



# Texas Jewish Historical Society

August 2019 News Magazine

## Identifying the Graves of Jewish Veterans by Herschel L. Sheiness

Several years ago, I presented to the Texas Jewish Historical Society my work on a project identifying the grave sites of Jewish War Veterans Post 753, San Antonio, that were buried in that city. As often happens with such projects, it has progressed and now includes the graves of veterans buried anywhere in Texas.

To date, with a lot of help, 2,250 graves have been identified. Here is the breakdown by location (there are too many cemeteries in each city to list each one): Austin (90); Brownsville (40); Corpus Christi, including Coastal Bend VA National Cemetery (64); Dallas, including DFW National VA Cemetery (370); El Paso, including Fort Bliss National Cemetery (82); Fort Worth (82); Galveston (42); Houston, including Houston National VA Cemetery (317); Longview (15); Marshall (28); Mission, including Rio Grande Valley VA National Cemetery (9); Navasota (12); and San Antonio (797).

Cemeteries with one Jewish vet identified are Arlington, Calvert, Colorado, Columbus, Corsicana, Groves, Flower Mound, Hitchcock, Huntsville, La Feria, Leander, Mansfield, Marion, Mexia, Nacogdoches, Paris, Richardson, Roby, Round Rock, San Angelo, Von Ormy, Wharton, and Webster. Cemeteries with two Jewish vets identified are Brenham, Seagoville, Temple, and Palestine. Cemeteries with three Jewish vets identified are Austin, Beaumont, Brookland, McAllen, and Tyler. A cemetery with five Jewish vets identified is Gainesville. Cemeteries with six Jewish vets identified are Pflugerville and Waco.

If your congregation would like an Excel spreadsheet identifying veterans in its cemetery(ies), I will be happy to send it to you. Please email your request to me at



jsheines@swbell.net.

If you want to ensure that your relative's grave has been identified and if not, that he or she is identified, send me an email with as much of the following information as you have: full name, name of cemetery (if there is more than one cemetery, identify the specific one in which the vet is buried), city, state, date of birth (please spell out the month), place of

birth, date of death (please indicate if killed in action and spell out name of month), branch of service, highest military rank achieved, medals and/or commendations, theater(s) of war/service, if applicable (such as WW1, WW2 (Europe, Pacific), Korea, Vietnam, or Gulf War), and any other information about the person's military service that you know.

If you would like to help, then whenever you learn of the death of a Jewish vet, send me his/her name, city of death, date of death, branch of service, and the name and city of the cemetery. Also, the link to the obituary would be helpful.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

The Rubinskys of Brownsville, Texas.....	3
by Guerta Geifman Rubinsky	
Letter to the Editor .....	6
Meet Your Board .....	8-9
Testimonial Dinner for Ben Proler .....	10
by Vickie Vogel	
In Memoriam.....	12
Guess This Member .....	18

# Message from the President

by Susan Zack Lewis

What a meeting! Palestine, Texas greeted the Texas Jewish Historical Society with open arms.

Jan and Charles Hart made a field trip to research the possibilities of having the summer board meeting in Palestine. They discovered much more than a small town with no current Jewish population.

Local historian, Ben Campbell regaled the Society with tales of the antics of former resident, Hyman Pearlstone. He was declared America's #1 baseball fan in 1909. His friendship with Connie Mack, former major league baseball player and owner/manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, was the stuff of legend.

We were honored with a personal greeting from Mayor Steve Presley who stayed with us for the afternoon



session. That's a first! I suspect Ben Campbell's presentation had something to do with it.

The Society members had time after the session to tour the museum and Jewish cemetery before

dinner at the historic and beautifully restored Redlands Hotel. Local resident Sharon Myers Davis kept the crowd engaged with her personal stories of the Jewish influence in Palestine. It was focused on the history of the Grand Leader Department store that was owned by her Grandfather, Harry Myers. She also spoke about Michael Ash donating the land for the Jewish Cemetery. Upon his death in May of 1883, the will bequeathed funds for the upkeep of the grounds. That bequest is still intact over 100 years later and continues to fund the

maintenance of the cemetery.

New opportunities for the Texas Jewish Historical Society include assisting the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio with the refurbishing of the Jewish exhibit at the museum. It will be expanded to include stories and artifacts from the newest waves of Jewish immigration to Texas, that came from South Africa and Russia in the second half of the 20th century.

Two more projects to fulfill the requests of the estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield now have established committees. Douglas Braudaway and Hollace Weiner will work with Julianna Dearman, executor of the estate, to continue the historic cemetery designations which will protect the cemeteries from encroachment and commercial development. They will join Willie Braudaway in establishing a graduate and adult level writing contest that will focus on Jewish history in Texas.

Our next meeting is in Baytown where we'll learn about growing up and doing business in Baytown. The meeting is hosted by Joan Linares, who is the daughter of Past President Don Teeter, now deceased.

All TJHS meetings are special and there's opportunity at each of them to renew friendships and meet new

*continued on page 3*

## The Texas Jewish Historical Society August 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](mailto: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**  
**Layout/Design Editor**  
**Proof Readers**

Davie Lou Solka  
Alexa Kirk  
Ruthe Berman, Sally Drayer, Jan Hart, Jack Solka, L. David Vogel, Vickie Vogel

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

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

The News Magazine of the Texas Jewish Historical Society (USPS) is published four times a year by the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193, Travis County. Periodical postage paid at Houston, Texas. Postmaster, send address changes to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766-0193. [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org)

# — The Rubinskys of Brownsville, Texas —

by **Guerta Geifman Rubinsky**

*Guerta Rubinsky spoke at the TJHS Board Meeting in Brownsville in January, 2019*

My name is Guerta Geifman Rubinsky. I was born in Mexico City on January 12, 1934. I met the love of my life, Simon Rubinsky, at a friend's home in Mexico City in 1958. He asked me out, but I was dating another nice Jewish man at the time so I told him I could not go out with him. He left the next day to go to Acapulco on vacation. Almost a year later, my boss sent me to Monterrey, Mexico to organize an office. I was staying with my godparents, Pedro and Fannie Podolsky, who were close friends of my parents. Someone found out that I was in Monterrey and told Simon who, at the time, was working as a manager of Zale's Jewelry in Harlingen, Texas. Simon drove to Monterrey with some of his friends, and we went out to dinner and dancing. The next day, he told me he would like to get to know me better and wanted me to go to Brownsville, Texas, to meet his parents and stay with them. By this time, I was really crazy about him, but Mr. Podolsky said that it was not proper for me to go alone with him.

