

Texas Jewish Historical Society™

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Est. 1980



February 2019 News Magazine

TJHS Meetings 2018-2019

TJHS meetings are held around the state. In the past year, we have met in Fort Worth, Rockdale/Round Rock, Abilene, and Brownsville. Find a meeting near you in 2019, and join us for a weekend of learning and laughter as we explore the history of the Jews in Texas.

Abilene
October 2018



Fort Worth
April 2018



Rockdale/Round Rock
June 2018



Houston
April 2019

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Photo
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IN THIS ISSUE:

From a Dairy Farm to Hamilton Street	3
by Sheldon Ike Lippman	
Proposed Slate of Officers	13
Cemetery Gate Honors Palestine History.....	13
by May Sebel	
The Holocaust Man and Shoes for	14
Pancho Villa	
by Vickie Vogel	
Visit Jewish Toronto.....	19
Guess This Member	21
Notes From the Board Meeting.....	22

Brownsville
January 2019



Message from the President

by Davie Lou Solka

We had an excellent attendance for our Board Meeting in Brownsville January 25-27, 2019. The Brownsville community greeted us with “glad you’re here,” smiles, and hugs. And it never stopped! This was one of the highest—if not the highest—attendance we have ever had from the

local community. And our own board members and members were there in full force, also. We welcomed all and hope to see this continue in the future.

Friday night services were beautiful and were led by Cantor Henry Greenspan who enthralled us with his beautiful voice. A Shabbat dinner followed services with over thirty Brownsville residents joining us. We enjoyed not only the barbeque, but also visiting with our new friends. Some of




us even found relatives that we had not seen in a long time—or didn’t know before. And then there were those who had lived in Brownsville years ago and renewed old acquaintances.

Saturday morning we listened to three residents, Elka Jaross, Juan Kenigstein,

and Guerta Rubinsky, as they shared their stories of their arrival in Brownsville and life on the Rio Grande. Larry Holtzman moderated the panel, and shared his story. Kay Krause joined them because she had lived in Brownsville as a young bride and raised her family in the community. All of their stories were very interesting and they had come from all over the world. As Elka said after hearing the stories of those who had come from Europe—she

“also came from a foreign country—Wyoming!” Guess sometimes, we Texans take for granted that the rest of the United States is NOT like Texas.

Because of the rain, we could not visit the Hebrew Cemetery of Brownsville, however, we were visited by some “ghosts” of the community. They followed us to the Historic Brownsville Museum and told us their stories. One of the “ghosts” was Morris Edelstein, grandson of long-time Brownsville resident, Morris Edelstein. Dinner Saturday night at the hotel was lovely with many Brownsville residents joining us. We heard Denise Joseph present the history of Brownsville. David Perl, grandson of “Rabbi” Sam Perl had a recording of one of his talks and we were fortunate to hear that, also.

Again, we discovered that another small town in Texas has either had a HUGE Jewish presence or still does, as in Brownsville. There are still many towns to discover and I hope you will join us as we travel around the state. You never know who or what you will find. Our next meeting will be the 40th Annual Gathering in Houston April 5-7, 2019. Chairs Joan and Louis Katz, along with their local committee, have planned many exciting events for us. I hope you will join us. See you there! 

The Texas Jewish Historical Society February 2019 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 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.



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— From a Dairy Farm in Salat, Lithuania — to a Kosher Meat Market on Hamilton Street in Houston, Texas

by Sheldon Ike Lippman

By 1913, both Joe and Lena Lewis had immigrated from Salat, Lithuania, to Houston, Texas, where they opened a kosher meat market on Hamilton Street. Many family members contributed to this story, a remembrance captured from hand-me-down family lore and documents tucked away in family albums. The last of Joe and Lena's six children died in 2018. The death of Ben (Buddy) Lewis and his wife Ruth marked the end of a generation of storytellers who knew the major characters in the family history. The great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren never got to meet Joe and Lena.

Leah Melamed and Hirsch Jassel Luria were married in January 1908 in the shtetl Salat, Lithuania.¹ Leah was born in Salat on December 24, 1887. Her parents, Isaac and Fruma Mira Melamed, had 17 children (12 survived to adulthood) of which Leah was the eldest. Hirsch was born in Pumpane, Lithuania,² on August 16, 1886. His parents, Meyer and Liba Luria, had 8 children.

Hirsch's mother, Liba Luria (nee Katz), and Leah's grandmother, Hannah Luria (nee Katz) were sisters. Hirsch's father, Meyer, and Leah's grandfather, Avrum Nachman Luria, were first cousins.



Young Hirsch and Leah

Beginning Married Life on a Dairy Farm

Hirsch lived in Salat with Leah after their wedding and most likely worked on the dairy farm with Leah's father, Isaac. These times were difficult; the economy of Salat did not make it easy to make a living. It became a routine necessity for Isaac to take his dairy products and hemp ropes, which he made, to sell in Riga,

Latvia, a distance of 100 kilometers, transporting his goods by wagon and traveling with a group of men who also sold their wares in Riga. Isaac and his fellow traveling companions would leave home after Shabbos and return on Friday the following week before Shabbos.

The history of Jewish people in this part of the world is rich in generations of pious shopkeepers and farmers, as well as renowned religious scholars. Yet, it is also darkly filled with thousands of stories of harassment, threats, and worse. Jewish families were being torn from their homes. By 1912, a young Hirsch and Leah and all the Melamed family, having been forced to leave their dairy farm, made a decision to go to America. Lithuania was no longer welcoming or safe.

Hirsch, Leah, and the Melamed family moved to Riga to await their time for passage to America. Leah and her sisters worked as wig makers for Hassidic women until the time came for them to depart.

Leaving Lithuania for America

Like in many families caught in this dark period of world history, that generation rarely talked in their later years about the inner strength required to leave home and family to find a bet-

continued on page 7

Winter Board Meeting in



Saturday night dinner attendees



Brownsville Area residents attending Friday night dinner.



Denise Joseph spoke on the history of the Brownsville Jewish Community.

Right: Davie Lou Solka, Marsha Cohen and David Perl. Below: Family Reunion of TJHS members having a connection to Sam Roosth: Nelson Chavetz, Cynthia Roosth Wolf, Bill Rubinsky and Barbara Cohen Rosenberg.



Brownsville, January 25-27, 2019



"Ghosts" Program presented by Jan Hart as Betty Rubinsky; Vickie Vogel as Rusty Paris; Morris Edelstein as his grandfather, Morris Edelstein; Louis Katz as Bernard Kowalski; Juan Kenigstein as Dr. Arthur Wolf; Rusty Milstein as Joseph Alexander.



Larry Holtzman, Meeting Chair, introduced the "Ghosts" Program.



