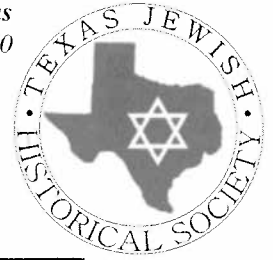


Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Est. 1980



Volume 8, Number 1, February, 2008

Beaumont's Jewish History Comes Alive

by Vickie Vogel

Some fifty TJHS members and friends enjoyed a weekend in Beaumont January 11-13, which began with services at Temple Emanuel on Friday night with Rabbi Barbara Metzinger with a special Oneg provided by Sisterhood.

Beaumont's Jewish history goes back to the 19th century. Downtown is a national historic district. The first three places visited have been restored under the direction of architect David Hoffman, who, along with his wife Binnie, planned the weekend. The Tyrrell Historical Library, with its large domed room and stained glass windows, was built in 1903 as a church and later became the library, which was restored in 1989. The dome had been covered with acoustical tiles which were removed during the restoration.

A common theme throughout the weekend was the effect of Hurricane Rita on Beaumont. The library was wind-damaged and had to be closed for repair until recently. The archivist who spoke to us said that Rita was the worst day of her life. "I told people to give us their precious papers so that they would be safe."

The Jefferson Theater was built in 1927 by the Jefferson Amusement Company, co-owned by Sol Gordon for Vaudeville acts, and was the first air-conditioned building in Beaumont. Designed in the Spanish Mediterranean Revival style by Emil Weil, a Jewish architect who also designed the Touro Synagogue in New Orleans, the theater still has the original asbestos fire curtain and a Robert Morton organ. Only 30 of the 800 theater organs made still exist. This organ is one of fourteen still in their original location. The theater's detailing had been painted over and was painstakingly returned to its original look. Two statues of classical muses stood at the back. At one time, the theater was leased to an evangelical church, which deemed the statues obscene, dragged them into the street and shattered them as reporters photographed. Hoffman found the Boston

company that once did reproductions of the sculptor's work, which led to someone who could make the current reproductions. The muses once again grace the theater.

Hurricane Rita's moisture damaged the organ's inner works, which are still out for repair. The theater's exterior suffered damage, and water intrusion from torn flashing stained a small section of the ceiling.

Temple Emanuel also underwent major restoration under Hoffman's direction. The graceful sanctuary dome is made of wood and canvas. Beautiful stained-glass windows were designed by Ze'ev Raban of the Bezalel school in Palestine and depict Jeremiah, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Moses, and Ezekiel in vibrant colors. The panels were sent away for repair and reinstalled a few months before Hurricane Rita hit. What a relief to David Hoffman when he finally got word that the windows survived intact! .

After a lunch prepared by Sisterhood and coordinated by Marsha Hoffer, the group enjoyed a sketch by the newly created TJHS Players! Based on an essay

by David Hoffman, the Muse of History was played by Hollace Weiner in Greek classical dress, who introduced Rabbi Samuel Rossinger, Architect Albert Gottlieb, and the artist Ze'ev Raban portrayed by Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, Charles Hart and Rusty Milstein. Each character explained his thoughts in the creation of the beautiful temple. At the end, cries of "Author! Author!" brought Hoffman to the stage, as well as Sherry Zander, costume designer.

After a tour of the beautiful McFaddin-Ward House nearby, the group visited the Jewish cemetery and returned to the hotel for a short rest before the Saturday night banquet. The guest speaker was Beverly Williams who gave a fascinating account of the life and civic involvement of Hyman Asher Perlstein who arrived in Beaumont in 1889.

Sunday morning's board meeting closed out the weekend.



Tyrrell Historical Library in Beaumont

2007 In Review

A Message from TJHS President Vickie Vogel

The new year is a good time to review our accomplishments in the past twelve months. We held quarterly meetings in two cities we had never visited before (Kingsville and Amarillo) and returned to old friends Fort Worth and Odessa. During each weekend meeting, we toured interesting and historic sites, heard good speakers, and enjoyed fine meals together.

Our book, *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, edited by Hollace Weiner and Rabbi Ken Roseman, hit the bookstands and soon went into a second printing. It won the Doeleece Parmelee Award for achievement in preservation through historical research



Photo by Kristi Grigsby

from the Texas History Foundation. The TJHS copies of the book sold out under the capable supervision of Past President Barbara Rosenberg and her committee. We co-sponsored a book tour to Dallas, Waco, Wichita Falls, and Houston. Our editors and other contributing writers spoke

at book fairs and gatherings around the state, including the prestigious Texas Book Festival in Austin.

The latest edition of our membership directory was distributed. The Directory Committee was chaired by Mitzi Milstein who worked with Leon Brachman and Alexa Kirk and a host of TJHS members who verified and cor-

rected entries.

New committees went to work on a Speakers Bureau and Newsletter Indexing. Nancy Hoffman joined the Membership Committee to work on recruitment and welcoming new members.

TJHS presented awards for Texas History Day (judged by Nancy Hoffman, Shoshanna Lansberg, and Rabbi David Komerofsky) and decided to endow future awards.

We made plans (assisted by then Board Member Keith Rosen) for TJHS members and friends to take a Jewish Caribbean Cruise February 3-10, 2008.

Don Teter and Selma Mantel organized the transfer of recent records stored in Houston to our TJHS Archives at the Center for American History. We continue to grow our collection at the archives and see that it is indexed for use by scholars and researchers. Under the direction of Past President Jack Gerrick, new shipping containers were made for our traveling exhibit.

In addition to these accomplishments, we produced four quality newsletters to inform and entertain you. As we pledge to become even better in 2008, won't you consider how you can become a more active member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society?

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vickie Vogel".

President

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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 scan at 300 dpi or greater, in .gif, .tif, or .jpg format and send electronically to Associate Editor Davie Lou Solka at davielou@solka.net or mail to 3808 Woodbrook Circle, Austin, TX 78759, 512-527-3799. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

Publisher-Editor Alexa Kirk
Assistant Editor Davie Lou Solka
Photographer Marvin Rich

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



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Chauffeuring is Minyan Magic

by Merilee Weiner

Meet Joe Mendelovitz, 92 years young. Limited only by age and mobility, his memory is vital and strong. When he met someone who liked to write, Joe had many interesting stories to tell; thus a match was made. This tale, then, is his proud legacy.

And so begins the Joe Mendelovitz story with a strange title.

At the turn of the century in Russia, when Joe's parents, Leon Mendelovitz and Sarah Kushelovitz, became engaged, his mother was the ward of an uncle who adopted her when she was orphaned at an early age. The uncle generously endowed the newlyweds with a gift of \$500, which was used for their honeymoon to America. Also on the trip was Sarah's thirteen-year-old brother, Jack Kushelovitz, who celebrated his birthday and became a Bar Mitzvah on the ship en route to the "promised land."

The three landed in Galveston, Texas, on the S.S. Frankfurt on October 14, 1911, to go overland to relatives in Wharton, Texas. Upon advice of these relatives, the trio settled in Houston, Texas.

Shortly thereafter, Leon, a tailor by trade, obtained employment with a Railroad Company. His services were used to mend torn railcar seats for which he earned \$8 per week. The Mendelovitz couple chose to live where they could afford, which was the 5th Ward section of early Houston. It was a poor area, populated by many new European immigrant families, many black residents, and much heavy commercial activity. The Jensen Drive and Lyons Avenue areas were home to scrap dealers. In 2007, they

are known as "steel brokers" and Jensen Drive is still a heavily traveled thoroughfare with many mercantile establishments. Joe Mendelovitz recalls that his earliest job at the age of ten was selling newspapers. It was truly a penny-pinching time for the family. By 1925, two daughters, Pearl and Emma, and two sons, Morris and Joe, had been added to the family. When World War II began, both boys were called to the army. Morris died in the war. When Joe was discharged from the service, he opened his own fruit stand on Jensen Drive.

