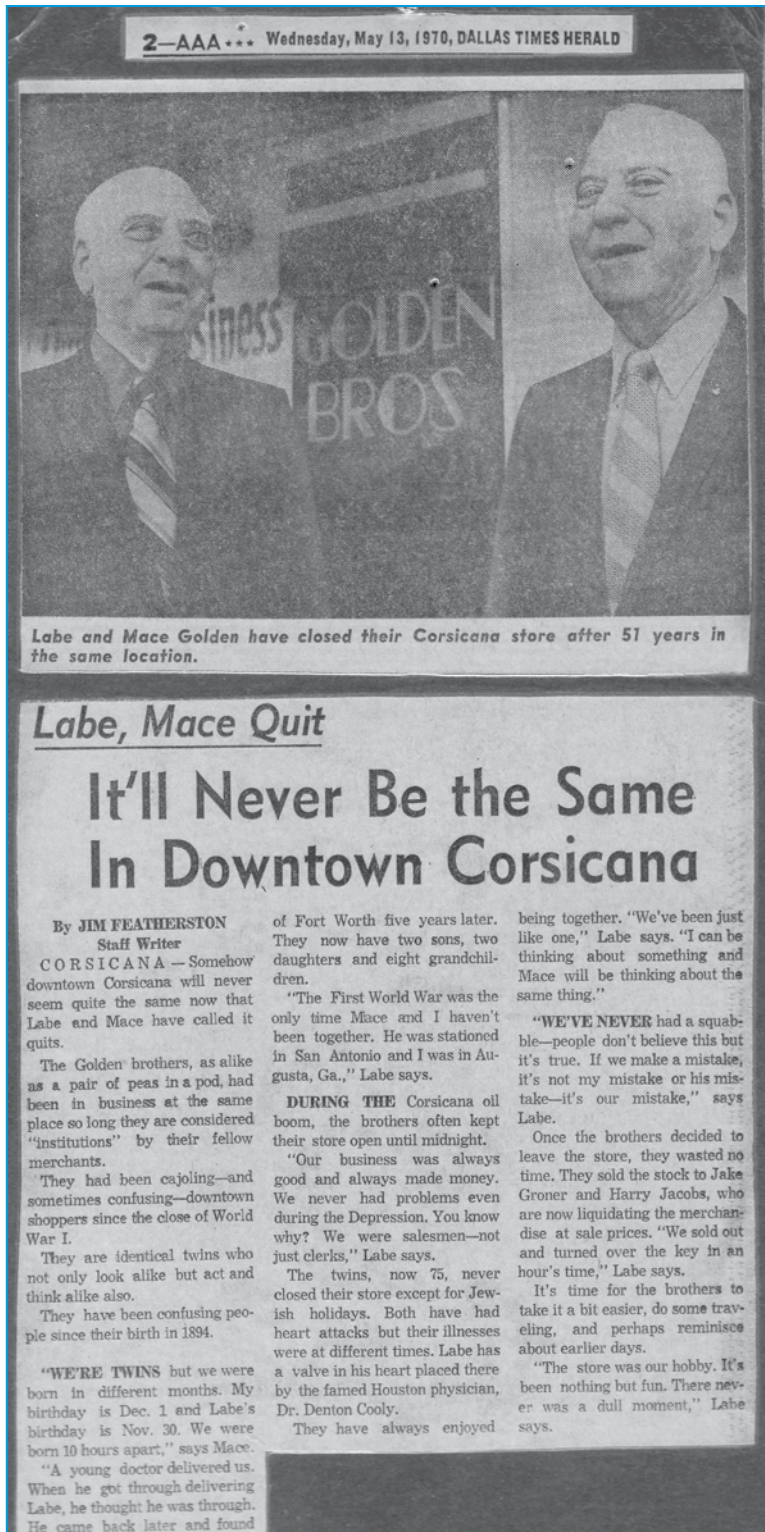


Photo courtesy of Dolly Golden.

oil boom, they often kept the store open until midnight. Business remained good even during the Depression. They only closed the store for Jewish holidays.