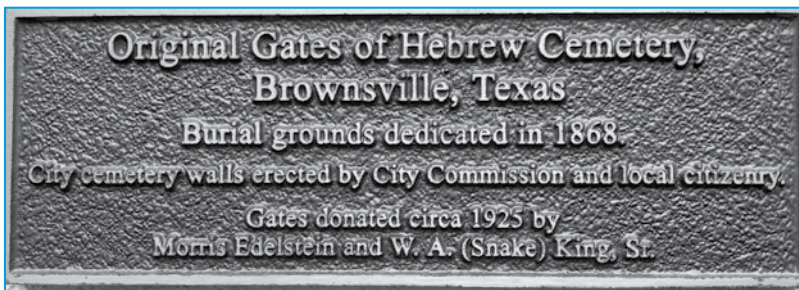
Brownsville Program Panel: Elka Jaross, Kay Krause and Juan Kenigstein.



Members visited the Historic Brownsville Museum.



Left: Joan & Louis Katz, Susan and Bob Lewis. Right: Ben Rosenberg, Bill Rubinsky, Michael Wolf and Barbara Cohen Rosenberg.



Plaque from original Hebrew Cemetery gates located at the Historic Brownsville Museum.



Joyce Wormser, Recording Secretary; Davie Lou Solka, President; and Ben Rosenberg, Treasurer, at the Sunday morning Board Meeting.

Editor's Comments

As I assemble the contents of this News Magazine, I wish to express my gratitude to all the members of TJHS who have submitted articles and other information to be included in this award winning publication. Without your input and assistance, Alexa Kirk and I would not be able to function. It has been fun for me to get to know members of the Society better. You have not heard of the "award?" The 3808 Woodbrook household had a competition last year and since there were no other entries, the TJHS News Magazine was awarded the First Place Award of Merit.

The award included a cheese cake

that I personally consumed. This will be the last issue that I will edit. Especially, after the membership finds out that I ate all the cheese cake and did not share.

My special thanks to Alexa Kirk, the layout editor. Her ability to assemble all the data that I furnished her is to be commended. Although I received some of the accolades, the congratulations go to Alexa and the TJHS members that proofed the drafts of the News Magazine—Ruthe Berman, Sally Drayer, Jan Hart, Davie Lou Solka, David Vogel, Vickie Vogel, and Hollace Weiner.

Jack Solka, Editor
TJHS News Magazine



If you need TJHS membership applications for an event, program, personal use, etc., please contact Rusty Milstein at hrmilstein@prodigy.net.

The deadline for the May 2019 TJHS News Magazine is Friday, March 29.

In Memoriam

Leonard S. Alpert, TJHS member, died on June 16, 2018, in Brownsville. He is survived by his wife, Elinor; his children, Elizabeth &



Calvin Davidson; Emily Alpert & Bertha Janis; Evelyn Alpert & Leon Pesin; Ted & Keren Alpert; and six grandchildren.

Edwin H. Golden, TJHS member, Austin, died on October 30, 2018, in Austin. He is survived by his wife, Dolly; children, Jeff (Vicki) Golden, and Beth Marsh; granddaughter, Sarah Marsh and wife, Pilar.



Melvin Kusin, TJHS member, Texarkana and Dallas, died on December 31, 2018 in Dallas. He is survived by his children,



David (Debbie) Kusin; Michael (Janice) Kusin; Gary (Karleen) Kusin, Melanie (Roger) Rowe;

eight grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; sister, Gloria Bishkin; companion, Sally Unger.

Selma Mantel, past TJHS board member, died on October 15, 2018 in Houston. She is survived by her children, Melissa Mantel and Matthew (Jessica)



Mantel; daughter-in-law, Karen Mantel, and seven grandchildren.

Herman Morris, past TJHS board member, Fort Worth and Plano, died on November 17, 2018, in Plano. He was preceded in death by his wife of forty



years, Judy Gerick. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Schoenbrun Schneiderman; his daughter, Ellen Morris St. Clair; his brother, Charles J. Morris; and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and their families.

Lynna Kay Schuffield, TJHS board member, died on December 12, 2018 in Houston. She is survived by her father, Eugene J. Shuffield, her brother, Eugene Shuffield, Jr., and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.



Sam Spain, TJHS member, died on February 5, 2019 in Houston. He is survived by his daughters, Lisa Spain (Harry Bassist) and Andrea Spain; seven grandchildren and spouses; and four great-grandchildren.

May their memories be a blessing.

ter life in America or other parts of the world. On his own at age 26, Hirsch boarded the ship Breslau in Bremen, Germany, on May 2, 1912. The Breslau was headed to Galveston, Texas. Hirsch Jassel Luria disembarked in Galveston on May 24, 1912. The ship's manifest identified his profession as "butcher."³ Joe was headed to Houston where his cousin Aaron Luria had moved after his earlier immigration in 1906 through New York. Aaron Luria was now called Aaron Lewis. Joe also requested that his last name be changed to this new family name; his American name became Joe Harry Lewis.⁴

About one year after Joe's arrival in Houston, Leah Melamed Luria at age 27 boarded the ship *Cassel* in Bremen on June 17, 1913.⁵ The ship's manifest identified Leah as "housewife." Leah was reunited with her husband when the *Cassel* docked in Galveston on July 7, 1913.⁵ Her American name became Lena Heyman Lewis.

The oldest of the Melamed children, Lena had been the last of her 10 siblings to leave Europe and immigrate to America. However, Lena's

the last name changed from Melamed to Heyman.

Joe's sister Helena Luria, with her husband, Philip Morris, emigrated in 1913 from Lithuania and also settled in Houston. Helena was Joe's only sibling to immigrate to America. Five other siblings and their families perished in the Holocaust. One sister survived and lived in Barnaul, Siberia.

Beginning a New Life on Hamilton Street

Reunited, Joe Harry and Lena Lewis lived for a time at 1009 Rice Street in Houston, then moved into a home at 1914 Hamilton Street. It was at this address that they opened their meat market, at the time one of only two kosher meat markets operating in Houston. They also sold home-



Joe and Lena Lewis in front of their kosher meat market at 1914 Hamilton Street (circa late 1930s to early 1940s).



The Melamed family all immigrated from Lithuania to America where they became the Heyman family. Leah/Lena, the eldest, is seated second from left.

siblings all went through Ellis Island and ultimately settled in the Elmira and Syracuse, New York, area, all with

made kosher sausage. The Lewis family belonged to the orthodox Congregation Adath Yeshurun. Joe was a Torah

reader and gabbai in the synagogue. In a solidly Jewish neighborhood, the Lewis' home was also walking distance from the shul. In 1920, Houston had an estimated Jewish population of around 5,000 out of a general population of 138,000.⁶ Over time, Congregation Adath Yeshurun merged with the conservative Congregation Beth El to become Congregation Beth Yeshurun, where many in the Lewis family still are members.