Joe's landlord was Nathan Klein, and was considered a good friend by Joe. However, Klein was "strictly business" and he increased Joe's rent from \$50 per month to \$150 following a second transaction. This was a complete surprise to Joe, considering their earlier relationship. However, Joe's fruit stand was unique. Because of a special acquaintance with Buddy Bray, a beer distributor, he also sold a few bottles of alcohol at the fruit stand, and cashed checks for a few people in the neighborhood. Little by little, Joe, who worked from sun-up to sundown, began to prosper. His beer sales increased so much that the liquor board gave him an ultimatum: "You're either strictly wholesale or strictly retail." It was then that Joe concentrated on wholesale to consumers who needed only small quantities of beer.

It was a man named Prince who talked Joe into going into another business. Employed by Nathan Klein, Prince suggested items to go along with the plates, cutlery, and picnic sup-

plies already stocked in the fruit stand. That's when Joe purchased additional land behind the fruit stand and built East Tex Wholesale at 4514 Jensen Drive. This grew into a thriving prosperous business.

Among Joe's friends and acquaintances on his way up the business ladder was Bill Hatten, who later became a judge in Houston, and Chris Cole, a former service man who was blinded in World War II but became a Texas State Senator. Another business acquaintance had acquired a yacht that was available for Joe's use twice a year. These friends made it a point to renew their friendship with a reunion at least once a year.

On Judge Bill Hatten's 90th birthday, he gave himself a big party. He had a booklet printed listing "special friends" with Joe Mendelovitz at the top of the list. When Joe questioned the Judge why he had that distinction, Judge Hatten replied, "Because you were the first Jew that I ever met."

Joe's father, Leon, died in 1964. Although Joe was not religiously schooled, he felt the need to say Kaddish for the deceased. He went to United Orthodox Synagogue for the service. At the end of the Minyan prayer session, some of the men present said "See you tonight, Joe." Thus, he felt the obligation to continue to come twice daily, even though that was not his original intent. These men

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were Irving Bland, George Kantor, and Charley Palla, all of whom tutored the Hebrew-illiterate student. Joe continued to say Kaddish once daily for the entire Minyan period.

Affable and appreciative, Joe answered the appeal for enough men to attend a regular Minyan by offering to chauffeur those members of the congregation to a morning service. Later, Izzy Berman agreed to make coffee for the Minyanaires, with Joe supplying the coffee beans and paper goods from his warehouse.

In 1965, Max Uzick volunteered to make "grits" for the occasion. After services, since Abe Shulman worked downtown, Joe dropped him off at his workplace in the Heights. Pincus Brounes provided the coffee pot, and gradually the breakfast menu consisted of bagels and lox for 10-25 attendees who came to say Kaddish at the only Minyan in town. Eventually, Izzy Berman took the initiative to bring a "pushke" for a contribution to help defray expenses, and a lasting Minyan was born. Eventually, congregants from other synagogues came to United Orthodox Minyans until their own synagogue began their early morning services.

Meanwhile, dedicated congregant Joe Mendelovitz had become President of United Orthodox Congregations of Houston, the synagogue located at 9001 Greenwillow. Congregant Henry Spira complained that United Orthodox synagogue was the only Shul that didn't observe Selichot with an early morning Minyan between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Henry said, "The excuse given to him was that it wasn't possible to get ten men together for a Minyan." Joe assured him that he would call the Minyan for 6:30 AM, an hour earlier than the regularly scheduled Minyan, and in Mendelovitz form, he secured and chauffeured fellow congregants—as many as his car

would hold—for this early service—especially for his friend and fellow congregant, Henry Spira.

Henry's wife, Madelyn, suffered from Alzheimer disease. She recognized Joe Mendelovitz by sight as "the man for the Minyan"—even after she no longer recognized her own grandson. The Spira and Mendelovitz families had been particularly close friends.

After becoming President of United Orthodox Synagogue of Houston in 1970, Joe had many ways of personalizing his Presidency. He took advantage of the Falstaff Yacht available to him twice a year by using one of the trips for his personal friends and acquaintances. The second trip included members of the United Orthodox Synagogue.

As always, his adored wife of 58 years, the former Freda Hochstein, prepared all the refreshments. She was an excellent cook and baker, and a dedicated worker at the Synagogue. She often spent days there preparing food. Joe sometimes had to stop and pick up refreshments for a meeting if it was Freda's day to cook at the synagogue. Freda passed away in February, 2001.

As president, Joe came up with the idea of a particular Fund Raising Project. He foresaw members of the congregation investing in a piece of property jointly, with the profit from its eventual sale applied to paying off the Synagogue's mortgage. It seemed, at the time, a very good idea, and many congregants were enthusiastic about the plan. As in any transaction, however, not everyone carries through with their good intentions—in this case, the "cash." Joe ended up investing six times his intended portion. When the property finally sold, the profit did help pay off the mortgage on the United Synagogue in Houston, Texas.

Always generous and thinking with foresight, Joe Mendelovitz was

one of the original contributors to the Hebrew Free Loan Association and also a founder of Hebrew Academy. He is a contributor to the United Jewish Appeal and has always been active with the Orthodox community.

He, however, did not like synagogue politics, and transferred his allegiance to Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services, becoming a steadfast volunteer and a familiar face at the Chapel's morning Minyan. At 92, he has been present at the Minyans for 24 years.

His mother, Sarah K. Mendelovitz, was a resident of Seven Acres since 1984. The lady, whom he adored, died in 1987 at age 96. A self-described "Mama's Boy," Joe relates that she went to school to learn to speak English after she came to America. Not formally educated, she could not teach me English or Hebrew, he said, "but she did teach me to be a Mensch" — his greatest accolade to her.

His mother had been a resident at the Jewish Home for many years when Joe was stopped in the hall one time by Malcolm Slatko, the Executive Director, who said to him, "I want you to do me a favor. Designate you or one of your sisters to be the official family complainer. I know you are devoted children, but we are devoted caretakers. You have nothing to worry about."

Speaking of accolades, Joe Mendelovitz has a few of his own. His friend, Rabbi Joseph Radinsky, Rabbi Emeritus of United Orthodox Synagogue, says, "Joe is a warm, wonderful human being. He has a strong love for family and tradition, and has been an inspiration to us all." The Rabbi then recalled that on a trip to Israel with the synagogue, he and Joe, both wearing cowboy hats, brought up the rear of the group. They kept the group safely corralled throughout the trip. Both gentlemen

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being of the same great height, left no doubt that the group was from Texas!

Close friend Bernard Dworsky said, "Anything good you can say about Joe is worth saying. He is a valued close friend. His wife, Freda, was a marvelous woman. She was famed for her strudel."

Joe had a long time friendship with Benjamin "Bunny" Leff, whose uncle, Rabbi Jacob Geller, founded Beth Jacob Synagogue on Cleburne Street, and whose father, Ben Leff, was also a resident of Seven Acres. Both were faithful participants in the daily Minyan. "Bunny" admired Joe for his loyalty to his own family, his principles, and his friends. He paid Joe the highest compliment that he ever received when he told Joe, "If I could have had another brother, I would have wanted him to be you."