In stepped Mrs. Leike Sandler, who lived in Monterrey, and was a close friend of Simon's parents since their days in Lithuania. She said she would go with us.

The next day, we drove to Harlingen so Simon could check on the store and then we drove to his parents' home in Brownsville. I felt very welcome the moment I walked into their home. It was nice and had an inviting Jewish atmosphere. Simon and I went out every day and he introduced me to his friends. We became engaged ten days later. We



*Guerta Geifman Rubinsky*

were married in a civil ceremony on April 19, 1959, in Brownsville and had our religious wedding ceremony on May 26th at the Deportivo Israelita in Mexico City.

We settled in Harlingen, where our three children, Nina, Melanie, and Abraham were born. In 1967 we moved to Brownsville. Melanie who is married to Javier Solis; Abraham who is married to Lisa Joachim Rubinsky; and Nina now live in Houston, Texas. We have two grandchildren, Adam and Alana.

Simon and I were happily married for fifty years until he passed away on December 24, 2009. I still miss him very much.

My father was Marcos Tversky Geifman, born in Kiev, Russia on June 17, 1907.

He passed away on September

1, 2001. My mother, Pola (Perla) Schkolnik Geifman, was born on September 15, 1913, in Zhmerynka, Ukraine. She passed away on June 3, 2004. They immigrated separately to Mexico City sometime after World War I and met there at a Russian club. They were married on February 14, 1932. I was able to bring them to Brownsville in 1980, where they were very happy living until their deaths. My mother became a U.S. citizen in June 1998.

Simon's parents were Bertha (Basia) Sussnitsky and Joseph Rubinsky. Bertha was born on November 28, 1907, in Kalvaria, Lithuania and passed away on July 7, 1989. Joseph was born May 26, 1906, in Lubova, Lithuania and passed away on November 8, 1984. Joseph and his brother, Albert, immigrated to Mexico entering through the port city of Veracruz around 1925. Bertha later joined them, but per the instructions of her father, was not allowed off the ship until she was married. Joseph had to quickly find two witnesses on the docks so that the ship's captain could marry them and let her off the ship. They immigrated to the United States around 1935 with their three children: Simon, Tobias, and Sarita, settling in Brownsville, Texas. Joseph had a furniture store in Matamoros, Mexico called Muebleria Matamoros to which he would drive across the border on a daily basis. He was well liked and people affectionately called him Don Pepe. Both my in-laws were active members of the Jewish community in Brownsville. 🇺🇸

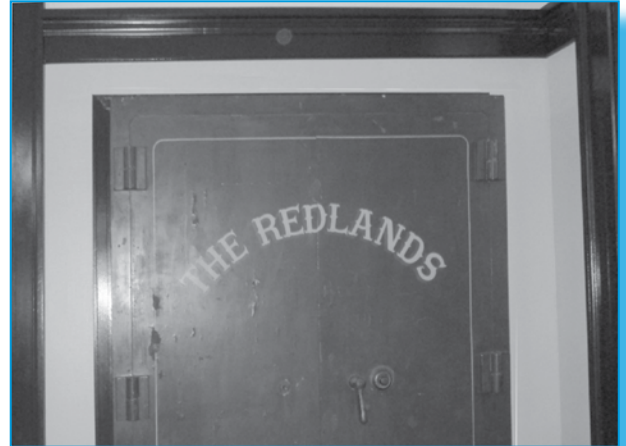
*Message from the President, continued from page 1*

friends. If you have a chance, COME TO A MEETING! You'll be welcomed, you'll be entertained and you'll discover the Jewish contributions to the fabric of Texas! See you October 25 – 27 in Baytown. 🇺🇸

**The deadline for the November  
2019 TJHS News Magazine  
is Friday, October 18.**



# Board Meeting in Palestine



*Top left: Barbara & Ben Rosenberg leading Havdalah. Top right: Safe in Redlands Hotel. Above left: Ben Rosenberg, Sally Drayer, and Susan Zack Lewis. Above right: Redlands Hotel plaque.*



*Above: Sharon Davis, whose family was a leading family in Palestine. Right: Some of the group at dinner in the elegant Redlands Hotel.*





# July 13-14, 2019



*Poem written by Harry I. Myers,  
Great-grandfather of Sharon Davis.*

## **We Live But Once**

We live but once and that is now,  
Which is the reason we should vow  
To make all passing moments count  
As they upon each other mount.

You cannot when your life is through  
Then do what you intended to  
So live as if, when it has passed  
This day has proved to be your last.

Remember this: Kind words spoken  
Often mend a heart that's broken,  
But speak them now and do not wait,  
Tomorrow they may come too late.