Joe and Lena started a family. They had 6 children: Libby (July 29, 1915), Abe (April 8, 1917), Max (October 11, 1919), Sarah (June 21, 1920),

continued on page 8

Ben/"Buddy" (December 13, 1922), and Meyer (September 11, 1927). There were eventually 14 grandchildren (Lena called them "my dividends"). The 21 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren never got to meet Joe and Lena.



Lena with her eldest daughter Libbie and granddaughters, Lexie and Frances Scheinbrum of Waco, at 1914 Hamilton Street (circa 1955).

In Salat, before WWI there were 300 Jews (70 families). In 1921, there were 156 Jews (50 families). In 1923, there were 174 Jews; and in 1939, there were fewer than 100 Jews (25 families).

Pumpane was one of the first Jewish communities in Lithuania. In 1766, there were 583 Jews. In 1847, there were 694 Jews; and in 1897 there were 1,007 Jews. During WWI, Jews were expelled from Pumpane and sent to Russia. By 1921 there were 75 Jewish families. At the start of the Holocaust, there were about 50 Jewish families living in Pumpane. They were traders, craftsmen, and farmers. The yellow cheese industry was an important commodity in the community. The economy was volatile during and after WWI, and many people left for the United States and South Africa. The Jewish community in Pumpane had one synagogue. At the start of the 19th century, Christians accused Jews of killing a Christian boy. Rabbi Ysrael took the blame and was burned to death next to the synagogue. A stone marker was erected on the site in memory of Rabbi Yisrael of Pumpanai. [Nancy Schoenburg and Stuart Schoenburg (1996), *Lithuanian Jewish Communities*, Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc.]

In January 1928, 16 years after his arrival in the country, Joe petitioned to become a citizen of the United States of America. The Certificate of Citizenship

was issued on December 16, 1930, with the following "Personal description of holder: age, 44; sex, Male; color complexion, White; color of eyes, Gray; color of hair, Brown; height, 5 feet 6 inches; visible

distinctive marks, Mole under right eye; marital status, Married; race, Hebrew; former nationality, Lithuania."

Hamilton Street was tree-lined with residential and commercial activities co-existing on the block. Houston at the time was centered at what is today downtown Houston. The Lewis' Hamilton Street home was between Calhoun and Pierce Streets. At the front, ground level of the house was the entrance to the meat market. The family lived above the market. Wooden steps in the market led up to the family home. The driveway was topped with white seashells that crunched when driven or walked on. In the narrow yard behind the house were rows of chicken coops.



Grandchildren and grand-nieces and -nephews visiting 1914 Hamilton Street (1956). The ramp was built to accommodate Joe's wheelchair.

Thelma Fowler and her parents, Red and Maxine, at 1910 Hamilton Street, were next-door neighbors to the Lewis family for many years. Seven decades later, Thelma (who is affectionately known by family and close friends as "Keetie") vividly remembers life on Hamilton Street, "At the corner of Pierce and Hamilton lived Ben and Hattie Horowitz to the left of the meat market." The Fowlers were on the right and next to the Fowlers was a couple named Carl and Bit (Bit got her nickname because something had taken a bite out of her leg), and then the Greenbergs (the wife was Bertha). On the opposite side of Hamilton at the corner of Calhoun was Shillings Grocery and next door was the home of Charlie and Florence Sanders, with a Baptist church at the corner. The Fowlers and all the neighbors, Kosher eaters or not, purchased meat from the Lewis' market.

The Lewis' market was a small shop with only one refrigerated,

continued on page 9



Meyer, Joe and Lena's youngest son, with next-door neighbor, Thelma "Keetie" Hinze, at 1910 Hamilton Street (circa early 1940s).



Left to Right: neighbor Red Fowler, Joe Lewis, niece Jennie Morris Nachlas, Joe's sister Helena Morris, Lena Lewis, and son Buddy Lewis gather in the Lewis home at 1914 Hamilton Street (1956).

glass-front display case. A large taxidermied steer head hung on the shop wall. Joe and Lena followed strict kosher laws for processing the meats sold in their market. A rabbi-licensed *shochet* came to the market on Hamilton to slaughter the chickens. Keetie remembers "Miss Lillian" and Alex Haywood, who lived in the garage apartment behind the Lewis home, "They would pluck and dress the chickens in the proper kosher way." The kosher beef was slaughtered under kosher law at an off-site warehouse and brought to the market.

Many family members remember Joe as the quiet one and Lena ruling the household with a firm hand and a swift broom. Lena's broken English was heavily "punctuated" with her native Yiddish. Their son Buddy, in a conversation shortly before his death

at 95-years "young," recalled how he was frequently getting in trouble as a young boy and being chased by his mother and scolded in stern Yiddish. One of Joe and Lena's great-nephews, Marty Nachlas, recalls his mother Jennie (Morris) Nachlas

telling stories of her visits to Hamilton Street as a young girl, and particularly about her Aunt Lena's pet parrot. "It seems that when the phone rang, the parrot would screech, 'Miss Lewis, telephone'. The parrot also knew all the words to the popular song 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles' (which debuted in 1918)."

Dora Lee Grinburg, one of Joe and Lena's great-nieces, in a recent conversation recalled attending Passover seders at the home on Hamilton Street in the 1950s. "The many adult family members were packed around the large dining table with an overflow of kids sitting at tables in an adjoining bedroom." Once again, the family joker, Buddy, at one of these remembered seders would surreptitiously exit the dining room and re-enter on cue when the front door was opened for Elijah to the amusement of the young kids. But, as Buddy recalled, his mother was not amused!

Joe and Lena Lewis became well known in the Jewish community of Houston, not just through the Kosher market but also their Jewish faith and their regular attendance at Shabbat services. Together Joe and Lena welcomed visitors to their home, particularly young Jewish service men. A young Rabbi William S. Malev wrote a tribute to the Lewis family in *The Message*, May 28, 1948.⁷

As I was about to leave Jamaica for Houston in November 1946, I got a message to deliver.... Charlie Blumenfeld [wrote], "When you get to Houston, don't forget to pay my respects to one of the grandest men I have ever known, Joe Lewis. He took me in, and befriended me; and I spent many happy evenings at his home and at his table. Were it not for him, I would not have been able to observe the dietary laws and keep my faith in Judaism. He

continued on page 10



The Lewis Family: Meyer, Max, Sarah, Abe (back row), Joe, Libbie, Lena, and Buddy at Sarah's wedding, Congregation Adath Yeshurun, November 10, 1946.

and his family are real Jews in the finest and fullest sense of that term.”

