

Texas Jewish Historical Society



May 2019 News Magazine

Annual Gathering in Houston April 5-7, 2019



Above: Officers and Board of Trustees.

Left: Officers—Ben Rosenberg, Treasurer; Davie Lou Solka, Immediate Past President/Parliamentarian; Joyce Wormser, Recording Secretary; Susan Zack Lewis, President; Jack Solka, 2nd Vice-President; Sally Drayer, Historian/Archivist; Amy Milstein, Corresponding Secretary; Not shown—Sonny Gerber, 1st Vice-President; Jane Manaster, 3rd Vice-President. Below: Group who attended the Awards Dinner on Saturday night.



— Message from the Outgoing President —

by Davie Lou Solka

Over the last couple of weeks, every time I said to someone that my two-year term as President of the Texas Jewish Historical Society was coming to an end, they would say “My, that was fast. Are you sure?” I assured them that I was and I do agree with them. It has been a quick, amazing two years. I have been so proud to represent TJHS and have made so many new friends—and renewed old friendships. There have been many different emotions in this job for me—excitement, questions, happiness, and like life, some sadness, too. But it has been an experience I would not trade for anything else.

Thanks to Joan and Louis Katz and their committee for a wonderful week-end and Annual Gathering. It was a fun and interesting meeting and



everyone had a great time.

We began the weekend with a beautiful Shabbat service at Congregation Beth Israel. A delicious catered dinner followed in the Margolis Gallery, with Cantor Star A. Trampeter, accompanied by Congregation Beth Israel Music Director, Mark

Vogel, entertaining us with songs by Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, and George Gershwin.

Saturday found us at the Houston Holocaust Museum with docent led tours, lunch, and a presentation by Susan Septimus, *L'Dor VaDor: How to Bring your Family Stories and History to Your Seder Table*. That evening we held our first Awards Dinner and presented the Outstanding Historic Preservation Award to Babette Samuels and the Major Historic Project

Award posthumously to Lynna Kay Shuffield, which was accepted by Julianna Dearman on behalf of the family. We were very glad to have City of Houston Mayor Pro-Tem Ellen Cohen join us for dinner, where she presented a letter to TJHS on behalf of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner.

At the Board Meeting, Julianna announced that Lynna Kay had left \$25,000 to TJHS to continue her work on obtaining special designation medallions preserving Jewish cemeteries. In addition, she has given us \$25,000 to set up a writing contest for graduate students writing on Jewish history. We are grateful to Lynna Kay for these bequests and will implement her requests in the near future.

My goal when I took office two years ago was to complete as much as we could on the five-year plan that was presented to the board in January, 2014. There were a few items already in place but I am pleased to say that all of the items listed in the Immediate Section have been accomplished.

One of the major items that we accomplished is to have the officers and committee chairs' job descriptions explained, with each person receiving a procedure book that will be passed on to their successors. Hopefully, this will ease transition between officers

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The Texas Jewish Historical Society May 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 Davie Lou Solka at editor@txjhs.org or by mail to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, 512-527-3799. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Editor Davie Lou 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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— Message from the Incoming President —

by Susan Zack Lewis

How can it be that a person from a small town in West Texas, without a formal Jewish education, could possibly lead such a distinguished group as The Texas Jewish Historical Society? The answer is simple. It's impossible.

I feel that my true role in this position is to assist the membership in achieving the basic goals of this society and to preserve and sustain the history of the Jewish presence in Texas.

I'm here to help keep the boat afloat, to continue such innovations as the procedure books, the preservation of cemeteries as historical sites and the continued support of the archives at the Briscoe Center in Austin.

We will be able to continue the Historical Cemetery Designation project begun by Lynna Kay Shuffield. Douglas Braudaway of Del Rio, Hollace Weiner of Fort Worth and Gayle Cannon of Austin have agreed to



serve on the committee.

Things I'd like to do include: supporting the Jewish education of young people to discover and preserve their Jewish identities, discovering different areas of Texas where Jews

have made important contributions and making sure those contributions are preserved for history, and most important, allowing each member a voice and a place where contributions are welcomed and nurtured. After all, we're volunteers aching to offer service.

While my husband Bob and I have been members for well over ten years, we really do not know a lot about other members. I think we might make an effort to preserve our individual family histories and share them with our members during our meetings.

In my small efforts to discover the history of my family, I've discovered that neither my parents nor my cousins


could trace the family beyond a generation or two. I'm a first-generation Texan on both sides! My father, Jim Zack, was an immigrant from Russia and my mother, Clara Brenner Zack was born in Oklahoma to Nicholas Brenner and Lena Rosenthal; both were Latvian immigrants. My husband can trace his family through almost two hundred years of United States citizenry. That made me curious and I'm trying to piece together the history of my relatives before they arrived in the United States.