Among the many other congregants who considered Joe "a

good representative of our people and an inspiration to all" were Melvin Cohn, Jules Borger, Charley Montrose, Leon Brown, Harry Freedman, Dr. Milton Yellin, Calman Danziger, Benjy Danziger Krakawer families, Kalman Garfinkle, George Kantor, and Charles Palla. Most of them have passed away and are of blessed memory.

Joe and Freda were well suited as a couple and were married on June 19, 1941. They had three children, Mike, Mark, and Lisa, and have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Joe recalls on one of their two trips to Israel, Rabbi Radinsky's group bought thirteen pairs of tefillin as gifts. Joe was the one who wanted to purchase an extra pair for a "poor boy" at home. Also, on that trip, Rabbi Radinsky selected a \$400 tallit, hand made by a Rabbi and considered absolutely "perfect" for Joe to buy for himself. After his grandson,

Roger Mendelovitz, became a Bar Mitzvah, the young man said, "I got everything I wanted for my Bar Mitzvah except a big tallit." Joe happily bestowed his big, "perfect" tallit with blue trim on his now satisfied grandson.

"Uncle Joe" was flattered beyond words when his sisters' sons, Gerald Smith and Ronnie Plotkin, requested, and then insisted, that he, Uncle Joe, be best man at both their weddings—over the objection of every female member of the family. "Neither Gerald nor Ronnie could be dissuaded from their decision," said Joe. "These events are among the most treasured memories of my life." ❀

Symposium on Crypto-Jews and the Inquisition in New Spain to be held at Texas A & M University

A symposium on Crypto-Jews and the Inquisition in New Spain will be held April 17 and 18, 2008, at Texas A & M in College Station, Texas. One of the sponsors of the Symposium is Hillel Student Foundation.

The theme of the Symposium will focus on one of the prominent crypto-Jewish families to migrate to northern New Spain in the 16th century, the Carvajal Family. The conference will be divided into the following sessions: European Background of the Carvajal Family; Life and Times of Luis de Carvajal; Ex-

pressions of Crypto-Jewish Faith; the enduring legacy of Luis de Carvajal.

From a contemporary perspective, this symposium seeks to contribute to the understanding of the multivalent cultural heritage of the Hispanic people in the U.S. Southwest. Apart from its cultural contribution, this symposium looks to place Texas A&M at the forefront of the scholarly discourse on Crypto-Jewish studies in the Southwest.

For further information, go to cushing.tamu.edu or email gcuellar@lib-gw.tamu.edu.

The 28th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Chicago, Illinois, on August 17-22, 2008. For further information, visit www.Chicago2008.org or www.iajgs.org.

MAZEL TOV to the following Texas Jewish Historical Society members:

DR. ABRAHAM CLEARFIELD, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M University has recently been honored by his undergraduate Alma Mater, Temple University. He received a 2007-08 Gallery of Success Award in the College of Science and Technology. This award recognizes distinguished alumni who have achieved substantial success in their careers and are an inspiration to the entire University community. His photograph and biographical sketch are now on display in Mitten Hall on the University's main campus.

Please send information for this column to Davie Lou Solka at davielou@solka.net. Thanks.

The Hugo Loewenstern Family

by Dr. Noel H. Pugach

Below I have provided excerpts from the paper that I delivered to the Texas Jewish Historical Society at its meeting in Amarillo, October 2007. Hugo Loewenstern was born in Cassel in 1890, and immigrated to the United States in 1904. Within a month after he arrived in Philadelphia, the fourteen-year-old was put on a train to New Mexico. His uncle Morris had invited him to work for him at his general store, the largest in Clayton. After five years of hard work, Hugo was ready for bigger things.

Indeed, in 1909, Morris sent Hugo to manage his branch store in Nara Visa, which hugged the New Mexico-Texas border. Several months later, he offered him a partnership, entitled to one-third of the profits. Since Hugo invested no capital, he had to plow back his share into the store. For the time being, Hugo was allowed to draw \$20 per month as wages. Hugo also homesteaded 160 acres about three

Little Cowtown in New Mexico" in the early twentieth century, had a lively commercial center and almost 1,000 residents in 1910. The main line of the Rock Island Railroad came through in 1900 and it was a water stop for the thirsty steam engines. Shortly afterwards, homesteaders poured in from the Midwest and laid claim to their 160 acres. Meanwhile, cowboys from the surrounding large ranches drifted in and out of the town, trading at the several retail businesses and visiting its many saloons.

Nara Visa had a reputation as a brawling, tough town, with few women and frequent fights. Perhaps these two facts were connected. At one time, Nara Visa boasted of five, some say as many as eight or nine, saloons, and the town was known for its old town dances. Nara Visa was later famous for a string of bank robberies from the 1920s to 1953. By then, the last bank had closed its doors and Nara Visa was almost a ghost town. The decline

was begun by the great fire in 1909 that destroyed at least eighteen business establishments, including M. Herzstein & Co. Herzstein's and most of the other stores were rebuilt, but the town never recovered, mainly because of the growing exodus of homesteaders, who could not make a living on 160 acres on the dry

high plains. There was, however, a brief revival in the mid-1920s when Humble Oil brought in a successful oil well east of Nara Visa.

M. Herzstein & Co. continued to prosper under Hugo's direction. It

would be the first of a long string of successful enterprises for Hugo. In 1917, he bought out Morris and his nephew Simon, and renamed the store as the Nara Visa Mercantile Co. He now had a family to support. In 1912, Hugo married Mildred (known to all as Effie) Henderson. She had come from Lineville, Iowa to teach school in Nara Visa. She quickly caught Hugo's eye and his heart; he used to wait for her to pass his store on her way to school. They were probably married in a civil ceremony, because Effie was a gentile. Hugo was obviously very embarrassed that he had to inform Morris, who had done so much in his behalf, of his decision to wed Effie, "against your wish and conviction." In a touching letter to Morris, he assured him that Effie would become a "Jewess" and compared her to Moses's wife Zipporah and Ruth who became model Jews. He also asked Morris to allow him to draw \$1,000 from the business to build a fine home in town. We do not have Morris's reply, if he wrote one. But there is no indication that Hugo's marriage had an adverse effect on the relationship between Hugo and the Herzsteins. Hugo and Effie had three children, Morris, Julia, and Hugo, Jr. Although Effie never converted, the children considered themselves at least partly Jewish. Effie gave up school-teaching and helped Hugo in the store at least until the children came.

Hugo also expanded into ranching by joining with Roland Bell to run a few head of cattle. By 1920, Hugo and Roland acquired over 6,000 acres, about six miles north of Nara Visa, and greatly increased their herd. In 1925, they dissolved the partnership because they differed over the kind of cattle they would raise. Roland wanted

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Nara Vista Mercantile Co.

miles from town, to which he commuted on a bicycle. Later, he acquired the first automobile in Nara Visa, a two-horsepower, one cylinder Brush with wooden tires.

Nara Visa, known as the "Biggest

to concentrate on "Grade" cattle while Hugo wanted to specialize in Registered Herefords. The separation was amicable. Hugo bought out Roland and established a thriving cattle business, selling Herefords all over the Western states, but especially to Native American tribes, the Apache, Papagos, Yavapai, and even to the Seminoles in Florida. Later, he added another 12,000 acres to his holdings. It had become a sizable operation and Hugo hired Joey Bell to live on the ranch and manage it, especially after the Loewensterns moved to Amarillo. Hugo ran cattle until 1949 and sold the ranch the following year....

In 1928, Hugo and Effie decided to leave Nara Visa because they wanted their children to have better educational opportunities. They decided to make their home in Amarillo, Texas.