*Top to bottom: Sam Roosth, Phyllis  
Turkel, Ruth Nathan enjoying  
dinner: Bruce (back to camera) &  
Kathy Kravitz, Louis & Joan Katz,  
Lynda Furgatch chat over dinner:  
Mayor Steve Presley and Ben  
Campbell, Palestine historian led  
the discussion Saturday afternoon.  
Group attending board meeting.*



---

# Letter to the Editor

---

*The following letter was received from Ambassador Arthur L. Schecter, Ambassador to the Bahamas during the Clinton Administration. It is in answer to the article by Van Wallach titled "Zaydie, Hangin' With the Malvim in Hempstead, Texas," which was printed in the May, 2019 issue of the Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine.*

To the Editor:

I read with great interest and appreciation the article by Van Wallach, apparently my cousin several times removed! The article that he wrote about Rabbi Schwarz was most interesting. I am a descendant of Gabriel Schwarz, one of the three brothers who came to Texas. Members of the Schwarz family had settled in Hempstead in the 1840's and early 1850's, and were entrenched there. My own great-great-grandfather came from South Carolina to Texas in about 1863. There was already a large family in Hempstead. They were practicing Jews. My ancestor left South Carolina because he did not believe in slavery, and thus, joined his family in Texas. Rabbi Chayim Schwartz, according to family legend, waited in Germany until his father died. He was a rabbi, with a simcha and a teacher. When Rabbi Schwarz came to Texas, he, as the article points out, was the first ordained rabbi in Texas. He brought with him a Torah, which had belonged to his father, and presumably generations earlier. This Torah is four and one-half feet high, but fairly lightweight. Rabbi Schwarz began conducting services in Hempstead and eventually a small synagogue building was constructed in the backyard of the Schwarz home. It was there that Rabbi Schwarz commenced holding Jewish services, which continued until 1939 when the synagogue basically closed down.

The building itself was then converted to a rent house.

During their time in Texas, the three brothers had many children. Many years ago, a family member, living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, had a "family reunion" to which we were invited. Amazingly she hired a genealogist to track down and round up approximately seven hundred heirs of the three brothers. (Of course, one thought that comes to mind shows that the damage of the Holocaust for generations, killed millions and millions more.) Among the seven hundred or so descendants of the three brothers, there are a number of extremely successful business people and philanthropists. Sam Susser was named for his grandfather, Sam, and his entrepreneurial spirit and philanthropy has made him extremely well known. Arthur Schwarz' son had led major business in Houston as did he. There had been two United States Ambassadors to foreign countries among the direct descendants. One was, of course, Ambassador Bob Strauss of Dallas. I was the other. Actually, pretty amazing when you think about it. Two Jewish ambassadors (probably the only ones) from Texas as descendants of these three brothers. Counted among the family descendants of the three others, and there may be many, have been presidents of synagogues in Austin, Houston, Dallas, Corpus Christi, Waco, and I'm sure there will be many others.

I think it would be interesting if the other heirs of these three brothers would write in and give their family histories. The contributions made among this substantially sized group are truly amazing. There have been heads of university departments, internationally recognized engineers and sciences, corporation presidents and executives. The Schwarz legacy

is far from over. In fact, the book *Jewish Stars in Texas*, by Hollace Weiner, has well-documented citations leading to articles in the Jewish Press and other sources of information, documenting much of the family activity. Also, of note, is that Rabbi Schwarz actually ordained the rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel who was not a rabbi, but a cantor. He then went to San Francisco where he started a congregation. In his writing, he described Rabbi Schwarz as being his mentor and teacher. Rabbi Schwarz preached at Beth Israel in the early 1880's. He preached basically a reform Judaism, and I believe, actually helped lead Beth Israel from the demands of Orthodox Judaism with a more liberal reform Judaism.

I am very proud of my mother's family. My father was an immigrant, however, who came to this country with nothing at a young age and managed to get himself educated, and ended up in Houston when he met and married my mother. I have numerous cousins still in Israel where he had been born of generations of very, very ultra-orthodox and very, very poor parents.

As a post script to this, I would simply add that our investigations so far have indicated that my mother's family began the immigration process from Germany, arriving in New York in about 1820, fleeing anti-Semitism. About the same time my father's family fled, from what I believe, may have been Romania, ending up in Palestine at the same time. Thus, we need to be very protective of our heritage, and I appreciate, very much, the role that the Texas Jewish Historical Society, along with many others, play in attempting to fight the plague of renewed anti-Semitism.

Very truly yours,  
Ambassador Arthur L. Schecter





# TJHS Awards

by Willie Braudaway

Texas History Day 2019 was held at the University of Texas/Austin on April 27, 2019, where the Texas Jewish Historical Society awarded one Jewish History Award.

Jack Jordan (Veterans Memorial Early College High School, Brownsville) received \$100 from the TJHS in the Senior Paper Division. His paper was titled "Victor Frankl: A Psychiatrist in a Concentration Camp."

TJHS offers monetary awards in the Senior and Junior divisions each year. The Texas History Day History Committee, chaired by Willie Braudaway, with members, Jan Hart, Jane Manaster, and Hol-lace Weiner read and judged five papers that were potentially eligible for the Jewish History Awards this year. The Committee will be actively encouraging students to consider writing Jewish History papers for Texas History Day 2020. 🇺🇸

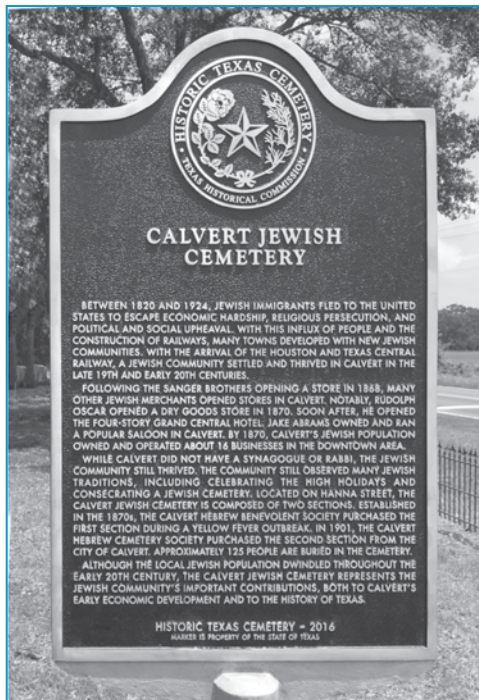
## Calvert Jewish Cemetery Receives Historical Marker