A need to connect with other Jewish people is what attracted us to this organization. While we hold a membership at Beth-El Congregation in Fort Worth and have done so for more than 40 years, we were not able to be actively involved because we live 240 miles from the temple. We went to our first TJHS meeting in Odessa where the book *Lone Stars of Texas* was presented to the membership. It's the only thing I remember from that meeting. Hollace Weiner's dynamic presentation

and those cowboy boots made quite an impression!

As we continued to look into the organization, we began to meet friendly, accepting people who welcomed us without question. We soon began to make sure dates for the meetings were inked into our calendars. The friendships we have made are precious life treasures.

Thanks to all of you for this amazing opportunity. Contact me with ANY concerns. I'm here to help.


See you at the summer board meeting in Palestine! Charles Hart has wonderful surprises in store with fascinating Jewish history! 

TJHS Awards



At the Annual Gathering in Houston of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, two awards were presented at the Awards Dinner on April 6, 2019. Babette Samuels of Corsicana, TX received the Outstanding Historic Preservation Award, and the Major Historic Project Award was presented posthumously to



Lynna Kay Shuffield of Houston, TX. Julianna Dearman accepted the award on behalf of the Shuffield family. Both recipients are members of TJHS. 



Annual Gathering in Houston



Ellen Cohen, Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Houston receives a copy of the TJHS News Magazine from Davie Lou Solka.



Top: Davie Lou Solka receives Past President's Pin from Susan Zack Lewis. Left: Susan Septimus spoke at the Saturday lunch. Below: Cantor Star A. Trampater and Music Director from Congregation Beth Israel entertained Friday night in the Margolis Gallery.



April 5-7, 2019



Wall of photos at Houston Holocaust Museum.



Sheldon Lippman, David Beer, Janice Gerber, Ruth Nathan, and David Gerber view Congregation Beth Jacob banner of names who served in World War II.



Janice & Robert Jucker, Joan & Louis Katz with Challah from Three Brothers Bakery.



Dr. Joshua Furman, Houston Jewish Archives at Rice University.



Robert Jucker, Charles Hart, Jan Hart, Nelson Chafetz in Margolis Gallery Friday night before dinner.

Zaydie, Hangin' with the Malvim in Hempstead, Texas

by Van Wallach

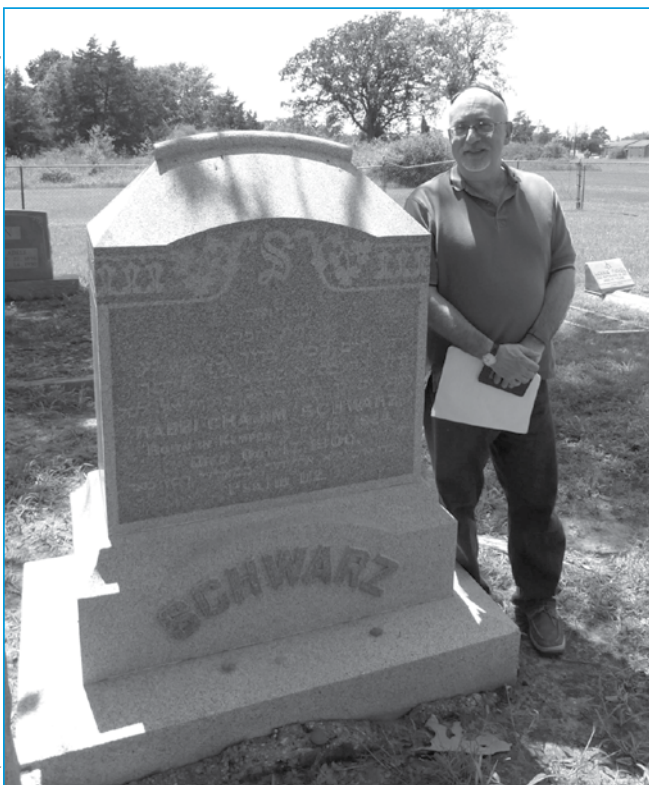
TJHS member Van Wallach, from Katonah, New York (formerly of Mission, Texas) wrote the following article for his blog on March 21, 2019.

For years the pieces hid in plain sight in front of me, but I never assembled them, until a few weeks ago.

In several blog posts I've mentioned my great-great-grandfather, Rabbi Chayim (Heinrich) Schwarz, a rabbi in Germany moved to Hempstead, Texas in 1873, where his brothers already lived. R' Chayim appears in all the books on Texas Jews, most extensively in *Jewish Stars in Texas: Rabbis and Their Work*, published in 1999 by Hollace Ava Weiner. In fact, R' Chayim graces the cover, with a tall round kippah and a penetrating gaze. Weiner pulled together a lot of research on him in the book's first chapter, "Prussian Provinces to Texas Prairie."