Rabbi Malev, who became the head rabbi at Congregation Beth Yeshuran, also wrote:

Curiously enough, my first official act when I brought my family to Houston was to officiate at the wedding of [Joe's] daughter Sarah to Leslie Lippman. The gathering at the synagogue that day was a slight indication of the high regard and the esteem which all of Houston felt for this grand family.

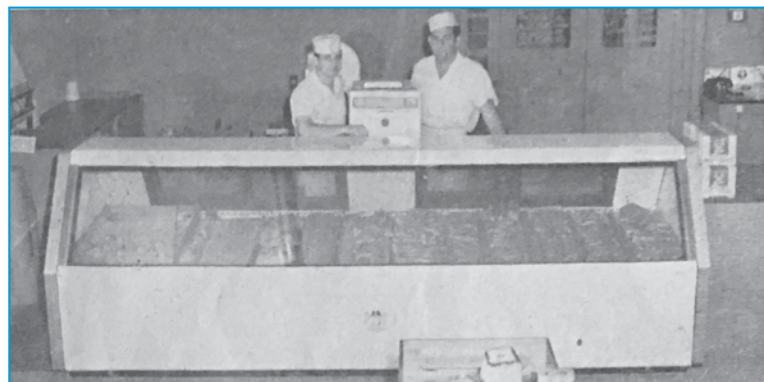
Sarah would regale her children with stories about the 1,000 guests that she invited to her wedding, “We were in business. I had to invite all our customers.”

When World War II struck, the four Lewis boys served in the U. S. Army. While they were away, Lena and daughters Libby and Sarah contin-

ued to run the meat market. boys returned from their service, they continued helping their father in the meat market. By the 1950s, Joe was confined to a wheelchair and gradually lost his ability to speak. The front steps to the house on Hamilton Street were fitted with a ramp to push Joe up and down in his wheelchair. He soon retired from the kosher meat business, but the business that he worked at for over 30 years continued to serve the Jewish community of Houston.

Three of the Lewis boys—Abe, Buddy, and Meyer—decided to relocate the meat market, following the move of many Jewish families to new neighborhoods in Houston. Their modernization of the market was described in a meat-industry newsletter article titled “Lewis Brothers Use 1951 Ideas to Merchandise Kosher Meats.”

The typical Kosher meat market is small compared to the larger meat markets and super markets in which non-kosher meats are sold. The typical



Meyer and Abe, and Buddy (not shown) opened the new Joe Lewis and Sons Kosher Meat Market on Blodgett Avenue in 1950.

ued to run the meat market.

Saying Goodbye to Hamilton Street

Life took a tragic turn for Joe and his family in the early 1940s. Joe developed Parkinson's disease that slowly crippled him over more than two decades. When the Lewis

Kosher meat market is in a congested business area, frequently in the heart of a large apartment district.

One market which departs from this normal pattern is the Joe Lewis and Sons Kosher Meat Market at 3301 Blodgett Avenue.

This new market is in a suburban residential area; it is housed in its own new and individual building; it provides parking space for its customers and, though not large (36' x 60'), it is laid out like a self-service super market.

The sons observed that much of the Jewish population in Houston was moving into new suburban areas; they also observed that when kosher specialties and delicacies are made available, non-Jews frequently will buy them.

The new market served the Riverside Terrace and Southwood areas of Houston. The business expanded beyond the kosher meat and home-made sausage manufacturing of Joe's Hamilton Street store:

[The brothers] felt that Kosher meats could be merchandised like other meats; that a modern market would have as much appeal to the Orthodox

continued on page 11

Jew as to the millions of other American women who have shown a preference for modern design and layout in their food markets.

Eventually, when the Blodgett Avenue location closed, the Lewis brothers continued to follow in their father's profession. Houston's Jewish population continued to move to new neighborhoods like Meyerland. Max opened M&M Kosher Meat Market on Stella Link Road. Abe would eventually come to work with Max. Meyer continued butchering for other Houston super markets. Buddy capitalized on his outgoing personality to become a successful wholesale liquor salesman.

And like their father, the sons continued to be active in their synagogues and Jewish life in Houston.

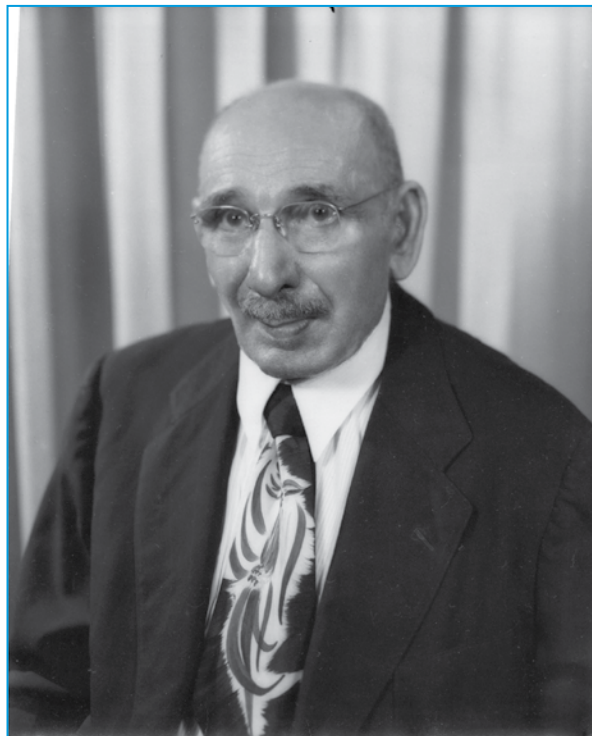
Joe and Lena moved from Hamilton Street to a home on Woodfin Street in 1959. For the 14 grandchildren who were old enough to remember being with their grandfather, Joe was always

seated in a wheelchair at the kitchen table, unable to speak, a yarmulke on his head, and a prayer book at his trembling fingertips. Joe died September 1, 1963.

And having spent more than two decades taking care of her invalid husband at home on Hamilton Street and Woodfin Street, Lena moved to the Jewish Home for the Aged on Chimney Rock (in Bellaire, Texas). For a woman who had spent most of her life wearing an apron and feeding her's and other's families, Lena became somewhat of a noted ceramic artist among her family and friends. She learned to make ashtrays and planters out of clay, usually painted bright orange; these works can still be found in practically every home of her family and friends.

But the real treasure of this pottery are her initials on the bottom of each—"LL"—the only English that Lena Lewis learned to write during her 57 years in America. Lena died on January 14, 1970. Joe and Lena are buried side by side at Beth Yeshurn Cemetery (Allen Parkway, Houston).