The Calvert Jewish Cemetery received a historical marker from the Texas Historical Commission. TJHS members Jan and Past President Charles Hart were in attendance with about sixty people. The Mayor, City Council members and members of the County Historical Commission were also in attendance. After the Dedication ceremony, a reception was held at "Under the Chandelier Antique Store" on Main Street. The program of the event, along with a signed copy of the proclamation from the Texas Historical Commission have been placed in the TJHS collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History on the UT campus in Austin.

Charles Hart, who has relatives buried in the cemetery thanked all those who were responsible for obtaining the historical marker.



*Above: Jan and Charles Hart with Stacy Knight. Below left: Texas Historical Marker at Cemetery. Below right: Hart Family graves.*



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

# Meet Your Board



**Doug Braudaway** is from Del Rio, and teaches government and history at Southwest Texas Junior

College. He is married to Willie, who is also a TJHS board member, and they have five children and fifteen grandchildren. Doug enjoys writing history and historic marker applications. He is the chair of the Historical Texas Cemetery Designation Committee.

**Willie Braudaway** is a native of Iowa, but has been a Texan since 1990. She is the librarian at Southwest Texas Junior College-Del Rio. She and

her husband, Doug, also a TJHS board member, live in Del Rio. She is the Chair of the Texas History Day Committee and the Texas Jewish History Adult Writing Contest Committee. Her passion is family history and she is a history consultant for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.. Willie is proud to be the mother of five and grandmother to fifteen wonderful people!



**Deidra B. Cizon**, lives in Dallas with her husband, Gordon, who is also a TJHS Board Member. She is a

native of Fort Worth and was a member of Beth-El Congregation.

**Janice Gerber** lives in Houston and says “due to World War II, was born in Louisiana.” Her family moved to Houston and she attended schools in Houston.

In high school, she was on the rifle team as ROTC sponsor and won All City College. Janice attended Sophie Newcombe College and is active in Hadassah and other Jewish organizations. She has worked as a Jewish community professional and as a political fund raiser.

**Abigail (Abbi) Glosserman Michelson**, was born in Lockhart and still lives there. She



graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and is a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority. She taught school in Dallas before she married David J. (Buddy) Michelson, who lived in Gonzales. Abbi and Buddy lived in Gonzales when they were first married, and after ten years, moved to Lockhart. Her children, Jeffrey and his wife, Shelley, live in Lockhart and her other son, Jon, lives in Austin. She loves to travel, entertain, and be with people. Abbi is always willing to help with all meetings—especially the hospitality room!

**Howard “Rusty” Milstein**, was born in Longview and still lives there. He is retired from Industrial Steel Warehouse

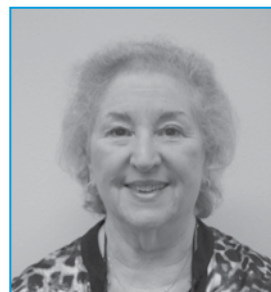


and is married to Mitzi Milstein, TJHS Board Member. Rusty is a retired state level Soccer referee; Administrator, Treasurer, Lay-leader, and Schlepper for Temple Emanu-El in Longview; and has performed in a community theatre production of “Fiddler on the Roof”. He and Mitzi are the main reason there is still a congregation in Longview. They have three children, Randy, Jeff and Amy. Rusty attended the University of Texas, Austin, and was a member of Phi Sigma Delta Fraternity. He was President of TJHS 2010-2012.

**Gary P. Whitfield**, is from Fort Worth, and is a former coach and teacher. He retired from the Air Force Reserve where he



was a small arms instructor. He is a former Data Collector (Field) RTI and is a past chairman of the Tarrant County Historical Society.



**Joan Katz** is from Houston, Texas, and is a Past President of a Branch of National

*continued on page 9*



Women's League and the Lions Club. She has been an AZA advisor, held many offices in Beth Yeshurun Sisterhood and Hadassah. She is a life-time member of the Houston Livestock show and Fort Bend County Fair. Joan enjoys cooking.

**Bob Lewis**, aka Tumbleweed Smith, is from Big Spring, Texas. He hosts a daily radio



show, *Sound of Texas*, where he interviews Texans about their interesting careers and lives. He is an actor, student, soldier, teacher, columnist, and radio producer. He and his wife,

TJHS President Susan Zack Lewis, have two children and four grandchildren. Bob is Publicity Chair for TJHS.

**Mitzi Milstein** is from Longview, Texas, and grew up in Dallas. She is a graduate of Hillcrest High School, and attended the University of Texas, where she



was a member of Sigma Delta Tau Sorority. She is a member of the Longview Junior League, Past President of Longview Community Theatre and Past President of Temple Emanuel-El. She and husband, TJHS Past President, Rusty Milstein, have three children, including Amy, who is Corresponding Secretary of TJHS.