For all the decades I've had the book and read about R' Chayim, the first ordained rabbi in Texas, I never made too much of this paragraph about his origins:

Rabbi Heinrich Schwarz had *s'mikhah*, a Hebrew term for ordination. A rabbinical sage had lain his hands on Heinrich's head and confirmed his student's knowledge of Judaic precepts and rabbinical law. Heinrich's teacher was Rabbi Meir Loeb ben Jehiel Michael, a man so revered among Jewish scholars that he was called the Malvim, an acronym taken from his Hebrew initials. He was also called "der Kempen-



Van Wallach at the Schwarz grave.

er," after the years he spent in Heinrich Schwarz's hometown.

I focused more on my family's background in Kempen, in the duchy of Posen in Prussia, than on the rabbinical training.

That began to change one recent Shabbat at my shul, Chabad of Bedford, when I flipped through the bibliography of sources in the back of the *Chumash*. The names of the learned rabbis and their works always fascinated me, as I wondered about what they wrote and experienced over the centuries. My eyes settled on the Malvim. Something clicked as I read the paragraph:

Malvim—Acronym of Meir Leibush ben Yechiel Michel (1809-1879), Rabbi

in Germany, Romania, and Russia, leading Torah scholar and one of the preeminent Bible commentators of modern times. Demonstrated how the Oral tradition is implicit in the Biblical text.

The Malvim listed in the *Chumash* bibliography, along with Rashi, the Maharal of Prague, the Vilna Gaon and others—THAT Malvim gave *s'mikha* to R' Chayim, my *zaydie* of generations past? Once that piece of the puzzle clicked into place, I raced to my copy of Weiner's book and confirmed that, yes, the Malvim and my rabbinical ancestor had a direct teacher-student connection. Weiner's endnotes gave sources for the details.

I felt an immediate personal connection to the Malvim. Who was he, what did he think and write? Online biographies gave similar details of a rabbi on the move, a traditionalist who clashed with liberal-leaning congregations, to the extent that the one in Bucharest had him jailed. He had an offer to become the chief Orthodox rabbi in New York City, but he declined. The regular moves and stress of congregational conflicts must have taken a toll on his health. The Malvim died on Rosh Hashanah in 1879 while traveling to his new congregation in Kremenchuk.

That's a shame, since I could imagine "der Kempener Magid" traveling on from New York to hang out with his esteemed student, R' Chayim, "der Hempsteader." They'd set up a prairie

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shul that would adhere to the Malbim's rigorous standards. Maybe they'd introduce the locals to kosher BBQ, washed down with a *l'chaim* of kosher tequila. The cinematic possibilities of two elderly German rabbis rambling around Central Texas in the late 1870s are endless, like *Lonesome Dove* meets *Fiddler on the Roof*, from Hempstead

of them leading me to commentaries that incorporated the Malbim's thinking. This one, for example, suggests he was highly attuned to the intellectual currents of his times, ready to look to secular learning as part of his thinking. It comes from Jeffrey Pfeffer's introduction to his 2003 translation of Malbim's *Job: The Book of Job*:

failure to totally destroy the Amalekites, as he was instructed by God through the prophet Samuel. Muschel makes excellent use of the Malbim's linguistic approach to drawing lessons from the *Tanakh*. He writes:

In explaining the precise nature of Shaul's sin, the Malbim offers a powerful explanation,

differentiating between similar words to create a fundamental distinction. In this context, the Malbim draws an important distinction between



The Schwarz graves.

to Gonzales to Lockhart to the cantinas of San Antonio and all points in between.

From everything I've read, the Malbim sounded like a brilliant but ornery old coot (I say that with high affection, since I'm evolving into an old coot myself) who didn't much cotton to getting bossed around by the high-society German modernizers. The Malbim would have fit in well in a frontier Texas full of ornery coots who moved there from someplace else to make a new life free from the constraints of the smart set.

I learned more about the Malbim in the invaluable Sefaria site, which noted, "A trademark of the Malbim's commentary is his belief that there are no synonyms or repetition in the *Tanakh*. Each word represents a different idea or concept." A search brought back almost 150 entries, many

In the eclectic tradition of Jewish theologians, Malbim seized upon Kant's revolutionary ideas about the subjectivity of space and time, viz., that they are the transcendental framework of our consciousness. . . Malbim was not the only orthodox Jewish writer who found Kant an aid to his theology.

Apart of Sefaria, I found an insightful and timely essay by clinical psychologist Avi Muschel. "Shaul vs. Esther: Learning to Live a Committed Life" looks at the commandment to destroy Amalek and its relation to Purim, celebrated this week. (Is it just a coincidence that I would study this passage in shul and at the same time remember R' Chayim? I don't think so.) Muschel includes an analysis of King Shaul's

three forms of compassion. On the one hand, the verb *חָסַד*—*chos/chus*—is the natural compassion a person feels for anything, including his property (as the Sages often say, *HaTorah chassa al mamonam shel Yisrael*), and reflects a person's need for the item. In a similar fashion, *רַחֲמָנִים*—*rachmanus*—refers to an innate feeling of mercy a person feels toward living things. *Chemlah*, on the other hand, reflects a deeper compassion that permeates the intellectual level, when a person believes that an item is inherently good and, from a social justice perspective, does not deserve to be destroyed.