Ed's wife Dolly recalls the twins playing tricks on her, because she couldn't tell them apart. They enjoyed hijinks

with customers as well, pretending to be each other for a laugh. Golden Brothers was on Main Street, next to K Wolens Department Store. When Wolens dropped by Golden Brothers, the twins would joke that he was spying to get their trade secrets. Ed Golden worked in the store after school.

Labe said he and Mace never had a squabble. The only time they were apart was during World War I. They agreed it was time to sell the business in 1970. "The store was our hobby," said Labe. "It's been nothing but fun. There never was a dull moment."<sup>27</sup>

Labe developed heart problems and had a valve replaced by famed Houston heart doctor, Denton Cooley. The brothers died one year apart.<sup>28</sup> In the next issue, we will examine the questionnaires from other families.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all information is from Box 3A190, Folder 1 in the Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.
- <sup>2</sup> The 1940 census indicates Albert was born about 1864, Frieda in 1870. [https://www.ancestry.com/1940-census/usa/Texas/Albert-Mathias\\_51q059](https://www.ancestry.com/1940-census/usa/Texas/Albert-Mathias_51q059).
- <sup>3</sup> Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schechter, *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*. Eakin Press, 1990, p. 102.
- <sup>4</sup> <http://aronoff.com/fam946.html>.
- <sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_Senators\\_from\\_Texas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_States_Senators_from_Texas)
- <sup>6</sup> *Deep in the Heart*, op cit. p. 156.
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/elpasotimes/obituary.aspx?n=herbert-schwartz&pid=137909465>.
- <sup>8</sup> Weiner, Hollace and Kenneth Roseman, *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, Brandeis University Press, 2007. P. 248.
- <sup>9</sup> <http://aronoff.com/fam946.html>
- <sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Popular\\_department\\_store](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Popular_department_store).
- <sup>11</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/48180843/toby-schwartz>
- <sup>12</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101564654/edward-harris-golden>.
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565317/sarah-golden>.
- <sup>14</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565254/pace-golden>.
- <sup>15</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565254/pace-golden>.

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# 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum, Abilene, Texas

by Jack Solka



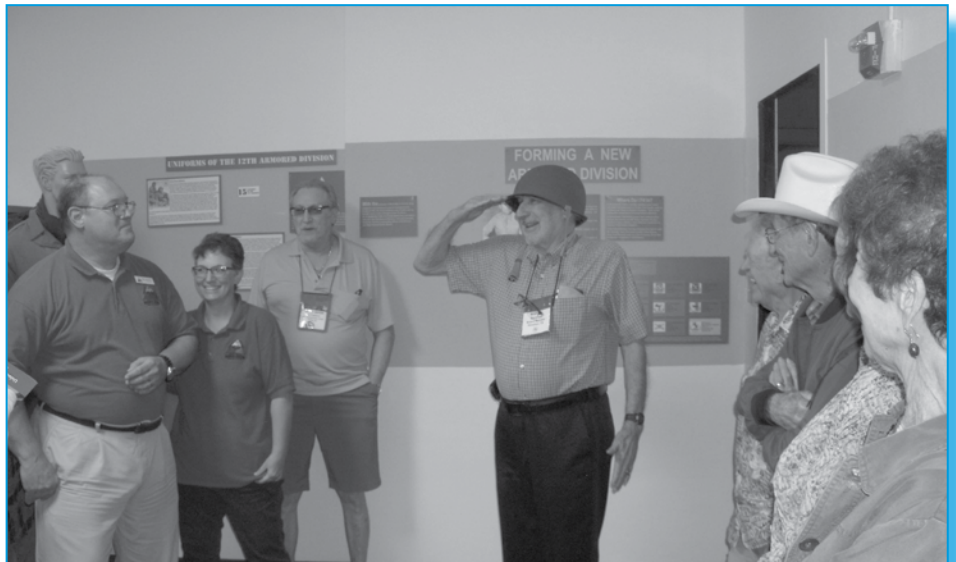
*12th Armored Division Insignia.*

Members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society Board had an opportunity to visit a unique museum while attending the Board Meeting in Abilene, Texas on October 6, 2018. The museum is the only facility that is dedicated to telling the story of one unit's history in World War II. Three floors of photographs, artifacts and personal testimonies of the veterans themselves tell the story of the 12th Armored Division.