Postscript: Hamilton Street can still be found on a Google Map search. The tree-lined street and meat market are long gone. The block between Pierce and Calhoun (now named St. Joseph's Parkway) is a looping intersection of Interstate Highways 69 and 45.



Joe Harry Lewis (1961).



Lena Heyman Lewis (1961).

Endnotes

- ¹ Salat is the Yiddish name for Salociai, Lithuania.
- ² Pumpane is the Yiddish name for Pumpenai, Lithuania.
- ³ Galveston immigration database: <http://www.galvestonhistory.org/attractions/maritime-heritage/galveston-immigration-database>.
- ⁴ One of Joe and Lena's grandsons, Michael Lewis, supplied much of the family research for this article.
- ⁵ Galveston immigration database: <http://www.galvestonhistory.org/attractions/maritime-heritage/galveston-immigration-database>.
- ⁶ Table XV, Jewish Population of Cities in the United States Having 1,000 or More Jewish Inhabitants, in "Statistics of Jews," H. S. Linfield, Department of Information and Statistics of the Bureau of Jewish Social Research, in *American Jewish Yearbook*. http://www.ajcarchives.org/AJC_DATA/Files/1925_1926_7_Statistics.pdf
- ⁷ *The Message* was, and still is, a monthly publication of Congregation Beth Yeshuruan, Houston, Texas.
- ⁸ *Meat Merchandising*, December 1951.



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.

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

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


Please detail the timeline of your project.

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.

TJHS Grant Awarded

At the Winter Board Meeting, the Texas Jewish Historical Society awarded a grant of \$3,000 to the National Council of Jewish Women Section in San Antonio for the production of a feature-length documentary about the out-sized impact the relatively small Jewish Community of San Antonio has had on the city. The title of the documentary is the *San Antonio Jewish Oral History Project*.

Funds from the grant will produce the printed materials for ongoing educational programs such as flyers, programs, tickets, etc and all other materials associated with the film. 


Cemetery Gate Honors Palestine, Texas Jewish History

by May Sebel

There have been 100 burials at the cemetery, most from Palestine but also from Jewish communities in local towns, including Bryan, Crockett, Henderson, Oakwood and Tyler. Although there is no longer a Jewish community in Palestine, the Beth Israel Cemetery (so named after Temple Beth Israel was constructed in 1901) is still a reminder of the vibrant spirit and dedication to service it brought to Palestine.



Donors to the project include the following: Karen Loeb Allen, BBVA Compass Bank, Leon Family Trust, Craig Budner, Jeri Loeb Dushkin, Michael Fleischer, Polly Fraser, Martin Frost, David Genecov, Jeff Genecov, Sally Genecov, Joanie Loeb, the Palestine Historical Society, Aaron Pearlman, Rabbi Debra Robbins, Julie Genecov Schrell, Lauren Sebel, Lee Sebel, and May Sebel. Photo by May Sebel.

Editor's Note: Members attending the Board Meeting in Palestine, Texas on July 13-14, 2019 will have an opportunity to visit the Beth Israel Jewish Cemetery and see the new gate which replaced a chain link fence. 

Proposed Slate of Officers Texas Jewish Historical Society, 2019-2020

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Susan Lewis (Big Spring)

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3rd Vice President

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Davie Lou Solka (Austin)

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Joan Linares (Baytown)

Guy Manaster (Dallas)

Abbi Michelson (Lockhart)

Samylu Rubin (Dallas)

Phyllis Turkel (Houston)

Gary Whitfield (Fort Worth)

Cynthia Wolf (Beaumont)

*Nominating Committee: David Beer, chair;
Jack Gerrick, Samylu Rubin, Gary Whitfield*

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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. We want our archives to be as complete as possible.

Part II: The Holocaust Man and Shoes for Pancho Villa

by Vickie Vogel

In Part I of this article in the previous issue of the TJHS News Magazine, we examined questionnaires members submitted in the early 1990s. The questions they were to answer were these:

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.

After the Mathias and Golden families discussed in Part I, the next questionnaire in the folder was contributed by Esther Commer Jacobs (1922-2008). Her father, Isaac Commer, entered through Galveston in 1912. He was born in Belarus in 1896 to Monice and Naomi Commer. They later lived in Hamilton, near Waco. Monice died in a Waco sanitarium in



*Ben Pfeffer pulling a Studebaker with his hair in 1924.
Photo courtesy of Ben Pfeffer and Nancy Pfeffer Israel.*

1915 at the age of 45 and was buried the same day.¹ Esther's mother, Mamie Markman (1900-1987), arrived in Seattle in 1917. Mamie and Isaac married in Texas in 1920 and settled in Hamilton. Mamie had previously lived in Shreveport and Tyler. High Holy Day services were held in the Commer home until they were able to drive to Waco and become members of Agu-

dath Jacob. Isaac was a peddler, then had an apple "store," an ice cream parlor, a grocery store, and a farm supply, and hatchery business. A farmer himself, Isaac was a Purina dealer and served as president of the National Turkey Federation. Mamie worked with him. Their daughter, Esther Naomi, was born in 1922. She married Jack Jerome Jacobs, and is buried in Emanu-El Cemetery in Dallas.

Mildred Marcus filed a questionnaire, stating her family settled in El Paso in 1907 after living in Illinois and Indiana. The family was in the shoe business, and her father sold shoes to Pancho Villa. "During the fighting in Juarez my Mother [sic] and other ladies threw goods and clothing across the Rio Grande to the soldiers," Mildred wrote. No other information could be gleaned from the question-

naire. Mildred died in 2017 and was buried at Temple Mt. Sinai Cemetery in El Paso. She was a member of the Given family² which owned Given Bros. Shoes and Apparel. Her father, still unnamed, took a train to El Paso at the turn of the 20th century to sell fashionable shoes "to the women in the dusty frontier town." His brothers

continued on page 15

followed him. Together, they created a chain of 34 stores in Tucson, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Hobbs, El Paso, and Odessa.

Mildred worked in the stores, learning to use the first IBM computer that created punch cards. A UT graduate, she married Captain Jack Marcus in February, 1946 when he returned from service on General George Patton's staff. They had four children. Mildred was active in Jewish and civic organizations (including TJHS) and was an avid supporter of the arts. At last, by locating Herb Given's obituary on findagrave, I discovered their parents' names: Charles and Deborah Givens. I could not locate their graves.

Joseph B. Pfeffer of Houston typed his questionnaire. He believed his grandparents arrived in Houston from Galetza, Austria in the 1880s.