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Meet Your Board

Susan Zack Lewis, TJHS President,



from Big Spring, is married to Bob Lewis, aka Tumbleweed Smith, and they live in Big Spring. They have two sons,

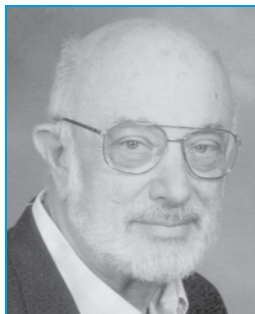
Kevin (Jill) of Dallas, and BZ (Margaret) of Oakland, CA, four grandchildren, two of whom are married. Susan is involved in many Big Spring civic activities. She and Bob have owned Multi Media Advertising for over thirty years, and she serves as technical director when Tumbleweed has a speaking engagement. She has a degree in Interior Design.

Sonny

Gerber, 1st Vice President, Houston, has been married for thirty-eight years. He has six granddaughters.



Jack Solka, 2nd Vice President,



Austin, was born in Mexico City and immigrated to Texas in 1945. He grew up in Corpus Christi. Jack received a

Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Texas A&M University and a Masters in Architecture from Columbia University in New York City. He practiced architecture for over fifty

years, and had his own firm in Corpus Christi for over forty years. He is married to TJHS Past President, Davie Lou Solka, and they have three sons and daughters-in-law and six grandchildren – one to be married soon. He and Davie Lou relocated to Austin in 2007 to be closer to their family. In addition to his TJHS work, Jack volunteers in construction management projects for non-profit organizations in Austin. He has been a member of Rotary since 1968, and continues this active role in Austin. He was involved in the moving of the Brenham Historic B'nai Abraham Synagogue to Austin from Brenham, Texas. As Regional Director for the Volunteers for Israel Program, Jack assists civilian volunteers from Texas and New Mexico to go to Israel to work in Israel Defense Forces camps.

Jane Manaster, 3rd Vice President,



Dallas, was raised in the North of England. She moved to Texas in 1969, and is married to Guy. They lived in

Austin until 2012 when they moved to Dallas. They have three children and six grandchildren. Jane has degrees in Psychology and Geography and is the author of three natural history books and children's books. She has also written articles on travel and Texas history. Jane is a charter member of TJHS.

Joyce Wormser, Recording Secretary, Pearland, was born in Corpus Christi, and is married to Marc. They have two sons and four grandchildren. She worked as Employee Relations



Officer for one-thousand employees at the Corpus Christi State School. In 2000, she and Marc moved to Pearland, Texas, in 2010 to be closer to their sons and their families.

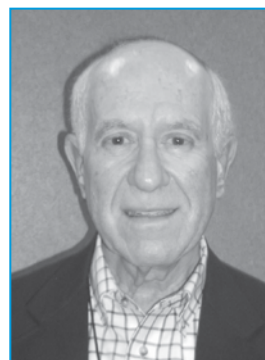
Amy Milstein, from Frisco, is Cor-



responding Secretary and grew up in Longview, Texas. She graduated from the University

of Texas in Austin, and shortly after graduation, became certified to teach. She has been teaching for twenty years. She loves to travel and has been to Cuba twice with TJHS. In addition, she likes to scrapbook, read, and go to the movies. She has been involved with TJHS for many years, and is the daughter of Past President Rusty Milstein.

Ben Rosenberg, Sugar Land, Treas-

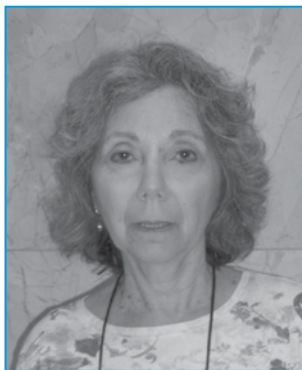


urer, was born and grew up in El Paso. He attended the University of Texas/Austin and graduated with a BBA in Accounting

in 1967. After graduation, he moved to the Houston area and joined a CPA

firm until his retirement in 2015. He is married to Barbara, Past TJHS President, and they have one daughter and two grandsons living in Boulder, Colorado. They enjoy travelling.

Sally Drayer, Dallas, Historian-Archivist, has been a member of TJHS for several years, and is a Past President. She is the mother of three children and



one granddaughter, and lives in Dallas. She is a retired teacher, and substitutes in the schools frequently. She volunteers with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, is a volunteer and docent at the Dallas Museum of Art, and is a CASA Advocate.