**Helen Wilk** is a naturalized Texan having lived in Texas for fifty-four years. She is from



Michigan, but now lives in Houston. She is interested in

local history, and has conducted oral histories for many Texans for TJHS archives. Helen is a Past President of TJHS and with her husband, Larry (now deceased) have four children and eight grandchildren. 🇺🇸

## 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.*



# From Our Archives

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

## — Testimonial Dinner for Ben Proler —

by Vickie Vogel

In our archives,<sup>1</sup> there is an undated newspaper article about a 500 person testimonial dinner for philanthropist Ben Proler. The intriguing article says Proler was one of the founders of the Jewish Home for the Aged, the Houston Independent Hebrew School, and a contributor to many charities. At the time of the dinner, Proler was vice president for the

Jewish Home for the Aged. A second article from the Jewish Herald Voice establishes the date of the dinner as April 11, 1954 in the Orchid Room of the Alabama Catering Company, sponsored by the Independent Hebrew School and Congregation Adath Israel. Members of the dinner committee included Ben Battelstein, Hyman Finger, J. S. Oshman, Simon Sakowitz, and Joe Weingarten.

The Houston glitterati turned out for the event, including Mayor Roy Hofheinz, who remarked that Proler deserved the thanks “for every citizen of every faith” for his accomplish-



*Rose and Ben Proler. Photo courtesy of Joyce Proler Schechter.*

ments. The president of the Jewish Community Council called Proler “one of the solid rocks upon which our Jewish community rests...He gives... with all his heart.” Rabbi Robert Kahn praised Proler for establishing a spending-money fund for aged residents’ personal needs. Other speakers included Irvin M. Schlenker,<sup>2</sup> Joe Weingarten, R. Benjamin Marcus, Morris Wolf, and Ben’s son Izzie and granddaughter Nina. At the end of the dinner, Proler was given a trip to Europe and Israel by his wife and children.<sup>3</sup> They had been married 42 years by the time of the dinner.

and his desire to aid those in need, never having turned anyone away. Proler remembered when he had “so little that it hurt” and recalled those who gave him a lift.

The program of the dinner included a brief biography of Proler<sup>4</sup> (b. 1894), calling him a yeshiva bocher from Lithuania who came to the United States via Hamburg. His mother was Mary Flozo Proler (1864-1935).<sup>5</sup> Ben married Rose Stein (shortened from Saperstein) in 1912. Rose was working as a seamstress in New York City and Ben was employed as a stage

Proler was lauded as one of the city’s most successful businessmen with Proler Steel Corporation. The family business went under a variety of names and configurations over the years. Ben was described as a person who faced problems in a direct manner, with no pretense. Many stories were told dealing with his humanity, his interest in good and noble causes,

*continued on page 11*





*Seven Acres Home for the Aged bought a small house on Branard Street to house fourteen residents in 1943. (<http://www.sevenacres.org/aboutus.php>). Rose and Ben Proler are at upper right. Photo courtesy of Joyce Proler Schechter*

hand at a Yiddish theater on Houston Street. One day, he was sitting in the audience after helping set up the show, and started talking to the young lady next to him. They fell in love. Rose was also from Lithuania, born there in 1890.

Ben and Rose moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania where Ben found work with distant cousin Simon Dunie's Junkyard. His job was to separate the junk into different categories. They lived in Pennsylvania for several years, and their first few children were born there.

In 1920, to be near Rose's family, they moved to Houston where the Sapersteins had a dairy on Clark Street, and Ben could find work. Their little daughter Sarah had tuberculosis, or consumption as it was called then, and the family believed the warmer

climate would be good for her.<sup>6</sup> Ben worked as a peddler of produce from a horse-drawn buggy, with help from the Jewish Assistance Guild.<sup>7</sup>

They were blessed with many sons and daughters, and numerous grandchildren. Their children were Sarah (born c. 1915), Sam, Isadore/Israel, Robert Herman, Ethel, Billy, Ruby Proler Karp, Herman Joseph (Hymie), and Jackie Louis. None of the older children had middle names. Sam used to quip they couldn't afford middle names.<sup>8</sup>

Sam was born in 1917 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Sam's greatest challenge when he entered school was to learn English, since only Yiddish was spoken at home. He grew up on Houston's south side, helping Ben with a horse-drawn junk wagon. Sam quit school in the eighth grade to work

full time. Ben told the truant officer, "My son's stomach is hungrier than his head is." Sam later ran the business and changed the name to Proler Steel.

Sam married Jeanette Rubin. They had two daughters, Nina Proler Brown, and TJHS member Joyce Proler Schechter. In 1987, Sam married Marie Heurtaux and returned to Texas from Florida in 1999. Sam attributed his long life to his love of family and red wine, often referring to his blood type as merlot.<sup>9</sup>

Sam retired at the early age of 52, but continued to contribute new ideas and inventions to the industry. Why did Sam take early retirement? No public reason was given, and Sam didn't want anything negative to impact the family business. It seems there was bad blood between Sam and Hymie, and Sam could no longer control the actions of his brothers. At a board meeting, Hymie reportedly said he couldn't stand the sound of his brother's voice. It had also been mistakenly published in *Metal Millennium-Pioneers* that Sam's invention, the Prolerizer, was invented by the four brothers, in particular Izzy, according to Izzy's son Bill. Sam was stunned and hurt. A retraction was later issued, but the damage was done.<sup>10</sup> Sam was awarded the patent on the Prolerizer, a process to shred and recy-

*continued on page 12*

## In Memoriam



**Morton "Marty" L. Berman**, TJHS board member from Houston, died on June 9, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Ruthe, a TJHS board member, his children, Lisa Berman (Dale Surbey); David (Julie) Berman; two grandchildren; brother, Bernie (Phyllis) Berman, TJHS members, and sister, Susie Abramson.



**Mervyn (Merv) Rosenbaum**, TJHS member, died in Houston on July 16, 2019. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jean Peterman Rosenbaum; children, Susan (Eric) Schoen; Steven (Hae-Soon Hahn); Barry (Eriko Matsumoto); and six grandchildren.