In 1929, Hugo, Effie, and their three children moved to Amarillo. Up to this point, Hugo's and Effie's story was pretty conventional in the context of the history of Jewish Pioneer families in the southwest. He was given his start in business by sympathetic relatives who brought him out to New Mexico, trained him in retail merchandising, and helped him establish his own business. By dint of ability and hard work, Hugo became a successful retail merchant and a leading citizen in his community. Like other Jewish and gentile merchants, he branched out into ranching, which he found satisfying and challenging. But with the family's move to Amarillo in 1929, Hugo would employ his self-confidence, determination, business acumen, and feeling for the times in a very different field. He would carve out a major niche for himself in many segments of Amarillo's real estate market and assume a leadership role in the industry in Texas.

We do not know why Hugo turned to real estate for a living, or if he had

made prior arrangements in Amarillo. In a way, it seemed contrary to Hugo's very nature to go into anything without careful thought and planning. It is true that he had money from the sale of the store and he could fall back on the ranch. But he was too smart and too concerned about his family's welfare to gamble recklessly. In fact,



Hugo Loewenstern with sons, Morris and Hugo, Jr.

shortly after he arrived in Amarillo, the nation was hit by the Great Depression.

In any event, Hugo learned the real estate business on the job and from the ground up. In those days, one did not need a real estate license in Texas; only three people had to vouch for your character. He quickly became a prominent and respected figure in the field. He started out renting homes in partnership with Homer Wheeler. Then, with the Great Depression wreaking havoc, Hugo noticed that there were many abandoned homes, especially on the west side and in the country club area. But they were in bad shape, with broken doors and windows. Hugo, Don Mason reported, was very handy and thought he could fix them within a short period of time and a little capital. Hugo negotiated with a savings and loan company in

Wichita Falls, Texas to take over 104 homes. He then teamed up with Fred Seale to form the Globe Realty Co., with offices in the Amarillo Building. Within eighteen months, Hugo and Fred sold all the homes. A pattern began to emerge. Hugo knew his limitations and realized that he could not do everything by himself. He therefore employed able people to work for his companies and he teamed up with bright and ambitious men in numerous enterprises. Soon, other businessmen recognizing Hugo's special business sense, intelligence, talents, and honesty approached him to partner with them.

In spite of the Great Depression, Hugo was making a good living and launched his own company in 1935, setting up his office at 415 W. 10th. A new building was put up in 1957, but his company remained at that site until it was dissolved early in 2007. He had a vision of Amarillo's future and he saw beyond the current slowdown. He also understood that while the nation was still mired in the Depression, ranchers in the area had a steady flow of income from their gas wells. They could wait out the decline in cattle prices and even increase their herds.

Hugo jumped into real estate development with the Bivens family, who made their fortune in oil and gas and ranching. They owned a large tract of land in town, but had not done anything with it. The Bivens now turned to Hugo and contracted with him to develop the land and sell it as home lots. In a relatively short period of time, Hugo had successfully developed the Bivens subdivision, one of the largest he worked on. Towards the end of the decade, Fred Seale came back with a proposal to build apartment houses as a rental investment. He owned a lumber yard and had an option on land near Amarillo College. Hugo agreed and he saw another good opportunity. United States entry into World War II

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restricted home construction, so Hugo adapted and engaged more heavily in buying and selling homes. Still, he managed to sell the last of the Bivens lots in 1944.

In the late 1930s, Irwin Ochsner, an attorney and friend of Hugo's, had been unable to sell vacant lots, north of the Country Club area, that were part of the Busch estate. Ochsner asked Hugo to join the project and together they started the development of the West Hills subdivision. In 1952, Hugo turned his attention to building homes in the subdivision. He asked Don Mason to join him in the project. Hugo had finally hired this persistent acolyte to work for his real estate company in 1950. Hugo learned that Mason was interested in home construction, so the two of them formed L&M Builders and started to put up homes in the sizable subdivision. It was very successful enterprise. Later, Hugo and his sons engaged in other subdivisions, such as Crestview and Eastridge. In the meantime, Hugo was building shopping centers in West Hills and Eastridge as well as warehouses and commercial buildings all over the city. Over several decades, Hugo Loewenstern, his sons Morris and Hugo Jr., and various partners shaped the housing market of Amarillo, a major achievement.

Hugo never slowed down, but continued to branch out into other businesses. Shortly before the United States entered World War II, Hugo and Gene Klein formed First Federal Savings & Loan, which lasted until the mid-1980s. One of his great successes was the State Chemical Company. The Fain family asked Hugo to sell their janitorial supply company. Hugo took the listing but soon realized its potential. The Amarillo National Bank was willing to finance the purchase. Indeed, Arch Lydia, one of the vice presidents, agreed to join the enterprise if Hugo could find a third partner.

Hugo invited Gene Klein to join them and State Chemical was off and running. Hugo was not concerned with titles, and he accepted the office of senior vice president. The State Chemical Co. soon expanded its product line and opened a division in Lubbock, Midland/Odessa, and Roswell, New Mexico. The partners made a great deal of money from the company.

By the late 1940s, Hugo was a major figure in the real estate business in Texas. He was well-known, liked, and respected by his colleagues, and he became a spokesman for the industry. The honors and offices multiplied over the years; they are in fact too



Hugo Loewenstern in middle age.

many to detail here. Hugo was elected president of the Amarillo Real Estate Board and the Texas Real Estate Association. He was chosen Texas Realtor of the Year in 1962. Hugo organized and served as President of the effective Potter County Taxpayer's Association. He also was a director of the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce and the Amarillo Area Foundation, which helped to develop the city's highly regarded medical complexes and a major contributor to the area's economy. Hugo was also an architect

of the Amarillo Industrial Plan, which was designed to draw new industry to the area.

Hugo was increasingly consulted by his peers, attorneys, accountants, and politicians, especially in the area of taxation. Hugo made himself an expert on real estate taxation and wrote columns that appeared in many newspapers. He was also sought after as a speaker and traveled throughout Texas and beyond its borders to lecture on real estate for the National Association of Realtors and other groups. He was also invited to give courses on real estate taxation. Out of his lectures he wrote a book, *Tax Facts*, on the subject, which went through seven printings and circulated widely. Hugo readily accepted the invitations because he believed strongly in advanced education for real estate brokers and businessmen.

Hugo and Effie had an active social life and were involved in many civic, charitable, community, and fraternal organizations. Hugo liked people and was a joiner. Hugo often rose to leadership positions in them. He organized a Masonic Lodge in Nara Visa and was a Shriner in Amarillo, serving as Potentate of the Khiva Shrine. Hugo was also a member of Kiwanis for thirty-five years. Effie belonged to Eastern Star, the female counterpart to the Masons. She was also an avid and knowledgeable gardener. She served as president of the Garden Club and was a founder of the Rose Society; in fact she was a consultant for three states.

The Loewensterns were engaged in charitable work. Hugo's favorite charity was Cal Farley's Ranch (a place to give troubled children a second chance), and was one of its founders. He had a strong attachment to Khiva Shrine's Crippled Children Fund. He also donated to Jewish charities and his sons believe he sup-

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Obituaries

SYLVAN R. ALTER, of San Antonio, Texas, died September 15, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Glenda Alter; children Lisa and Phillip Abramson, Dr. Lary and Randi Alter, Nancy and Ephraim Graff, and William and Bobbie Alter; ten grandchildren and brother and sister-in-law, Nelson and Shirley Alter of Beaumont. May his memory be a blessing.