Of particular interest to the Board

Members was the display of Nazi memorabilia and items related to the atrocities found by the Division's soldiers when they liberated multiple Dachau satellite annihilation camps in 1945. The actions of the 12th

uses this exhibit to teach high school students who visit the Museum about the Holocaust. Abilene, located in West Texas, is far from the large metropolitan areas where Holocaust information is readily available.




*Marty Berman, wearing a steel helmet from World War II salutes the group.*



*A replica of Soldier's bunk displayed at the Museum.*

Armored Division to stop the German forces short of their Nordwind Offensive goals definitely shortened the war in Europe and only this museum tells that vital part of the history of World War II.

William Lenches, Executive Director/ Curator of the Museum, informed the group that he

The Museum's web site describes the museum as follows: "This museum fills a void in the history of the war in Europe through the stories of a vital but often overlooked Army Division and the roles of individual soldiers within it played in winning the battles in France and Germany. The majority of WWII military museums display military hardware and uniforms. They may have a video or two about D-Day or other major battles but they don't tell the stories of veterans from the perspective of the guys who were on the ground. Our photographs show what life was like for members of the US Army during WWII and make our presentation much more personal than the typical military museum exhibit." 





# The TJHS is Accepting Nominations for Two Outstanding Recognition Awards for the Preservation of Texas Jewish History

Texas Jewish Historical Society (TJHS), founded in 1980, is seeking nominations for Outstanding Recognition Awards in two areas: (1) Significant Historic Site Preservation (awarded first to Leon and Mimi Toubin for the restoration of the Orthodox Synagogue originally in Brenham and moved to Austin, in order to continue as a sacred place for Jewish worship services) and (2) Extraordinary Historic Project (awarded first to Rabbi Jimmy Kessler for the 1980 founding of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, which continues to educate, to preserve stories, and to archive Texas Jewish History).

TJHS now seeks your help to identify and honor those individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact on the preservation of Texas Jewish History. Only one award per year can be given in each category; but it is not mandated to be given yearly, only when an outstanding accomplishment merits the award. Recognitions as determined by TJHS Award Committee will be presented at TJHS Spring Annual Gathering. Applications must be received by July 15, 2019 and mailed to Barbara Rosenberg, 219 Lombardy Drive, Sugar Land, TX 77478

## Application Form

Date of Submission: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Contact Information of Nominee(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name and Contact Information of Person(s) Recommending Nominee(s) for Consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Category of nomination:

☐ Significant Historic Preservation

☐ Major Historic Project

In the packet that you will return with this sheet as your cover page, please include the following:

- Complete description of the accomplishment
- Reasons that you are submitting this nomination and how you became aware of this accomplishment
- Pictures and other documentation
- Impact of this accomplishment and how it has and will continue to make a difference now and in the future on the ongoing story of the Jews of Texas
- Short bio of nominee(s)

Thank you for helping us recognize deserving individuals!

*Send applications to: Barbara Rosenberg, 219 Lombardy Drive, Sugar Land, Texas 77478  
For more information, contact Barbara Rosenberg at 281-494-2268 or bcr219@aol.com or  
Cynthia Wolf at 409-899-4499 or cwolf@gt.rr.com.*

# Honor or Memorialize a Friend or a Loved One With a Donation to TJHS

When you honor or memorialize a friend or a loved one with a donation to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, you help support important programs. Send the honoree's full name, type of honor (memorial, congratulations, or occasion—birthday, anniversary, award, new child or grandchild, etc.) and your name, along with a check in the amount of your choice, to

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

Your support of the Texas Jewish Historical Society's programs is greatly appreciated and will be recognized in an issue of the quarterly News Magazine. Thank you.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society gratefully acknowledges your gift in the amount of

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

*Acknowledge to:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Donor Information:*


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Save Postage

Please notify TJHS when your address has changed or if you may be temporarily away from home when the News Magazine is to be delivered. These issues are returned to us at a postage due rate of \$1.52. We want to save you money! 