The Houston census for 1880 was lost in a fire, but that of 1890 shows grandfather Peritz Pfeffer a/k/a Peter, a/k/a Paul already established in business.³ His wife's name was Gertrude. They had five children: Benjamin (1886-1950), Bernice "Tincie" (1900-1969), Sadie (1888-1955), Maybelle (1899-1950), and Louis (1894-1963). The respondent is descended from the eldest son, Benjamin. Peritz and his son Ben operated a beer and wine business in Fifth Ward. The family lived above the store. Peritz then opened a dry goods store on Jensen Drive. Several of his children opened small stores on Jensen, an area of immigrants at the turn of the century.



Gertrude Spring Pfeffer. Photo courtesy of Ben Pfeffer and Nancy Pfeffer Israel.

Many of these items were Joseph's memories, but further research adds details. Peritz "Peter" Pfeffer (Joseph's grandfather) was born in 1856 in Austria and died in Houston in 1931. The inscription on his tombstone in Beth Yeshuran Cemetery reads, "The law of birth and death is the way of blossoming plants. The blooming of one depends upon the decaying of others." He married Gertrude "Gerty" Spring Pfeffer.

She was born in 1863 in Kozowa, Austria and died in 1925 in Houston.

Benjamin, Joseph's father, was born in 1886 in Russia, which means the Pfeffers must have emigrated between 1886 and 1890. Benjamin married Sadie Night Brandwein, born in Austria in 1892. Benjamin had a great interest in performing vaudeville. His grandson Jay Weisberg (he goes by Jay Alexander) found a trunk of Ben's things in the attic and was inspired to be a performer and magician in the San Francisco area. He had an annual performance for Robin Williams until Williams' death in 2014.

Ben was a colorful character. In 1924, he lifted a dead weight of more than 150 pounds by his hair. This led to an argument, and to settle it, Ben pulled a Studebaker sedan, loaded with five passengers, by the hair of his

continued on page 16



Ben Pfeffer and sons Shannon, Harry and Joseph (Billy). Photo courtesy of Ben Pfeffer and Nancy Pfeffer Israel.

head, before a crowd of hundreds at Congress and San Jacinto in Houston.

Benjamin and Sadie's children were Shannon (1910-1969), Harry (1916-1997), and Joseph (1917-2014). Harry was a sergeant in the army in World War II, and the father of Ben Pfeffer, treasurer of TJHS (2000-2008). Joseph was called Billy. A marine who served in San Diego in World War II, Joseph (Billy) did a whole series of paintings of the Holocaust. His tombstone reads, "The Holocaust Man. He Read His Books, Painted His Pictures, Voiced His Poetry, Tried To Keep The Past." Joseph married Mildred Pfeffer (1920-2011) who had

arriving in New York City in 1888. Immigration changed the name to Stolaroff. Joachim (Jacob) Stolaroff had the Boston Store, a large general department store. Jacob was born in 1866 in Minsk, Belarus. In 1890, his brother Aaron (1862-1939) had a chinaware, porcelain, and gift shop called the China Palace. The two brothers were among the founders of Temple Mount Sinai in El Paso. Aaron married Sarah G. Schwartzbard, who was born in Russia in 1864. They had three children: Rose (1894-1984), Solomon Aaron (1899-1967), and Annie Stolaroff Halpern. Annie, Beulah's mother, was a graduate of Julliard School of

Yorktown. Her mother, Bertha Yahr, entered as part of the Galveston Movement. Her father, Jacob Schmidt, arrived through New York, both around 1907-1909. There was one family of Jews already in Yorktown. There was no organized Jewish life. The town was mostly German. Sylvia's parents went to San Antonio for the High Holidays.

"Growing up was fine and my family was accepted and respected in the community. The only thing I recall is that my brother had evidence of anti-Semitism from other young boys," she wrote. Her youngest sister went to a Catholic school.



Jacob Schmidt on left. Photo courtesy Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

come to Houston in 1950. She and Joseph were married 68 years. Joseph wrote on her tombstone, "Loved her - She loved me - Together we raised a family." She was preceded in death by their son Sheldon, a lawyer, who died earlier that year. Their daughter Nancy survives them.⁴

Beulah H. Schnadig (1917-2000) supplied a questionnaire about an El Paso family named Stollar who began

Music (then known as the New York Institute of Musical Art). Annie was born in 1888 in Russia and died in 1950 in El Paso.

Jacob and his wife Vera (born 1899 in Russia) had five children: Fabian, Emmanuel (Mannie) who founded Nitrogen Corporation,⁵ Byron, Janie, and Mildred (Millie).

Another questionnaire tells us Sylvia S. Schwartz's family settled in

Czechoslovakia) where his father ran a small restaurant and beer parlor. When he told his father he wanted to emigrate to the New World, his father challenged him, "Do you want to go to America and become a shaygetz [Gentile]?" Jacob became a founding member of Agudas Achim in San Antonio.

Arriving in the United States,

We learn much more from findagrave and the Handbook of Texas Online. Bertha Yahr Schmidt was born in 1892 and died in 1987 at the age of 95. She is buried in Austin, as is Jacob (1890-1965), in Agudas Achim Cemetery. Jacob was a clothing merchant, born in Bartfeld, Hungary (later Bardejov,

continued on page 17

Jacob worked in a slaughterhouse and at a brewery in New York before moving to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and on to Seguin, Texas. He began peddling clothing from a covered wagon pulled by mules, being supplied by William Mendlovitz's store in Seguin. Jacob often slept under his wagon. He and Bertha, another Hungarian immigrant, married in 1912.

They had one son and four daughters. The family moved to Yorktown and opened their first store by 1915. Other stores were added in Beeville and San Marcos. In 1930, they moved to Austin and opened the Jacob Schmidt Department Store on East Sixth Street. In 1994, Schmidt family members were still operating ten ladies' specialty stores under the name Yaring's, from Bertha's maiden name. The stores closed not long after. The first Yaring's had opened in Austin around 1936 at 506 Congress in a building erected in the late 1800s. The building is still there with the Yaring name on it, but it is now a bank.

Jacob and Bertha's grandson, Maurice Schmidt, became a renowned artist, sculptor, printmaker, muralist and art critic in Kingsville. He grew up in New Braunfels where ten Jewish families from there and Seguin worshipped in the Schmidt's home.⁶

The next questionnaire was submitted by Jerard Seligson. He reports his father arrived in New York from Goteborg, Sweden, having left Russia/Poland via the Baltic Sea. He settled in New York with a brother in 1918 and married in 1920. He was raised in a family that specialized in the food



Yaring's Cosmetic Counter, Neal Douglass Photography Collection

industry and started the first smoke house for fish in New York City. Jerard did not name his parents or give other information. findagrave.com tells me he died in 2009 and is buried in Queens County, New York. Curious about the connection to Texas, I dug out my old TJHS directories. I found Jerard in the 1999 edition, living in Missouri City, Texas. I was unable to find out any more about him or his family or what brought him to Texas.