Photographer **LINDA KAYE**, whose portfolio is a veritable history of sports in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex, died of ovarian cancer October 7, 2007. Her father, the late Max Kaye, was the longtime historian of Fort Worth's B'nai B'rith Lodge. The following column in praise of Linda appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on September 30, 2007.

No one captures local sports like Linda Kaye

By Jim Reeves

Star-Telegram staff writer
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She was wearing purple, of course. Purple T-shirt. Purple socks. Big ol' purple heart.

To put it bluntly, Linda Kaye wouldn't be caught dead—or on her deathbed—in any other color.

"You can't write about me," she said when I walked into her hospital room, tinted purple by arrangement after arrangement of purple flowers, a few days ago. "I don't want people to know."

Then she started crying.

In the almost 40 years I've known her, I'd never seen her cry before, but then, we'd never been in a situation quite like this before, either.

We'd swapped elbows on the basketball court with no tears involved, though usually we somehow seemed to wind up on the same pickup team more often than not.

We'd played "burnout" on more

than one baseball diamond without so much as a wince on either side, though it took a certain amount of willpower on my side of the mitt to not frown in the face of Linda's fastball.

And, of course, she'd been declining for more than a decade to sit down with me as a column subject, though we both knew she was a heck of a story.

Now, however, I took advantage of her weakened state.

"You can let me write about you while you can still read it," I told her, "or I'll just have to do it when you're gone."

With her brother Roger Kaye, a former Star-Telegram colleague I've known for more than four decades, applying pressure from the other side, she finally agreed.

Believe me, I'd rather take another 50 sharp elbows to the ribs under the boards than to have to tell you that Linda is dying, but there it is. She is in a local hospice facility, and the prognosis couldn't be much grimmer.

She is 65 now and a part of Fort Worth history. For the last half century, wherever news was breaking, especially in the world of sports, Linda Kaye was probably there, snapping photos, trying to be as unobtrusive as possible.

You didn't have to know Linda to know her work. It was Linda who took the now famous collector's item photo of a bloodied Nolan Ryan, determined to continue pitching after taking a Bo Jackson one-hopper off his lip one night at Arlington Stadium.

It was Linda who took the incredible photo at the Cotton Bowl in January of 1970 of coach Darrell Royal and quarterback James Street, their heads together, plotting the play that would

win the Longhorns a national championship. Behind them, the scoreboard says it all: fourth-and-2, 2:26 to play, Notre Dame leading 17-14.

Royal would later call it the greatest sports photograph he ever saw, and he autographed it, "Great shot, Linda" for his favorite sports photographer. Street had a painting of that photo made, and it hangs in his home today.

Linda's house is a literal museum of amazing autographed photos, including every president dating to LBJ. There's one of her shooting pictures of John F. Kennedy outside the Hotel Texas on that fateful day, November 22, 1963, and another of her walking in Burnett Park with Richard Nixon.

"He was talking to me about Davey O'Brien," Linda recalled, "but I think his people had coached him on what to say."

That's Linda. For someone who seldom pulls her punches when it came to saying what she thinks, she is incredibly revered by those who have known her, worked with her, or been photographed by her.

Inspired by her father, Max, who always had a camera in his hand, Linda started snapping pictures as a freshman at TCU in

1959 and never stopped. Within the last two weeks she was still taking photos out at TCU, with Roger holding onto her from behind to keep her from falling.

"She was in incredible pain," Roger said, "but she's just so tough. She said, 'I want to do my work. I want to keep taking my pictures.'"

So Roger did what he could, as long as he could, to help her do that.

Linda has always been private and independent. Few knew when she had a

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Freelance photographer Linda Kaye at work during the Rangers game on September 3, 2007.

heart attack back in 1999, or when she was operated on for uterine cancer in 2002. I didn't. When the cancer came back last October, doctors told her she probably had a year.

A couple of months ago, the doctor told her it was time to stop taking her chemotherapy. It wasn't helping.

Since she was admitted to the hospital last weekend, the word has filtered out, and her room has been flooded with visitors and well-wishers. TCU chancellor Victor Boschini has been by three or four times. Tom Vandergriff called. Former athletic director Frank Windegger came by. The Horned Frogs basketball team sent personal messages.

"She's been an institution in herself," Windegger said. "I guess Linda Kaye was TCU. Even though she was at Ranger games and Cowboys games, I think her love was at TCU. The players and everyone thought the world of her."

Added distinguished TCU alum and author Dan Jenkins: "She's as much TCU as the OUI Lounge and Stadium Drive. Coming back to Fort Worth on rare occasions when I was living in New York, the one thing you could count on, even when we couldn't beat anybody, was that Linda would be there taking pictures."

She was shooting a TCU practice years ago when Tommy Joe Crutcher came sweeping around end and ran right over Linda. They both went down in a heap.

It was Linda who jumped up first, held out a hand to help Crutcher up with the question: "You OK, Tommy Joe?"

One entire room of her home is filled with TCU memorabilia spanning the past 50 years. There are racks of T-shirts and TCU jerseys, historic programs and souvenirs like the Jim Swink statue. It will all be donated to TCU and will someday be displayed in places like the Heritage Center in the new Lupton-Brown Student Center and the Mary Coats Burnett Library. Her thousands and thousands of negatives will be stored in the TCU archives.

Another room is dedicated to Nolan

Ryan memorabilia.

Ryan and legendary TCU running back Jim Swink are her favorite all-time athletes.

"Linda was incredibly dedicated to TCU and to the Rangers," Ryan said from a weekend event at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. "She was always there, on the spot, taking pictures. I probably autographed more of her pictures than I have any other photographer."

Her walls are covered with autographed photos of such disparate personalities as Ben Hogan, Bob Hope, John Connally, Earl Campbell and Van Cliburn.

Rickey Henderson hated signing autographs, but when Linda asked him to sign her photo of him becoming Ryan's 5,000th strikeout victim, he smiled and said, "For you, I'll do it."

She was there for the very first Rangers game in 1972. You can see her in the old newsreels, standing on top of the Rangers dugout, shooting pictures as Vandergriff threw out the ceremonial first pitch. Later, Frank Howard's game-winning home run almost hit her in center field.

But then, she always had the knack of being in the right place at the right time with her camera, an art she learned from her mentors Al Panzera, Gene Gordon, and Harry Cabluck.

"He taught me everything," Linda

said of Panzera, the iconic Star-Telegram sports photographer of the '60s and '70s.

Although Linda always preferred staying freelance, hundreds of thousands of her photos graced the local sports pages over the years. Yet, Linda maintains she was just lucky.

"You take pictures for 40 or 50 years, you're bound to get a couple," she said. "I got a couple. I wasn't a great photographer. I was more of a technician."

And that unbelievable shot of Ryan with blood all over his white Rangers' jersey?

"I just lucked out," she said. "He turned my way, and [the other photographers] were on the other side of the field."

Luck, I figured out a long time ago, is generally the product of talent and hard work. Linda had the talent, and no one worked harder. It's why, over the years, she was hired by TCU, the Rangers, the Cowboys and the University of Texas, among others, to shoot the photos they thought were most important.

Lucky? That describes the rest of us, those of us who were fortunate enough to know Linda.

On my way out of her hospital room, I asked for a goodbye hug and she started crying again.

Felt like I was hugging a huge piece of Fort Worth.

TJHS Traveling Exhibit

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

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

waterproof boxes to your location. The only expense to the borrower will be the shipping of the exhibit back 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 Jack Gerrick at 817-927-8765 or email him at texbed@aol.com.