## Contributions

The following donations have been received by the Texas Jewish Historical Society:

### In Memory of

Debra Winegarten

### From

Susan & Bob Lewis  
 Davie Lou & Jack Solka

### In Honor of

Stanley Siegel,

on his 90th birthday

Willie & Doug Braudaway Temple Emanu-El, Longview

Bob Lewis "Tumbleweed Smith"

for his radio program of 50 years,

*The Sound of Texas*

Jan & Charles Hart

### Gift Membership for

Miriam & Dr. Robert Friedman

### From

Ruth Nathan

## Mazel Tov

to the following **TJHS** Members

**Bob Lewis**, aka "Tumbleweed Smith" for talking about Texans on his radio program, *The Sound of Texas*, for fifty years!

**Samylu Rubin** on the Bar Mitzvah of her grandson, Samuel Rubin of Dallas, on September 29, 2018. His proud parents are Staci and Dr. Paul Rubin.

**Cynthia and Michael Wolf**, on the B'nai Mitzvah of their grandsons, Brian and Benjamin Barth.

**The deadline for the February 2019 TJHS News Magazine is Friday, January 18.**



## Save the Date

**January 25-27, 2019**

Board Meeting in Brownsville, Texas

**April 7, 2019**

Dedication of the Restoration of K'Nesseth Israel, 2:00 PM in Baytown, Texas

**April 5-7, 2019**

40th Annual Gathering in Houston

**July 13-14, 2019**


Board Meeting in Palestine, Texas

**September 12-15, 2019**

Visit Jewish Toronto

## Guess This Member

Okay, we made a mistake in the last issue. It seems that the "little cutie" we presented in our last issue is really a handsome young man! Excuse our error. He, along with his wife, has been a member and very active in TJHS for so many years. So take another look and see if you can guess who this is.

Email your guess to Jack Solka at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org) and [jack@solka.net](mailto:jack@solka.net) any time beginning Monday, November 26, 2018. Entries received before that date will not be considered. Previous winners and family members are not eligible to participate. Good luck! 




### *President's Message, continued from page 2*

Charles Hart for all his work with these two wonderful ladies.

Please see elsewhere in this News Magazine for the business that was conducted at the Board Meeting. Rusty Milstein, Cemetery Chairman, reminded us to check the web site for the burial listings and make sure your family listings are correct. Corrections are welcomed, but only you know what is

correct for your loved ones. Updates and corrections are made twice a year, and the next one is coming up soon.

We'll be travelling south for our next meeting and I hope you will be able to join us. Brownsville is our destination January 25-27, 2019. The Registration Form is now available, so look for it in this issue and on our web site. See you there! 

## We need Your Stories!

We are earnestly looking for stories with ties to Texas Jewish history! Any kind of story about your family history or your Temple's history can fill the pages of our News Magazine. Everyone has a story to tell, long or short. To submit your story, or if you need help writing your story, contact Jack Solka at [jack@solka.net](mailto:jack@solka.net) or 512-527-3799.

### *Popular Dry Goods, continued from page 17*

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101564827/ida-sarah-golden>.

<sup>17</sup> Phone conversation with Dolly Golden, September 12, 2018.

<sup>18</sup> "It'll Never Be the Same in Downtown Corsicana," Jim Featherston, *Dallas Times Herald*, May 13, 1970. From Dolly Golden.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565003/labe-h-golden>.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101564412/bessie-golden>.

<sup>21</sup> Dolly Golden, op cit.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101564749/erwin-pace-golden>.

<sup>23</sup> Dolly Golden, op cit. Eileen Golden Raffkind died in 2012. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/88509300/eileen-raffkind>.

<sup>24</sup> Telephone conversation Jill Nye Borenstein, Norene's daughter, September 21, 2018.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565082/mace-b-golden>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565395/sarah-golden>.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/101565082/mace-b-golden>.

<sup>28</sup> *Dallas Times Herald* op cit.