Zella Sylvia Siegel Sobel filled out a questionnaire, stating her father Max Siegel arrived in 1905 with four children. Her mother was Mollie Gansky who arrived in 1908 as a "mail order bride" through Galveston. They settled in the vibrant Jewish community of Waco. Max was a tailor. Zella, born in 1919, was the youngest of eight children. She was a state debate champion and turned down a full scholarship to Baylor to help her family. Zella married Isaac Sobel (1914-1989). They had three daughters. Zella was a kosher caterer in the Metroplex from 1953 to 1999. She died in 2011. When you called her on the phone, she answered enthusiastically, "Hello hello!" For her last 70 years, she lived in Dallas.

he had endured. He was a scout in the Arizona Territory and fought Apaches from August to October, 1868. For his bravery, he was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1869, one of only two Jewish awardees. Simon settled in San Antonio in 1878 and became the deputy county tax assessor. In 1988, a corrected-name monument was placed at his grave in San Antonio.

Robert Suhler's grandfather was Rabbi Aron Suhler, whom he called the "first reform rabbi in Texas." Actually, he was the first rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Dallas, which hired him in 1875.⁷ Two applicants vied for the post, but Suhler was a childhood friend of the prominent Sanger family and a seminary classmate of Sam Sanger. The American Israelite described the selection process like this: Suhler delivered a sample sermon in German wearing ordinary clothes. The sermon was short and earnest. The other candidate, wearing robes with cap and tallit, spoke in English for forty-five minutes. Suhler was chosen almost unanimously. He previously served a congregation in Akron, Ohio. He was with Emanu-El for four years. Half of the temple was used as

Robert Suhler of El Paso wrote about his great uncle Simon Suhler, who was born in 1844 in Bavaria. He served in the Civil War in the 11th Heavy Artillery and the 4th New York Heavy Artillery. He reenlisted as a private in the 8th U.S. Cavalry, Company 8, under the name Charles Gardner because of the anti-Semitism

continued on page 18

a non-denominational public school. Suhler founded a Sunday School which had fifty students by 1879. The school employed Jewish and non-Jewish teachers, and tuition was free if the parents could not afford it. By the time it was discontinued in 1884 with the creation of public schools, it had sixty boys and seventy girls and was one of Dallas' first interfaith endeavors.

Aron was born in 1845 and died in 1916. He's buried in Waco. By checking Suhler tombstones in Hebrew Rest Cemetery, I found Edwin A. Suhler who died as a baby. His parents were "A and C Suhler." It's reasonable to assume his father was Aron and his mother was Clara Suhler, the only one with the initial "C." There are only two other Suhlers at Hebrew Rest: Miriam (1880-1919) and Hannah (1878-1912), but there is nothing to indicate their connection.

Much more can be learned about Rabbi Suhler from Hollace Weiner in her book *Jewish Stars in Texas: Rabbits and Their Work*. He officiated at the funeral of Rabbi Heinrich Schwarz of Hempstead, the first ordained rabbi to settle in Texas, and the father-in-law of Rabbi Suhler. Rabbi Suhler was a part-time clergyman in Waco and an agent with Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. Weiner calls Suhler Dallas' first rabbi. He was an honors graduate of Wurzburg's Jewish seminary and a 32-year-old widower when he met Clara Schwarz. Three months later, they were engaged and soon married.

Rabbi and Mrs. Suhler moved to a pulpit in Vicksburg, Mississippi, but returned to Texas in 1883 when he became rabbi at Waco's Temple Rodef Sholom. He resigned in 1885, as he and Clara had nine children and the small congregation paid him with chickens instead of cash. Suhler continued to sell insurance and work other jobs to make ends meet, such as opening an English and German school in

the synagogue basement. He remained active with Rodef Sholom.

As for Robert Suhler, a Dr. Robert A. Suhler died in 1992 in El Paso. That would be shortly after he submitted his questionnaire, which he closed with this line about his grandfather: "He married into the Schwarz family...which means we are related to half of East Texas."

I once asked my mother to label a suitcase full of family photographs. After she died, I ran across the photos, many of which were labeled "Mama" or "Uncle Joe." That still makes me smile. If you accept my challenge and send me your answers to the questions at the beginning of this article, remember to tell me full names, not "my father" or "my youngest sister."

Do it today. The saddest line in the questionnaires was the following: "At a later date I shall furnish you with the brief family history you request." I cannot find the family name in our archives.

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continued on page 21

Visit Jewish Toronto!

September 12-15, 2019

TJHS will visit Toronto, learn its Jewish history and see other fascinating sites. Save the date!

- Dairy Lunch at United Bakers, a Toronto tradition since 1912,
- Walking tour of Jewish Toronto,
- Historic Pape Cemetery, established 1849,
- Sunday brunch at Free Times Cafe, for over 35 years, a food and cultural institution.

"Bella! Did ya eat?"

- Visit Holy Blossom Temple, founded 1856. W. Gunther Plaut was the long-time rabbi.
- Royal Ontario Museum, largest museum in Canada opened 1914.
- Second City Toronto (optional). Improv & sketch comedy theatre & bar with nightly shows that have launched many famous comedians.
- Toronto Blue Jays v. Boston Red Sox (optional).

Contact Vickie Vogel FMI
vvogel@cvctx.com
979.966.2493



Free time to visit famous locations such as the Hockey Hall of Fame, the Art Gallery of Toronto, the Distillery District, galleries, historic sites and more!

Registration fee (\$150) covers admission to included events, one lunch and one brunch. Tour begins in Toronto. A centrally located hotel for you to book. This tour is organized like a TJHS weekend—you pay your transportation and hotel, and some activities are included with your registration.




Does TJHS Have Your Current Email Address?

Is your email address current? Has it changed since the 2018 directory was printed? Have you changed email providers? If so, please send Marc Wormser an email at c2aggie@gmail.com so that he can update your information in the database. To reduce postage cost



and printing delays, we are going to be electronically sending as much mail as possible, so don't be left out or behind—send your current information today!

Please put "email change" in the subject line and with your name in the text of your message, send it today! Thank you. 

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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

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

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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! 

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

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Mazel Tov

to the following TJHS Members

Sally Drayer on the birth of granddaughter, Sophia Made-line Evans. She was born February. 11, 2019, to Michelle and Avi Evans in Washington, DC.

Enid Klass, on receiving the Volunteer Appreciation Award in recognition of the dedication and service she has given to her community from the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association of New York City.

Samylu Rubin, on the birth of her first great-grandchild, Theodore (Theo) Norman Rubin. Theo was born in San Antonio to Dr. Brian and Betsy Rubin on January 24, 2019. Proud grandparents are Dr. Jay and Jeanne Rubin.