— Fay Rosenthal Brachman ^{z'l} 1921-2007 —

Past TJHS President was Catalyst for Growth

by Hollace Weiner

There was a poignant air at the Chamber Music Society concert in Fort Worth on December 1, 2007. Prior to the performance, chairman Leon Brachman thanked the audience for extending emotional support following the November 18th death of his wife, Fay Rosenthal Brachman. Both Brachmans were among the founders of the Chamber Music Society, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, and the city's Van Cliburn International Piano Competition. The chamber music performance that December day was dedicated to Fay's memory. By chance, the concert program included her favorite composition, the Franck Sonata for Piano and Violin. "It was a lovely tribute," wrote the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* music critic.

The music critic might have added that Fay Brachman had set the tone and the tempo for many an endeavor during her 86 years. As a young bride in 1948, she had transformed the Ladies Auxiliary at Ahavath Sholom into an energetic organization that held teen functions and opened a Judaica shop (because there was nowhere in the city to purchase the basics for a Jewish home). When Fay launched the Fort Worth Jewish Archives in the 1990s, she secured funding from the local Federation, drummed up volunteers to tape-record oral histories, and converted a synagogue storage room into a repository for the crates of materials to be archived.

When she joined the Texas Jewish Historical Society, her energies propelled the membership to a fivefold increase, and her efforts continued through her presidency, from 1993-95 and beyond.

"When Fay had an idea that something needed doing, she didn't complain. She jumped in and did it," recalled Leon Brachman, her husband of 66 years. "She energized people. She



Leon and Fay Brachman

didn't plan to do things big, she just planned to do things better, and they grew."

"For example, look at our house," he said gazing around their Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home with its circular living room, beams of natural stone and wood, floor-to-ceiling windows, and dramatic woodland views. "It was completed February 18, 1958, and Fay superintended it. I was frustrated with the contractor, and Fay took over. One day she called me at work and said, 'Come by and see the new house.' Supper was on the table; books on the shelves; furniture in place. I never went back to the old house again."

A take-charge person with a matriarchal air and a motivating presence, Fay Rosenthal was born in Fort Worth June 21, 1921. Her paternal grandfather, immigrant Abraham Rosenthal, was a *shochet* and the *chazzan* at Dallas's Shearith Israel. Her maternal grandfather, Ben Levenson, was one of 10 men who founded Fort Worth's first Jewish congregation, Ahavath Sholom, in 1892. Seeing her grandfather's signature on the opening page of the congregation's Yiddish minutes was among the factors that propelled Fay on her journey into Texas Jewish history.

A gifted storyteller, Fay wrote in the *Handbook of Texas* about the time her father, Harry Rosenthal, and his brothers herded steers through downtown Dallas and were fined for driving too many cattle. "My father was a cowboy!" Fay once told a reporter from the *Forward*, a national Jewish newspaper. "All seven boys in my father's family of 11 children went into the meat business in Fort Worth. . . . I used to have a horse in the backyard when I was a kid." Fay's mother, Jennie Levenson, grew up in Fort Worth and wandered barefoot around the courthouse square, where her parents operated a dry goods store. When Fay was an elementary-school student, her grandmother attended the local National Council of Jewish Women's Americanization School, and Fay helped with her English lessons. As a 16-year-old ingénue, Fay made her bow to Fort Worth Jewish society as a debutante at Presentation, an annual Thanksgiving ball. She graduated from Paschal High in 1939.

That year, Fay met her "*besht*," Leon Brachman, near a golf course when his ball went astray and landed at her feet. Always quick with a retort, she challenged him to improve his golf game. It was the start of a courtship that led to marriage August 10, 1941. Rabbi Philip Graubart married the couple in an Orthodox ceremony followed by a large reception in the Blackstone Hotel's Venetian Ballroom, which had a winding staircase upon which the bride made her entrance.

Soon after their marriage, the couple moved to Boston, where Leon, a college senior, was majoring in physics at Harvard. The locals enjoyed Fay's Texas drawl, constantly asking her to "say that again." She didn't mind talking. She also took in all the local culture. When New York's Metropolitan

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Fay on her wedding day in 1941.

Opera came to Boston, she wrote home about seeing a live performance of *Carmen*. "It was the dream of her life," Leon recalled.

By the time Leon had his Harvard diploma, the U.S. had entered World War II. Leon remained a civilian, but the Navy recruited him to teach its pilots about radar, then a top-secret scientific advancement. "Under lock and key," Leon taught in classrooms on the Harvard and MIT campuses. Given wartime priorities, Fay and Leon were stuck in the Northeast, despite their eagerness to return to Texas. Fay was pregnant. The Boston area had strict rationing. Bostonians were limited to forty gallons of heating fuel a month because the Germans were sinking tankers en route to Boston harbor. The Brachman's tiny apartment was bitterly cold. Bread and baby formula were rationed. When the couple and their newborn daughter, Debby, took the three-day train trip to Fort Worth for Passover, Texas seemed like a world awash in warmth and luxury goods.

At the Passover Seder in Fort Worth, Leon was seated next to Dan Levin (who later made *aliyah* and changed his surname to Shimshoni). Dan was also working with top-secret radar. He pulled a few strings, and four months later, Leon was transferred to

the bomber plant in Fort Worth. Home at last in 1944. Three more Brachman children followed—Ellen in 1946, Marshall in 1950, and Wendy in 1954.

Fay, following in her mother's footsteps, joined the Ladies Auxiliary at Ahavath Sholom. The nominating committee convinced her to become first vice president, an office with few responsibilities—until the president was forced to resign because of family issues. Twenty-seven-year-old Fay found herself the head of the Ladies Auxiliary—an organization in which the shots were called by the two most senior past presidents, Rebecca Goldstein and Annie Mehl, both immigrants from the old school. During board meetings, the pair conducted annoying side conversations. If a motion they opposed passed, they argued for it to be rescinded, and it was. With "trepidation" and anxiety, Fay studied Robert's Rules of Order, rallied younger women, and began to institute change. Under her baton, the Ladies Auxiliary opened a small Judaica shop, instituted a Saturday night Teen-Age Canteen, revised its constitution, and initiated book review luncheons starring Rabbi Isadore Garsek. The book reviews proved so popular and profitable that they continued for decades, with busloads of people arriving to hear the animated rabbi bring bestsellers to life. By the time Fay's term as Auxiliary president was up, she had gained self-confidence and a following.

"She didn't need to be president or have a title," Leon said. "She just wanted things to be run well."

When her children were grown, Fay went to work as a travel agent. However, she disliked the way the agency was run. So she started her own business, Brachman Travel, which she sold after more than a decade of success. On her travels around the

globe, Fay kept her eye out for Judaica to stock the synagogue gift shop.

In Haiti, where Leon had opened a manufacturing plant in the 1960s, Fay learned that the nuns at the local convent sewed linens that rivaled world famous Belgian lace. Fay began helping the sisters market their wares in the U.S. The convent's star seamstress, Sister Marie Pia, became a veritable Martha Stewart of the linens circuit. This cottage industry, in turn, allowed many young women in Haiti to learn a trade and earn some income.

As a travel agent, in 1974 Fay organized the first mission to Israel sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County. The trip was geared to locals who had never before visited *Eretz Yisrael*. Fay dubbed it the "747 Tour of Israel" because the group traveled on board one of the new Boeing 747 Jumbo Jets, and because the cost for air, meals, and lodging totaled \$747. "She held cost to \$747,"



The Brachman family in 1954: Debby, 11, standing; Ellen, 7, on the floor; Fay holding newborn Wendy; Leon holding Marshall, 3 1/2.

recalled Leon, who was Federation president in the mid-1950s and again from 2002-2004. "Fay and I were the guides. We had already been there a number of times. We arranged the buses, the hotels, and we did the speaking."