**Berne Rose Efron Black**, TJHS founding member from Houston, died on May 18, 2019. She is survived by her

daughters, Elizabeth (Dolph) Simon; Diane (Bill) Smith; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**Col. Ralph Night**, TJHS member from Beaumont, died on July 15, 2019, in Beaumont. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Judy Night; children

AnnDee (Jeff) Levy; Stacy (Susan) Night; four children and spouses; and sister, Geri Night Rich.

**Minnie Siegel**, TJHS member from Dallas, died on July 13, 2019, at

105 years old. She is survived by her daughters, Jan (Charles) Hart, TJHS members; Pam (Joe) Joffe, Jr.; five grandchildren and spouses; nine great-grandchildren; and sister, Mildred Wiles.

**May their  
memories be a  
blessing.**

### *Ben Proler, continued from page 11*

cle whole automobiles, revolutionizing the steel industry while protecting the environment.

Isadore (Izzy, Israel) was born in 1918. He married Billie Fay Roberts Proler and they had three sons: Robert Lawrence "Bud" Proler, Bill, and Ronny. Izzy's draft card reveals he had his appendix out.<sup>11</sup> Izzy died in 1965 in Houston.<sup>12</sup>

Ben and Rose's children were plagued by kidney disease, which claimed three of them at young ages. Their grandson Bud (Izzy's son) died in 2007 in San Antonio, awaiting a liver transplant.<sup>13</sup>

Robert Herman Proler was born in 1921, also in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He died at Herman Hospital in 1943 at the age of 22 and is buried in Houston. His death certificate lists him as a bookkeeper at City Junk & Supply Co. His death was due to uremia, chronic glomerulonephritis, and

cardiac and respiratory insufficiency. He was not married.<sup>14</sup>

Ben and Rose's daughter Ethel (b. 1922), died in 1940 at the age of 18 at St. Joseph's Hospital, of acute nephritis and pneumonia.<sup>15</sup> Son Billy also died at age 22, in 1947.<sup>16</sup> He was unmarried, working in the family metal business. He had suffered from chronic glomerulonephritis and uremia for five years.<sup>17</sup> Billy was born in 1924; Herman Joseph in 1927.<sup>18,19</sup>

Daughter Ruby Proler was born in 1926 and married Julius Karp after World War II. Julius was born in the Bronx, but lived most of his life in Houston. He served as a flight engineer on a B17 in World War II and spent eighteen months in a German POW camp. He earned a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He became a businessman in Houston, also in the scrap metal industry. Ruby died in 1985 at the age of 59. In 1991,

Julius married Natalie Lerman. Julius was active in civic and philanthropic affairs throughout his long life. He died in 2011.<sup>20</sup>

Around the time Ruby was born, the family moved to a two-story home in Fifth Ward where the family lived upstairs and the business, called the City Junk Company at that time, was downstairs.

Ben and Rose's youngest child, Jackie Louis Proler, was born in 1930. Jackie attended San Jacinto High School and The Julliard School. He joined the family business that became Proler International Corporation, at one time the largest metal recycling company in the United States. He loved music, everything from classical to Frank Sinatra, and he loved to sing. He and his wife Freda (Bitsy) Epstein (m. 1952)<sup>21</sup> were active in Congregation Emanu El. They co-chaired the

*continued on page 13*





*Ben Proler and unidentified children. Photo courtesy of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Box 3S41, Folder AR-92-096, DI\_11606.*

Israel Expo Houston in 1973<sup>22</sup> and played a crucial role in the addition of Proler Chapel to Emanu El in the 1970s. Jackie died in Houston in 2012. His obituary indicates he received dialysis at the end of his life, signaling the kidney problems that plagued his siblings.<sup>23</sup>

Ben Proler served as representative to the Jewish Community Council. Described as “blunt, outspoken and quite direct in his statements,” Proler “speaks his mind and backs up his efforts with the necessary contributions.” Proler had friends in every walk of life. He served on many institutional boards, was trustee of several congregations, was an officer of many community organizations, and served as president of Congregation Adath Israel.

There is another newspaper photo in our archives, also undated, of Ben Proler with the Director of Catholic Charities before the American Jewish Tercentenary program at the Houston Music Hall. This event was a three-year (1954-1957) nationwide celebration of the settling of Jews in America.<sup>24</sup>

After Rose died in 1956, Ben married Paula Proler (1912-2002). Born in Antwerp, Belgium, Paula was fluent in five languages and translated for patients who came from all over the world for treatment at St. Luke’s Hospital. A Holocaust survivor, her first husband died in the war. Arriving in Houston in 1955, she met Ben Proler and they later married. She was known as Grandmère to her grandchildren. Like her stepson Jackie, she loved music and was a talented pianist and singer.<sup>25</sup>

Ben Proler died in 1970, aged 76, in Houston. He is buried in Adath Israel Cemetery.

Proler Steel became a publicly held, global company with recycling plants worldwide.

In 1997, Proler Southwest Inc.

*continued on page 16*



# 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](mailto: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, 2020 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](mailto:cwolf@gt.rr.com).*

and Proler Steelworks (both owned by Izzie's sons Bill and Ronny) signed a letter of intent to merge with the scrap metal recycling company, Chicago-based Metal Management Inc. which operated them as Proler Southwest, to be managed by Bill and Ronny. The Proler name spanned three generations in the scrap metal recycling industry, started by Ben in the 1920s. It went public as Proler International in 1966. Israel Proler was the chairman and CEO until his death in 1985. Bill and Ronny worked at Proler International until they founded Proler Southwest in 1992. At that time Proler International was known as a "troubled scrap metal company" and was purchased by an Oregon company for \$42.9 million.<sup>26</sup> In 2016, Bill received the ISRI (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries) award named for his father, for outstanding contributions to the scrap recycling industry. The award was first given in 1984. In 1986, it was renamed in memory of Israel.<sup>27</sup>