Davie Lou Solka, Immediate Past President, Parliamentarian and News Magazine Editor, moved to Austin from Corpus Christi eleven years ago with her husband, Jack, who is TJHS 2nd Vice President. In Corpus Christi, Davie Lou served as President of



several organizations in the Jewish and non-Jewish community, including the first woman President of Temple Beth El. She was involved in her children's activities, and after they left home, she owned with her husband,

brother and sister-in-law, a discontinued china and crystal business. After this business was closed, she began and taught a Jewish holiday program called L'Dor VaDor in the JCC preschool. She retired after fourteen years when she moved to Austin. She is involved in activities in Austin, but especially enjoys spending time with her three sons, three daughters-in-law and six grandchildren (one of whom is recently engaged!) and playing Mah Jongg. She is a born and bred Texan and graduated from the University of Texas/Austin with a BS in Elementary Education.

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 only two 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

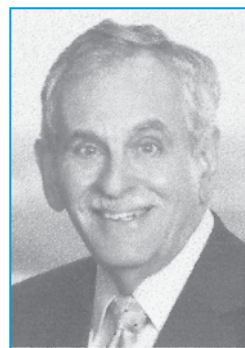
Sheriff's Office and as a visiting Rabbi at UTMB. Jimmy and his wife, Shelley, enjoy their children, Brandie & Andy Kessler, and Jenny Kessler and Nick Buis; and grandchildren, Samara, Jakxon and Ruthe. In July, a street near the Temple was renamed Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Drive in honor of his Double-Chai Anniversary at Congregation B'nai Israel.

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. 

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! 

The deadline for the August 2019 TJHS News Magazine is Friday, July 5.

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.

Immigrants! Come to Texas!

by Vickie Vogel

Our archives¹ contain a copy of an editorial by Oscar Leonard titled “Come to Texas.” The words “the Jewish problem” always seem to leap out at me when I’m browsing text, and this was no exception. Leonard begins by pointing out that 19th century critics of immigration often feared that a large influx of Jews would create a Jewish problem when immigration reached a number that rendered them conspicuous.

Leonard criticizes many proposed solutions to persecution and lack of economic opportunity in other countries as not being practical or immediate. The Jewish people needed immediate remedies, such as colonization in another region. Why not colonize in Texas where “the soil goes a begging for cultivators?” They could be here, in a free country, a land of equal opportunity, where they could work in peace and safety.

One issue, as Leonard saw it, was that not many Jews wanted to be farmers, but that was no reason to crowd them into big cities in the East. “There are many small towns and cities in Texas...where Jews would be welcomed.” Leonard pointed out that Jews provide an impetus to commerce and industry, and economic success, and many Texas towns could benefit from these “willing hands and alert minds” to help them develop.

Why would these immigrants remain where they were not safe and had no purpose in staying? Two reasons, says Leonard: lack of funds and igno-

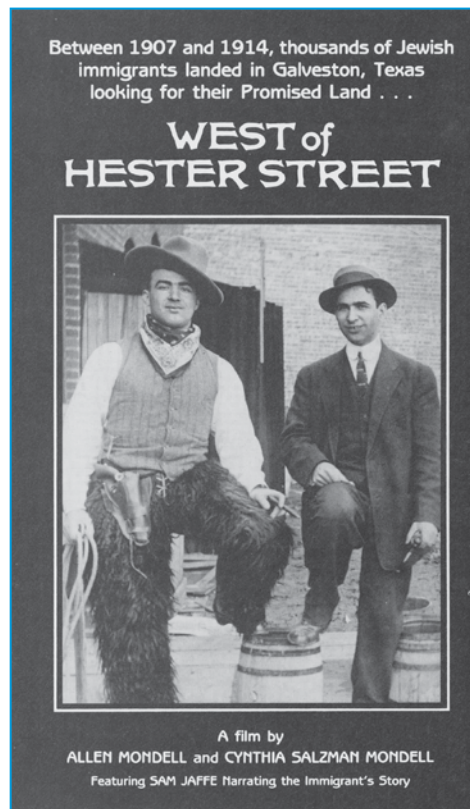


Photo by Media Projects, Inc., Texas Jewish Historical Society Records, di_11652, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. West of Hester Street is a film by Allen and Cynthia Mondell about immigration through Galveston (The Galveston Movement).

rance. He chided a Yiddish newspaper which warned Jews against going to the Southwest because there were no synagogues and they would become “estranged from the faith of their fathers.” It was an “absurd thing to say.”

“Jewish people in communities where Jews would be welcomed ought to do their duty toward their

coreligionists and write them about conditions in Texas, as well as other Southwestern states and urge them to come. If we relieved the congregation in the large cities, we shall surely have no ‘Jewish problem’ in America.”