Fay served several years on the board of the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Massachusetts.

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Brenham Synagogue's Caretakers Guard Their Memories

by Corie MacLaggan

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The small sanctuary is empty, as usual, but Leon Toubin can still walk through and picture it full of people.

"My grandfather used to sit here. Mr. Susnitsky used to sit here," he says, moving among the folding chairs that long ago replaced wooden benches. "Everybody had their place."

Five generations of Toubin's family have worshipped at B'Nai Abraham Synagogue, a white clapboard building near the town square in Brenham, Texas.

Now, he and his wife, Mimi, are all that's left of one of the state's oldest Orthodox Jewish congregations. There are no regular religious services at the synagogue anymore. No rabbi. No Hebrew school.

Built in 1893, B'Nai Abraham was once the hub of the Jewish community in Brenham, a town of 15,000 that's home to Blue Bell Creameries. There were religious services three times a day. This time of year, the congregation's 45 families would light menorahs at home to celebrate Hanukkah, which begins tonight.

But nearly all of Brenham's Jews have long since left for places like Houston, Austin, and Dallas.

Jewish populations have dwindled in many small Texas towns. Synagogues have become churches or schools. Corsicana's Temple Beth-El, for example, is now a community center owned by the city.

Meanwhile, places like Georgetown have seen a rebirth of their Jewish communities, said Hollace Ava Weiner, co-editor of *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*.

"It's not that Jews don't live in small-town Texas anymore," she said. "Jews," she said, "are moving to the same places other people are."

They're not moving to Brenham, at least not that Toubin can tell. He and his wife take care of the synagogue and its nearby cemetery, where his parents are buried side by side. They ensure that the roof is maintained, the inside cleaned, the grass clipped, tombstones repaired, sunken graves filled in.

"You do whatever you have to do," said Toubin, a Stetson-topped retiree who opens the building to visiting church, temple and civic groups. "This is not my synagogue. I only take care of it."

He's 79, his wife is 74. Nobody knows what will happen to the building, a state historic landmark, when they no longer can.

He sometimes goes to say afternoon prayers in the synagogue, the same place he had his Bar Mitzvah as a boy. And he hopes for a miracle: that Jewish people will return to Brenham. Bound by faith.

Toubin's maternal grandfather, Joe Levin, came with his parents from Poland in the early 1880's, arriving in Brenham by rail via Ellis Island. There, he met his wife, Mary, whose family had also come from Poland.

Brenham's Jewish community, which predates the Civil War, was bolstered by the arrival of those immigrants from Poland and from Lithuania in the early 19th century.

Like other Texas towns with railroad depots, Brenham lured Jewish merchants who set up shops. Some sold shoes and clothing; others had fruit stands. Toubin's great-uncle repaired umbrellas; his grandfather, a traveling peddler, sold shoelaces and pencils and returned to Brenham for the Sabbath.

"The synagogue was the glue that bound them together," said Toubin,

who ran the family's now-shuttered department stores that his grandfather started.

Founded in 1885, B'Nai Abraham, which means Children of Abraham, first met in the Second Texas Infantry Band Hall. Toubin's grandfather was a charter member. The founders built a synagogue in 1892, only to see it destroyed in a fire the next year. They quickly replaced it with the current building, which from the outside looks like a rural church or schoolhouse.

Inside, the wood-paneled sanctuary with arched windows has the look of a synagogue in an Eastern European shtetl or village, with a platform in the center of the room where the Torah and other texts are read. The synagogue, Weiner said is "a pristine example of Judaism in the old country directly transplanted to Central Texas."

As the Jewish community grew, Brenham had a Rabbi and a kosher butcher, a Hebrew school and a ritual bath. But by World War II, the community had begun shrinking. After 1943, when the last Rabbi died, a visiting Rabbi would come for holidays.

By the 1950's, it became difficult to gather a minyan, the quorum of 10 Jewish men over age 13 required to hold services. One year, Toubin's mother, Rosa, used radio announcements to invite Jewish soldiers to Brenham for the High Holy Days. They came from Fort Hood and elsewhere to attend services for Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, receiving free room and board from community members. Ten days later, on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the soldiers worshipped in the morning but didn't want to return for afternoon services. The World Series was on the radio.

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— Amarillo Begins to Write its History —

by Jo Ann Nickoll Holt

It was an unexpected honor for our congregation, Temple B'nai Israel of Amarillo, Texas, to be asked to host the fall board meeting of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. It was also an unexpected honor for me to be asked to chair the event. Assembling a great committee to work on this wasn't hard to do. Finding wonderful places to show off the Texas Panhandle was a breeze (no pun intended).

What was hard was the realiza-

tion that we as a congregation had not done our homework in preserving our history. A small attempt was made years ago when the congregation moved into its new home. Another was when the congregation was seventy-five years old. So much was left undone. And, how embarrassing to be hosting an organization devoted to documenting history and we had very little to show. What to do?

We decided to begin compiling our history.

A search of genealogy websites produced numerous forms that could be used to write one's family history. None was just what we needed. We finally settled on a very plain biographical information form sent to us by Texas Tech from The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. It offered a lot of blank space to just write down facts. We sent a cover letter and copy of this form to as many descendants of our founders as we could find. We also sent them to current Temple members to write their histories.

We named this project *In the Beginning...* and made copies of what we had from the previous attempts at compiling our history. We then added the information that was received for this project. No attempts were made to write a finished book or change what we received. A two-inch "booklet" was produced via a copy machine and this was distributed at the banquet to each person attending the Board Meeting.

All of this information was placed in files that will be stored at the Temple so that it will be ready for use when the time comes for someone to turn our story into a book. We also plan to give a copy to the Panhandle Plains Museum for their records.

We know that we have large "holes" in our information. We now plan to make a list of the families who did not respond and pursue their information.

A lot of wonderful information has surfaced as a result of this project. It is our hope to have *In the Beginning...* an ongoing project for many years. 🌸

— Contributions —

The following donations have been received by the Texas Jewish Historical Society since October, 2007

In Memory of Fay Brachman

From AIPAC, Southwest Region, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Albin, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Barnes, Mr. & Mrs. John Benjamin, Ima Joy Gandler, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gerrick, Charles G. Hall, Mr. & Mrs. Milton Harelik, Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Hart, Mr. & Mrs. Winston Heidenheimer, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Jurgenson, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Katten, Monica McMillen, Mr. & Mrs. Shawn Moffett, Mr. & Mrs. Allen Mondell, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Rich, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Rosen, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Rosenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Rosenthal, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Rosenthal, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Rosenthal, Dr. & Mrs. Philip Sheinberg, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Solka, Max Stool, Mr. & Mrs. David Vogel, and Merilee Weiner

In Memory of Dr. Sam Fisher

From Carolyn Kwiatek

In Memory of Kenneth Rich From

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Leshin, Mr. & Mrs. Rusty Milstein, and Mr. & Mrs. Jack Solka

In Memory of Sam Rosenfield

From Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Rich

In Memory of Blanche Sheiness

From Mr. and Mrs. Rusty Milstein

In Memory of Stanley Weiss From

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Beckett

For the Recovery of Jeffrey

Milstein From Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Leshin

In Honor of Jack Gerrick From

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Brachman

In Honor of the TJHS Meeting in

Odessa From Odessa Chamber of Commerce

— Tradition Returns to Temple Beth El — Corsicana, Texas



by Deanna Plemons

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Corsicana's rich heritage is full of contributions made by a once thriving Jewish community. This group of people, who began to arrive in 1871, is responsible for the Temple Beth El, an historic landmark. At one time, most businesses on Beaton Street were owned by Jewish merchants, and closed every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In addition to the Temple Beth El Congregation, a synagogue also had a large congregation, and the numbers swelled between both to number members in the hundreds.