Today, Proler Industries is a privately held metal processor company, founded in 2016 by the Proler family "whose long history in the industry is well documented. Through a century of earned knowledge, Proler Industries collects, processes, and markets both ferrous and nonferrous scrap metal produced by manufacturing facilities ranging from small machine shops to Fortune 500 companies."<sup>28</sup>

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Box 3A171, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin. See also <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43094588/ben-proler>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43094822/rose-proler>
- <sup>2</sup> Beth Israel's Schlenker School is named for banker/philanthropist Schlenker. [- \[shlenker-school.html\]\(http://shlenker-school.html\)
  - <sup>3</sup> A similar dinner was held at the Pulaski-Rauch Auditorium and included entertainment by Molly Picon, internationally famous comedienne, and Jacob Kalich \(actor, director, and writer\), with K. Burt Sloane at the piano.
  - <sup>4</sup> The biography was written by William B. Samuelson, chairman of the Ben Proler Testimonial Dinner.
  - <sup>5</sup> Mary is also buried in Adath Israel Cemetery in Houston. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46134692/mary-proler>. Ben had a brother, Jack Louis Proler b. 1904 in Kovna, Russia. <https://www.fold3.com/image/627883099>.
  - <sup>6</sup> Telephone conversation Joyce Schechter June 3, 2019. Sarah lived to adulthood and had one son, Walter, and adopted a daughter, Candy.
  - <sup>7</sup> Berkowitz, Alan B., \*Caution: You're About to Be Prolerized: The Memoirs of Samuel Proler\*. iUniverse, 2011. \[https://books.google.com/books?id=8mi4xGCsqwC&pg=PA67&lpg=PA67&dq=hymie+proler&source=bl&ots=zXDWWoDy1W&sig=ACfU3U13tYwUhm2y4apVI7zV\\\_OYeD8pzA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDkqfu4bziAhWUoFsKHay3A4YQ6AEwBHoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=hymie%20proler&f=false\]\(https://books.google.com/books?id=8mi4xGCsqwC&pg=PA67&lpg=PA67&dq=hymie+proler&source=bl&ots=zXDWWoDy1W&sig=ACfU3U13tYwUhm2y4apVI7zV\_OYeD8pzA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiDkqfu4bziAhWUoFsKHay3A4YQ6AEwBHoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=hymie%20proler&f=false\)
  - <sup>8</sup> Op cit Joyce Proler Schechter
  - <sup>9</sup> <http://jhvonline.com/sam-proler-p23977-124.htm>. See also <https://www.recyclingtoday.com/article/man-of-action/>. <https://www.fold3.com/image/627883103>
  - <sup>10</sup> Berkowitz, op cit.
  - <sup>11</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/627883098>
  - <sup>12</sup> \[https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174259076/isadore-\]\(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174259076/isadore-proler\)](http://www.houstonschoolsurvey.com/the-</a></li></ol></div><div data-bbox=)

- [proler. https://www.fold3.com/image/627883097](https://www.fold3.com/image/627883097)
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/174259765/robert-lawrence-proler>  
Telephone conversation Joyce Proler Schechter, June 3, 2019.
- <sup>14</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/134598619>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46134750/robert-herman-proler>
- <sup>15</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/110821327>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46134784/ethel-proler>
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/46134811/billie-proler>; <https://www.fold3.com/image/100973548>
- <sup>17</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/100973548>
- <sup>18</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/627883095>
- <sup>19</sup> <https://www.fold3.com/image/627883093>
- <sup>20</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82935509/julius-karp>
- <sup>21</sup> *Houston Jewish Herald-Voice* Index to Vitals and Family Events, 1908-2007
- <sup>22</sup> <https://www.emmanuelhouston.org/history.html>
- <sup>23</sup> <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=jackie-proler&pid=158604574>
- <sup>24</sup> <http://digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=109193>
- <sup>25</sup> <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/houstonchronicle/obituary.aspx?n=paula-proler&pid=674754>
- <sup>26</sup> <https://www.bizjournals.com/houston/stories/1997/03/24/story7.html>
- <sup>27</sup> [https://www.gulfisri.com/israel\\_proler\\_award.php](https://www.gulfisri.com/israel_proler_award.php)
- <sup>28</sup> <https://www.prolerindustries.com>.





## Committee Chairs 2019-2020

<i>Archivist/Historian</i>	Sally Drayer (sallyedraye@gmail.com)
<i>Audio/Video</i>	Bob Lewis (ts@crcom.net)
<i>Award Committee</i>	Cynthia Wolf (cwolf@gt.rr.com)
<i>Cemetery Committee</i>	Rusty Milstein (milstein@prodigy.net)
<i>Cemetery Photographs Committee</i>	Gordon Cizon (gcizon@swbell.net)
<i>Finance Committee</i>	Ben Rosenberg (bcr219@windstream.net)
<i>Grant Committee</i>	Michael Wolf (mwolf@gt.rr.com)
<i>Historical Texas Cemetery Designation Committee</i>	Doug Braudaway (dbraudaway@stx.rr.com)
<i>Institute of Texan Culture</i>	Davie Lou Solka (davielou@solka.net)
<i>Legal Committee</i>	Lonnie Schooler (lmschooler@aol.com)
<i>Meetings Committee</i>	Charles Hart (cbhart635@sbcglobal.net)
<i>Membership Committee</i>	Marc Wormser (c2aggie@gmail.com)
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Davie Lou Soka (davielou@solka.net)
<i>Publications Committee</i>	Davie Lou Soka (davielou@solka.net)
<i>Publicity Committee</i>	Bob Lewis (ts@crcom.net)
<i>Speakers Bureau</i>	Jan Hart (jshauthor@sbcglobal.net)
<i>Texas History Day Committee</i>	Willie Braudaway (librarywillie@hotmail.com)
<i>Texas Jewish History Adult Writing Contest Committee</i>	Willie Braudaway (librarywillie@hotmail.com)
<i>Travel Committee</i>	Vickie Vogel (vickvogel@yahoo.com)
<i>Traveling Exhibit Committee</i>	Dolly Golden (goldendolly81@yahoo.com)
<i>Website/Tech Committee</i>	John Campbell (jpcampbell3@yahoo.com) Sheldon Lippman (silippman@yahoo.com)