The editorial started to sound familiar. I realized it’s quoted extensively in former TJHS Board Member Dr. Bryan Stone’s book *The Chosen Folks*.² He tells us Leonard wrote for the *Jewish Herald* and was superintendent of the Jewish Educational and Charitable Association in St. Louis. Leonard thought Texas was a more suitable place for Jewish development than Palestine, and was an early proponent of the Galveston Movement.³

Alongside the Leonard editorial is a photocopy of an article on the Galveston immigration movement (The Galveston Plan) which also encouraged distribution of the immi-



Galveston Immigration Center interior. Verkin Photo Company Collection, di_11654, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

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grants as being best for all concerned. Deportation statistics (apparently for 1907) list trachoma, tuberculosis, and poor physique as prime reasons. It is ironic that in 2018, young and healthy migrants approaching the Texas border gave rise to a gunman's attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue for what he had been led to believe was Jews "promoting an invasion."⁴ In contrast, when the first group of Jews landed as part of the new movement in 1907, Galveston Mayor H. A. Landes was praised for his warm welcome to "the aliens."⁵ He shook hands with all present, surprising the immigrants with his hospitality. An immigrant stepped forward and in halting English said, "You have welcomed us, Mr. Mayor and we are

grateful. There may be a time when the American people will need us, and then we will serve them with pure blood!" When a bystander interpreted the remarks to the other immigrants, there was a resounding "Hurrah!"

The article concludes that the United States need have no fear of "this class of alien, and if all signs fail not, the brawn and sinew, and for that matter the brain of the United States will be mightily strengthened by those Jews that pass through its Galveston portals!"


Endnotes

- ¹ Box 3A171, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

- ² Bryan Edward Stone. *The Chosen Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas*. University of Texas Press, 2010. Pp 90-91, 107.

- ³ Oscar Leonard was also a member of the Red Cross Emergency Committee of the Provident Association and was asked to look after African-American refugees from the East St. Louis Massacre of 1917. FMI see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_St._Louis_Race_Riots https://books.google.com/books?id=Uko9AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA91&lpg=PA91&dq=Jewish+Educational+and+Charitable+Association+Oscar+Leonard&source=bl&ots=nhBaT1VxZk&sig=4fpyLtMeHOZjavMJ9uw3TSObyV4&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewit7t_ozMPfAhXBhOAKHQmcBrQQ6AEwAHoECACQAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false

- ⁴ <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/10/caravan-lie-sparked-massacre-american-jews/574213/>

- ⁵ <https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/1907-european-jews-dock-in-texas-1.5289536>. 



Harbor view of Galveston Immigration Center. Verkin Photo Company Collection, di_11653, The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.

Message from the Outgoing President, continued from page 2

and chairs and we can stop reinventing the wheel! We now have a Book of Motions arranged by categories that is brought to each meeting in case a question comes up regarding issues. In addition, an Organizational Chart was put into place and has worked very well.

Thanks to Ben Rosenberg for all his work in presenting, for the first time ever, a formal budget to the board in January, 2019. This budget was approved by the board.

We held meetings all over this great state—in Austin at the B’Nai Abraham Brenham Historic Synagogue; in Marshall, Gonzales, Fort Worth, Rockdale/Round Rock, Abilene, Brownsville, and Houston. Every meeting has been well attended

with higher attendance than ever from both Board Members and members of local communities.

Our Speakers Bureau and Traveling Exhibits have been busy and we want this to continue. We have many members who are wonderful speakers and will present programs on various topics. Please keep this in mind when you are planning a program for your organizations, or where you live!

I had challenged each Board Member to find at least two new members a year and I’m happy to say that the Board took this challenge to heart with a gain of over eighty-five new members. We all discovered that it only takes a request – many people were delighted to join this prestigious group and we were more than happy to give

them a membership form! Everyone received “Bragging Rights”!

This Spring Semester the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at UT/Austin hired an intern on our behalf. He has been cataloguing recent acquisitions for our collection, and cross-referencing new additions.

As a result of realizing all that is going on in our world today, I consulted with Lonnie Schooler, a Past President and Founding Member of TJHS, of a possible need for trademarking our logo. He agreed and put me in contact with the trademark attorney in his office. I am pleased to report that we have been approved for a registration. You will note that now there is an R in a circle by the TJHS logo.

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In Memoriam

Hannah Florence “Flo” Berkman, TJHS member from Houston, died on March 3, 2019. She is survived by her husband, Maurice; children, Debbie (Steve) Roosth, and Stephen (Andi) Berkman; and three grandchildren.



Cacile Hart Daily, TJHS member, died in Houston on April 9, 2019. Her daughter, Elizabeth Cohen died in 2014. She is survived by her husband, Abe; her children, Ben (Eva) Daily, Bill (Pam) Daily, and Nancy Daily; her son-in-law, Harvey Cohen; four granddaughters; and her brother Charles (Jan) Hart and his family.



Harold B. Berman, TJHS member from Dallas, died on March 25, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Lyn; children, Toni (Morey) Silverman, Allison (Todd) Farquhar, and Stephanie (Stephen) Cohen; and four grandchildren.



Dr. Stanley Hersh, TJHS member from Waco, died on February 13, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Florence; daughters, Judy, Debbie, and Cheryl; five grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.



Shirley Glosserman Marks, TJHS member,



died in Houston on April 10, 2019. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Jay; her children, Lester (Penelope), Fran (Jerry) Lowe; six grandchildren; one great-grandson; and her brother, Norman Glosserman.