Michael & Liz Solka, Davie Lou & Jack Solka, and Roz & Burton Anes, on the engagement of their son and grandson, Kevin Solka, to Sara Drapkin. The engaged couple are currently living in Denver, Colorado.

Gary Whitfield, on receiving the completion of the Master Craftsman research Scottish Rite History and Ritual and the Master Craftsman research of the Symbolic Lodge.

Save the Date

**April 5-7,
2019**

40th Annual
Gathering in
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April 7, 2019

Congregation
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Guess This Member

Well, still no guesses. This guy, along with his wife, has been a member and very active in TJHS for so many years. He “figures” how things should be done correctly. So, take another look and see if you can guess who this is.

Email your guess to Jack Solka at editor@txjhs.org and jack@solka.net any time beginning Friday, March 1, 2019. Entries received before that date will not be considered. Previous winners and family members are not eligible to participate. Good luck! 



Holocaust Man, continued from page 18

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Endnotes

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/150144711/monice-commer>.

Entry includes the Waco Times Herald obituary of 21 October, 1915.


² She was Herb Given's sister. Herb was a long-time member of TJHS who loved genealogical research. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34749266/herbert-given>

³ Ben Pfeffer believes Peritz arrived in 1890 and operated a beer and wine business. Email 9/15/18.

⁴ FMI see *Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine*, July, 2010, p. 1.

⁵ I was unable to find out anything about this business.

⁶ *Deep in the Heart*, op cit, p. 194. When TJHS held a quarterly meeting in Kingsville in 2007, we visited a gallery with Maurice's art and met with him. Photo in *TJHS News Magazine*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (April, 2007) p. 13-14.

⁷ <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ijt01>. Rabbi Abraham Blum was hired in Galveston in 1871. <https://www.cbicalveston.org/our-history>. He also served as Jefferson's spiritual leader in 1879. *Deep in the Heart*, op cit., p. 67. 

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 or 512-527-3799.

Welcome New Members!

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— Notes from the Board Meeting —

At the January, 2019 meeting in Brownville, the following business occurred:

- A moment of silence was held in memory of Lynna Kay Shuffield and Kent Kirk, husband of News Magazine layout Editor Alexa Kirk.
- The 2019 budget was passed.
- A grant of \$3,000 was approved to be given to the National Council of Jewish Women of San Antonio to sponsor printed materials for ongoing educational programs connected with the documentary, "San Antonio Jewish Oral History Project."
- Speakers Bureau Co-Chair, Jan Hart, announced that Helen Wilk had presented a program on the Galveston Movement and exhibited both Traveling Exhibits at the Brookdale Galleria in Houston. Dr. Suzanne Campbell has been speaking to groups in San Angelo about the Jewish Community in West Texas. Dr. Marc Orner will speak to the Downtown Rotary Club in Abilene at one of their upcoming meetings.
- Vickie Vogel, Travel Chair, announced that there will be a trip to Toronto, Canada September 12-15, 2019.
- The Board accepted Robert Cohen's offer to mount boards of photos he has taken of Jewish cemeteries in Texas for another Traveling Exhibit. This will be at no cost to TJHS.
- An intern has been hired at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History to update the cataloguing of items in the TJHS collection. He will begin work February 4, 2019. 



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(Living Past Presidents are members of the Board of Trustees, per our By-Laws.)

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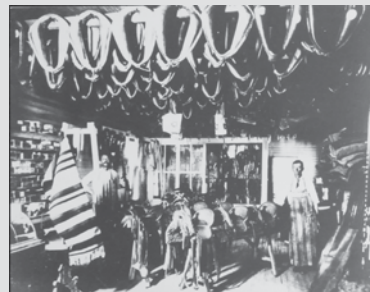
Helen Wilk (Houston)

Marc Wormser (Pearland)

TJHS Traveling Exhibit

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has three museum quality photo exhibits, with explanations depicting early Jewish life and contributions. The 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 or 214-361-7179.



Texas Jewish Historical Society 40th Annual Gathering

April 5-7, 2019, in Houston, Texas

Crowne Plaza Hotel, 8686 Kirby Dr., Houston, 77054 (near Reliant Park)

Reservations 713-748-3221

Ask for the TJHS rate of \$129 (double beds) or \$139 (King bed) + tax, breakfast included.

Deadline for Hotel Reservations is Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Friday, April 5, 2019

- 3:30 PM Registration in hotel lobby.
- 4:00 PM TJHS Executive Board Meeting.
- 6:30 PM Shabbat Services at Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 North Braeswood. After services, there will be a buffet dinner catered by Beth Israel.

Saturday, April 6, 2019

- 9:50 AM Houston Holocaust Museum, 9220 Kirby Drive, Suite 100. Free parking (wear your TJHS ID).
- 10:00 AM Tours by museum docents.
- 11:00 AM The "Voices"—Survivor testimonies in the Museum classroom.
- 12:00 PM Lunch at the Holocaust Museum.
- 1:00 PM L'Dor V'Dor—Susan Septimus.
- 3:30 PM TJHS Board Meeting at the hotel.
- 6:45 PM Havdalah Service and Awards Dinner in the hotel's San Jacinto Room.

Sunday, April 7, 2019

- 9:00 AM Speaker Dr. Joshua Furman, director of the Houston Jewish History Archive at Rice University, in the San Jacinto Room.
- 9:45 AM TJHS 40th Annual Gathering meeting in the San Jacinto Room.



TJHS 40th Annual Gathering Registration Form

Deadline for Registration is Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Please list the name of each person attending:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee: \$150 x _____ = \$ _____
(number attending)

Includes all meals and muesum fees.

Houston area Residents only, who are not registering for meeting:

Friday Night Dinner: \$36 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Lunch: \$18 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Night Dinner: \$50 x _____ = \$ _____

Saturday's Dinner: Select one per guest.

	Guest 1	Guest 2
Red Fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chicken	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vegetarian	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Mail form and check made out to TJHS to: Jack Solka, 3808 Woodbrook Cir., Austin, TX 78759

If you have questions, please contact Jack at 512-527-3799.

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

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The Texas Jewish Historical Society New Membership and Information Update Form

Join the Texas Jewish Historical Society today! Or use this form to update your contact information. Mail this form with your check made payable to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. Please PRINT.

☐ YES! Count me in! My dues are enclosed.

☐ Please **update** my information.

Check the Appropriate Box(es)

☐ New Member

☐ Renewing Member

☐ Special interests, professional background, talents _____

Who suggested TJHS to you?

Name: _____

Membership Category

☐ \$35 Annual Member

☐ \$50 Supporting Member

☐ \$18 Student Member

☐ \$100 Sponsor

☐ \$250 Sustaining Member

☐ \$500 Benefactor

☐ \$1,000 Patron

Name(s): _____

Maiden Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

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