## Contributions

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

<b>In Honor of</b>	<b>From</b>
Babette Samuels, for receiving the Outstanding Historical Preservation Award from TJHS	Robin & Kurt Schriefer
<b>Gift Membership for</b>	<b>From</b>
Mr. & Mrs. William Gertz	Drs. Sigmund & Joan Friedland
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Minnie Siegel	Eileen and Howard Kessner Susan and Bob Lewis Mitzi and Rusty Milstein Sam and Isaac Roosth Barbara and Ben Rosenberg Davie Lou and Jack Solka Barbara and Edward Stone Janice Gitt Patty and Larry Malashock Laura and Bob Modrowski
Ralph Night	

## 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 Davie Lou Solka at davielou@solka.net or 512-527-3799.

## 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. 

## Welcome New Members!

**Mr. & Mrs. William Gertz**  
810 Virginia Rd.  
Highland Park, IL 60035

## Directory Changes

**David B. & Joy Turkel**  
4018 Tennyson  
Houston, TX 77005  
davidturkel@gmail.com

If you have any changes in  
your information, please  
contact

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

## Save the Date

**September  
12-15, 2019**

Trip to Jewish Toronto.  
Contact Vickie Vogel.

**October  
25-27, 2019**

Board Meeting in  
Baytown, Texas

## Mazel Tov to the following TJHS Members

**David Beer**, on the marriage  
of his son, Alex, to Laura  
Wasserman. Alex and Laura  
were married June 15, 2019.

## Guess This Member



Elliot Zolin of Roslyn Heights,  
New York guessed correctly that this  
good-looking young man was Ben Rosen-  
berg, TJHS Treasurer. Mazel Tov, El-  
liot—you receive a year's membership in  
TJHS.

Here's the new person—take a good  
look! This cutie has been a member of  
TJHS for many years, and is involved in  
many aspects of the organization.

Email your guess to Davie Lou Solka  
at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org) any time beginning  
Friday, August 19, 2019. Entries received  
before that date will not be considered.  
Family members and previous winners



and their families are not  
eligible to participate. Good  
luck! If you'd like to try and  
stump the TJHS membership,  
please send your photo to  
[davielou@solka.net](mailto:davielou@solka.net). 🇺🇸

## TJHS on Facebook

Did you know that TJHS has a Facebook page?  
Like us at [https://www.facebook.com/pages/  
Texas-Jewish-Historical-Society/187629054741368](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Texas-Jewish-Historical-Society/187629054741368).



**If you need TJHS membership applications for an  
event, program, personal use, etc., please contact  
Rusty Milstein at [hrmilstein@prodigy.net](mailto:hrmilstein@prodigy.net).**

## Save Postage

Please notify TJHS when your address has changed or if you may be tem-  
porarily 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! 🇺🇸





# TJHS Board of Directors

## Officers

### *President*

Susan Zack Lewis (Big Spring)

### *1st Vice President*

Sonny Gerber (Houston)

### *2nd Vice President*

Jack Solka (Austin)

### *3rd Vice President*

Jane Manaster (Dallas)

### *Recording Secretary*

Joyce Wormser (Pearland)

### *Corresponding Secretary*

Amy Milstein (Frisco)

### *Treasurer*

Ben Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

### *Historian/Archivist*

Sally Drayer (Dallas)

### *Parliamentarian*

Davie Lou Solka (Austin)

## Board of Trustees 2018-2020

Ruthe Berman (Katy)

John Campbell (Austin)

Judy Cassorla (Austin)

Gordon Cizon (Dallas)

Martin Frost (Alexandria, VA)

Joan Katz (Houston)

Louis Katz (Houston)

Kay Krause (Richardson)

Bob Lewis (Big Spring)

Sheldon Lippman (Austin)

Joe McClellan (Longview)

Mitzi Milstein (Longview)

Ruth Nathan (Houston)

Michael Wolf (Beaumont)

## Board of Trustees 2019-2021

Elaine Albin (Rockport)

Douglas Braudaway (Del Rio)

Willie Braudaway (Del Rio)

Gayle Cannon (Austin)

Nelson Chafetz (Austin)

Deidra Cizon (Dallas)

Lynda Furgatch (Brownsville)

Janice Gerber (Houston)

Dolly Golden (Austin)

Jan Hart (Temple)

Morton Herman (Fort Worth)

Kathy Kravitz (Austin)

Guy Manaster (Dallas)

Abbi Michelson (Lockhart)

Joan Linares (Baytown)

Samylu Rubin (Dallas)

Phyllis Turkel (Houston)

Gary Whitfield (Fort Worth)

Cynthia Wolf (Beaumont)

## Past Presidents

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

David Beer (Dallas)

Sally Drayer (Dallas)

Jack Gerrick (Fort Worth)

Charles B. Hart (Temple)

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler (Galveston)

Howard "Rusty" Milstein (Longview)

Marvin Rich (Houston)

Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

Lionel Schooler (Houston)

Davie Lou Solka (Austin)

Vickie Vogel (La Grange)

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 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](mailto:goldendolly81@yahoo.com) or 512-453-8561.

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HOUSTON, TX  
PERMIT NO. 1662

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## 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.*