# Welcome New Members!

## Dr. Burton & Rosalind (Gordau)

**Anes**  
132 Warbler Way  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
512-868-1515  
rosalind.anes@gmail.com

## Daniel & Jane Bounds

5100 Lockwood Dr.  
Waco, TX 76710

## Connie Boyd

### Holocaust Museum Houston

9220 Kirby Dr., #100  
Houston, TX 77054  
713-527-1612  
cboyd@hnh.org

## Sybil Jean Crane

4566 Cougar Way  
Abilene, TX 79606  
325-232-7557  
crane.sybil@yahoo.com

## Miriam & Dr. Robert Friedman

543 S. Third St.  
Houston, TX 77401  
832-623-3070

## Steve & Lora Ann (Hager) Gerson

5206 Turnabout Ln.  
Austin, TX 78731  
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lagerson@prodigy.net

## Charles & Carol (Morgenstern) Johnston

410 Altamont Cir.  
Charlottesville, VA 22902  
434-971-1416; ambic@aol.com

## Bruce & Beverly (Pactor) Laves

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Dallas, TX 75248  
214-437-1165  
bblaves2@sbcglobal.net

## Dr. Jacob & Susan (Laves) Mandel

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Houston, TX 77096  
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susanlaves@yahoo.com

## Michael D. Peck

6300 Anders Daniels Rd.  
La Grange, TX 78945  
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Fax: 361-865-2521

## Cliff & Barbara "Bunny" Pollack

642 Lytle Shores Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79602; 325-669-6653  
cnbpollack@yahoo.com

## Rick & Paula (Schwartz) Stein

1100 Uptown Park Blvd., #144  
Houston, TX 77056  
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Cell: 713-826-7433  
plss44@aol.com

## Evelyn (Rachofsky) Wisenberg

5555 Del Monte, #1405  
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Cell 713-302-0330  
Fax: 713-723-2212  
rebdovid@aol.com

# Directory Changes

## Gayle Cannon

9306 Great Hills Tr., #31  
Austin, TX 78731

## Sandra Freed

4517 Triangle Blvd., #510  
Austin, TX 78751

## Evelyn Muntz

2929 Post Oak Blvd., #1309  
Houston, TX 77056

## David & Vivian (Cardozo) Picow

8420 Dulac Dr.  
Austin, TX 78729

## Joe & Susan (Lipinsky) Schackman

7424 Tangleglen Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75248  
972-239-6751  
sjschack@att.net

# In Memoriam

## A. R. "Babe" Schwartz,

TJHS member from



Galveston, Austin, and Houston, died on August 10, 2018. He served in the Texas House of

Representatives 1955 - 1960, and in the Texas Senate from 1960-1980. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn, and sons Bob, Dick, John, and Tom and their spouses; twelve grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; brother, Steven Schwartz; and sister, Phyllis Milstein.

**Elaine Spain**, TJHS member, of Houston, died in Houston on August 25, 2018. She is survived by her husband, Sam Spain; daughters, Lisa (Harry Bassist) Spain, and Andrea Spain; seven grandchildren and spouses; and four great-grandchildren.

## Debra Winegarten,

TJHS Past President died



September 10, 2018, in Austin, TX. She is survived by her

wife, Cindy Huyser; her brother, Marc Sanders; uncle, Larry Lewin; siblings, Susan Picard, Josh Putter, Alan Putter, and David Putter.

**May their memories  
be a blessing.**





# TJHS Board of Directors

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Marvin Rich (Houston)

Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

Lionel Schooler (Houston)

Vickie Vogel (La Grange)

Helen Wilk (Houston)

Marc Wormser (Pearland)

## TJHS Traveling Exhibit

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has compiled two museum quality photo exhibits, with explanations depicting early Jewish life and contributions. Both exhibits highlight the lives of Jews in Texas since the early part of the century.

Each exhibit is comprised of approximately thirty-six photographs that can either be self-standing with an easel back or hung on a wall. There is no charge for the exhibits and they will be shipped prepaid freight via UPS in waterproof boxes



to your location. There will be the expense of pre-paid freight back to the shipper via UPS ground.

The exhibits have been displayed in various locations in Texas

and other parts of the United States, including Rhode Island and California. They are an excellent program for schools, congregations, and other organizations. To schedule the exhibits, please contact Deidra Cizon at [dbcizon@swbell.net](mailto:dbcizon@swbell.net) or 214-361-7179.

**Texas Jewish**  
**Historical Society** <sup>TM</sup>  
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### Check the Appropriate Box(es)

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Who suggested TJHS to you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

☐ \$35 Annual Member

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Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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