May their memories be a blessing.

TJHS Internship Report

by Brady Kal Cox

This semester, I worked as the Texas Jewish Historical Society intern at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History located at the University of Texas at Austin. During my time as the TJHS intern, I processed TJHS materials that were donated between 2017 and 2019, and I worked on reorganizing and restructuring the online finding aid for the TJHS records.

The TJHS records have been located at the Briscoe Center since 1980, and the collection has grown to over one hundred linear feet during this time. The materials have been processed and placed in archival boxes as



they have been received over the years; therefore, the TJHS materials are located in many boxes on multiple floors of the Briscoe Center and in UT's Library Storage Facility located at the J. J. Pickle Research Campus.

I reevaluated and reorganized the digital representation of the TJHS materials in our online finding aid. The new structure that I have created for the finding aid has consolidated the records into nine series instead of the previous sixteen series. Additionally, I have grouped together materials related to the same communities and families, and in some cases I grouped the materials by genre (e.g., photographs, and audio).

Due to the nature of the TJHS records, which are constantly growing as the Briscoe Center receives accruals (i.e., donations) multiple times a year, it has sometimes been difficult to present similar materials together in the finding aid. For example, materials related to Jewish life in Waco have been spread out across the collection as the materials have been donated. This was reflected in the finding aid as materials were added on to the end of the document rather than being placed with other like materials. However, after reorganizing the digital representations of the materials in the finding aid, the researcher can now see everything related to Waco in one place. This does not affect the physical order of the materials, but it makes finding

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Congregation K'Nesseth Israel Celebrates 90-Year Anniversary

by Davie Lou Solka

Congregation K'Nesseth Israel in Baytown celebrated its 90th year Anniversary and restoration of the building after damage from Hurricane Harvey on Sunday, May 7, 2019. After a few days of rain, the weather cooperated and local residents and people from distant towns enjoyed the sunny day. A Parade of Torahs was led by violinist and former Baytown resident, David Cohen, who now lives in Austin. Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, founder of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, who grew up in Baytown



*Parade of Torahs led by violinist David Cohen of Austin.
Credit: Christopher James, Baytown Sun.*



Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo presents proclamation to Denise Havenar, Restoration Project Manager. Credit Christopher James, Baytown Sun.

gave a welcome address.

Mayor Brandon Capetillo presented a proclamation to Denise Havenar, restoration project manager, designating April 7, 2019, as Congregation K'Nesseth Israel Day.

Joan Linares, TJHS Board Member and President of the congregation, said, "It felt wonderful to be worshipping in the synagogue again and really meant a lot to be back there again."

A "Save Our Synagogue" fundraising campaign was begun and monies were sent from former residents of Baytown, along with many friends around the country, including

the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

The Torah scrolls were restored as part of the project.

Congregation K'Nesseth Israel began at the start of the Goose Creek oil boom in 1917, with two Jewish families who lived in the area. With the growth of the oil boom, the congregation was incorporated on November 3, 1928 with twenty members. Property was purchased and a synagogue was built in 1930, and designated a Texas State Historical Landmark in 1992. The Texas Jewish Historical Society will hold its Fall Board Meeting in Baytown October 25-27, 2019. 

Contributions

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

In Memory of
Cacile Daily

From
Susan & Bob Lewis
Davie Lou and Jack Solka

Gift Membership for
David B. & Joy Turkel

From
Phyllis Turkel

TJHS Internship Report, continued from page 12

and accessing the materials easier for the researcher. The changes that I have made are reflected in the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) finding aid for the TJHS records, and they will also be present once the Briscoe Center launches ArchivesSpace in the near future.

If you are interested in donating materials to TJHS records at the Briscoe Center, I have a couple of tips that will help the archives staff process the materials and place them within the new structure for the finding aid. Please let the archives staff know why you think the materials are important.

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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.



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 Cynthia Wolf, 4305 Sterling Lane, Beaumont, TX 77706.

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: Cynthia Wolf, 4305 Sterling Lane, Beaumont, Texas 77706

For more information, contact

Cynthia Wolf at 409-899-4499 or cwolf@gt.rr.com.

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.

Message from the Outgoing President, continued from page 11

I want to thank my husband, Jack Solka. He has been my sounding board, is always supportive, encourages me in every way, and is name tag maker extraordinaire. He's also a good travelling companion and schelp-er. He has done a great job as News Magazine Editor and is welcoming his new title—Past Editor of the News Magazine.

As you can see, TJHS is not a one-person organization and no job is a one-person job. Working together with our friends makes this one of the best organizations in the state or anywhere - Not only do we all work together, but I hope everyone will remember the ones who came before us and began this organization forty years ago. We can never forget them and recognize that if

not for them, the history of Texas Jews would still only be two cards in a card catalogue in a library.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you for these past two years. It has been a time that I will never forget, and know that TJHS will continue to preserve Jewish History for generations to come. L'Dor VaDor! 

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.

Hangin' with the Malvim, continued from page 7


This grammatical subtlety of the Malvim provides an important clinical foundation into a Torah approach toward emotions and behaviors.

Becoming more aware of the link between the Malvim and my great-great-grandfather gave me a deeper appreciation of both of them, and the missions that guide Jewish lives. What are the odds that a student of the Malvim would wind up an ocean away from the Jewish centers of Europe, in the raw lands of small-town Texas? And that that student would have many children and descendants, with his daughter Valeria making a Jewish marriage in Texas that produced Jared Lissner, who made a Jewish marriage with Eva Michelson to have daughter Shirley, who made a Jewish marriage in Texas that led to me and then my Jewish marriage (in Brooklyn, I'm the family's geographic outlier)

that resulted in a Jewish son? And that I would circle back 210 years after the Malvim's birth to write about his career and influence on R' Chayim?

I like to think that part of the Malvim's mission in life involved teaching R' Chayim, whose mission then involved carrying the spark of *yiddishkeit* to Texas, where it has remained generation after generation, waxing and waning but always remaining. Call me crazy, but I don't think any of this, either, is a coincidence.

Whenever I'm in the area, I try to visit R' Chayim's grave at the Hempstead Jewish Cemetery, place a rock on the Schwarz family gravestone and say *kaddish* for them. One of these days I'd like to take his twin great-great-great-great-grandchildren of the latest generation to the cemetery, so he can instill the light of his *neschama* in them.

To this day, the timeless mission of the Malvim and R' Chayim continues. 

Save the Date

July 13-14, 2019

Board Meeting in
Palestine, Texas

**September 12-15,
2019**

Trip to Jewish Toronto.
Contact Vickie Vogel.

**October
25-27, 2019**

Board Meeting in
Baytown, Texas

Welcome New Members!

Bernadine Belkin

1575 Belvidere, #110
El Paso, TX 79912

Jules D. & Phyllis (Goldstein) Frapart

575 Calle Retama
Brownsville, TX 78520
Jules: 956-345-5607
Phyllis: 956-494-4414
jdfrapart@gmail.com

Phyllis (Schwartz) Hengst

5646 Wigton Dr.
Houston, TX 77096
713-591-2123
gthumbb@msn.com

Lisa (Lewis) Klein

9302 Cliffwood
Houston, TX 77096
713-723-4055
laklein9999@sbcglobal.net

Eric & Allison (Lippman) Kuban

2023 Glasier Falls Dr.
Tomball, TX 77375
779-224-3210
765-532-3733
allison.lippman@gmail.com

Arielle Levy

7744 Northcross St., #N139
Austin, TX 78757
547-715-2269
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713-774-5171
hosmij18910-tjhs@yahoo.com

Ronald G. Steinhart

25 Robledo Dr.
Dallas, TX 75230
214-360-4353
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4018 Tennyson
Houston, TX 77005
ronsteinhart@yahoo.com

Betty Weiner

2600 Bellefontaine St., #C11
Houston, TX 77025
713-723-8691
betty.weiner@sbcglobal.net

If you have any changes in your information, please contact

Marc Wormser, 832-288-3494, c2aggie@gmail.com

*TJHS Internship Report, continued
from page 13*

ant. Is it because of the person or family that created the materials, the community the materials come from, or the organization(s) the materials are associated with? With this information, the archives staff can place the materials in the most relevant place in the finding aid, or add new series to the finding aid if necessary. For example, the archives staff could add a new community (e.g., Katy, Texas) or a new family that is not already present in the finding aid. Additionally, it is helpful if you organize the materials with your understanding of their importance in mind. For example, are the newspaper clippings one might donate important because of an article about a specific synagogue or community, or are they important because they represent a Jewish publication? If the former, the archives staff can place the clippings in the finding aid with the most relevant community. If the latter, the clippings can be organized in the finding aid by genre and placed with other materials relevant to the specific publication. These are just a few examples. Please feel free to contact the archives staff at the

Briscoe Center if you have any questions.

Thank you for funding the TJHS Internship position this semester. It has been a positive learning experience for me, and I think you will find the new finding aid easier to navigate. I will be working as a Digital Archiving Intern for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) this summer, and I will begin my last year of graduate school in the School of Information at UT in August. 🇺🇸

Guess This Member

Well, still no guesses. Come on everybody! No guesses this time and we'll give up. Same clue as last time with a little *addition*. 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 and keeps figuring it out. So, take another look and see if you can guess who this is.

Email your guess to Davie Lou Solka at editor@txjhs.org any time beginning Friday, May 24, 2019. Entries received before that date will not be considered. Previous winners and family members are not eligible to participate. Good luck! 🇺🇸





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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 prepaid 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 Dolly Golden at goldendolly81@yahoo.com or 512-453-8561.

Texas Jewish

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Austin, Texas 78766-0193

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The Texas Jewish Historical Society New Membership and Information Update Form



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☐ 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): _____

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