Through the years, however, as the elder members passed on and younger generations moved to larger cities for work, the numbers dwindled to a point where both congregations ceased to exist, and the few remaining members of the Jewish community were forced to travel to Waco or other cities for services.

Saturday, August 4, 2007, the first Bar Mitzvah in thirty-seven years was held at Temple Beth El.

"The last Bar Mitzvah (in Corsicana) was in 1970, when my son Douglas was thirteen," said Babbette Samuels. "That was thirty-seven years ago. Rabbi Ernest Joseph, the father of Rabbi Frank Joseph, officiated at Douglas' Bar Mitzvah."

In 2005, Rabbi Frank Joseph responded to interest in the remaining Corsicana Jewish community, and obtained permission from the City of Corsicana to hold services once a month on Friday evenings at Temple Beth El. Judi Cohen Wyatt and Babbette Samuels of Corsicana played instrumental roles in this endeavor. Judi's brother, Mark Cohen, a Corsicana native who now resides in Rockwall, began bringing his family to services at Temple Beth El. His son,

Jeffrey (who is called J.J.) started his Hebrew instruction in November, 2006, and was ready for his Bar Mitzvah. "This is normally done at age thirteen and J.J. is fourteen, so we're running a little

late with him," Mark Cohen said. "You can have a Bar Mitzvah any time, but thirteen is the age you're considered an adult in Jewish life. We thought it would be neat to have it come full circle, since my brother had his here with Rabbi Frank's father, and have a Bar Mitzvah, a starting over, to hopefully rebuild the congregation."

Cohen's daughters, Samantha, fifteen, and J.J.'s twin, Mallory, chose not to have a Bat Mitzvah, the rite of passage for Jewish girls. According to Jewish tradition, this is the age when a boy or girl becomes morally aware and sensitive, and capable of channeling the natural tendency to put their own needs ahead of others.

"It is a wonderful thing," Cohen said. "It brings the family together for a large celebration, and has lot of meaning. It is a nice reason to gather, not like gathering for funerals."

The Bar Mitzvah involved family and friends, and all the members of the burgeoning congregation, which numbers nearly twenty. All ages were represented, and the service was in English and Hebrew. "Jeffrey will serve as a wonderful role model to others,"

Rabbi Joseph said. "He represents hope, which is everything the Jewish people believe in."

Temple Beth El was dedicated by the Jewish community in 1900, when the congregation consisted of sixty



families. The congregation finally dwindled to the point where it disbanded in 1981.

The building, with its distinctive architecture, octagonal towers and two onion domes, was in a state of dis-

repair and scheduled for demolition.

A group of concerned citizens formed a "Save the Temple" group, and held dinners, style shows, and musical reviews. With the help of private donations and state and local grants, the group was able to raise more the \$100,000 to restore the building, and deed it to the City of Corsicana. It was rededicated in 1987, and is now used for activities and club meetings. "It is old, old architecture, and the city maintains it nicely," Cohen said. "It's a house of worship, and we're glad to see it utilized. We're keeping the tradition alive."

"Growing up, we lived in Waxahachie for a while, and my Dad drove me, my brother and Judi to Corsicana every Sunday for Hebrew lessons. Now it's come full circle." ❁

Loewenstern, continued from page 8
ported the new state of Israel after its creation in 1948. Hugo and Effie also supported Temple B'nai Israel and were members until their death. Rabbi Arthur Bluhm officiated at her funeral in 1956 and Rabbi Maurice Feuer officiated at his funeral at the temple in 1973....

The complete story of Hugo and his children will be told in a booklet that should be published in the spring of 2008. ❁

Fellow trustees recall her as the Texan whose husband flew her to meetings in his private plane. Fay's stint with the venerable institution was short because, she felt, the institution was intransigent to change. She complained that Northeasterners called the shots at the AJHS and wanted little input from "ordinary people" rooted in small-town Jewish communities across the nation.

Fay enjoyed being from a small town, yet she was far from provincial. Her tastes were classical and international. The Fort Worth Chamber Music Society practiced in her living room and continues to do so. During the Van Cliburn Piano Competition, held every four years, she and Leon routinely housed a contestant. In 1997, they hit gold when

their contestant, California school teacher Jon Nakamatsu, placed first.

"She was the first person that I met in Fort Worth," recalled Nakamatsu, 39, taking a break from a rehearsal in the Brachman living room before a recent performance. "She represented Fort Worth for me. I just loved that thick Texas accent. She adopted me. . . I have come back every year, sometimes twice a year, to stay in this house when I perform locally."

For the present and future, whenever the Chamber Music Society performs, whenever the Ladies Auxiliary meets, and as the Texas Jewish Historical Society moves forward, Fay Brachman's accomplishments will continue to resonate. ❁

Testimonial to Fay Brachman:

"When Fay Brachman took over as TJHS membership chair in the early days, the Society had a rather small membership (maybe 80 or so). She embarked on a campaign to increase the membership, and within a couple of years, TJHS boasted a roster of 500-600 members. She publicized the organization via mailings and by holding "parlor meetings" in various communities, which she attended at her own expense. When *"Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews"* was published in 1990, she and the primary author, Ruthe Winegarten, began to visit communities to sell the book (autographed by Ruthe) and to publicize TJHS.

"I arranged such a meeting in Corpus Christi, and, indeed, we did add a number of local people to the membership . . . and sold a number of books.

"I think it was during Fay's

presidency that she arranged and led a trip to New York to attend the annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society. We were so proud that Texas represented the largest group in attendance!

"I have a personal story: Fay called me in 1990 to invite me to become a TJHS board member. At that time, I was not even a member of TJHS and knew little about it. I joined, accepted the board nomination, became active, and in 8 years became president! From the very first meeting I attended, Fay made me feel so welcome and a part of an important organization. I have always been very grateful for that opportunity which added so much to my life.

"TJHS is lucky that Fay Brachman devoted so much energy to help it grow and that Leon Brachman has also given so much of his time and talents to TJHS."

—Helen Wilk

Toubin was dispatched to fetch them. "They came," he said, "under duress."

By the late 1960's, Toubin's parents started making regular treks to Houston for religious services.

Brenham's young Jews went off to college and never returned. The older folks passed away, included Rosa Toubin, who cared for the synagogue until her death in 1989. That's when her son took over, maintaining a building full of memories.

Hoping for rebirth.

Toubin fears that he will be the last caretaker for B'Nai Abraham Synagogue and Cemetery Association, but the membership of that group is not defined.

As a recorded Texas Historic Landmark, B'Nai Abraham gets some protection. Anyone wanting to remodel the building must notify the Texas Historical Commission, which can issue recommendations but can't keep the building from being demolished.

"In the end, the only thing we could really do is take away that designation: as a historic landmark," said Brattan Thomason, Director of History Programs at the commission.

Toubin's greatest hope is "that there will be a rebirth of Judaism in Washington County, that a Jewish population will resurface again, and the synagogue can be used for worship and a center for the growth of Judaism."

This, he admitted, is unlikely. With no regular Sabbath services and no religious school for children, it's hard to attract Jewish families.

"Which come first," he asked, "the Hebrew school or the people?"

His backup wish is for a synagogue in Houston or elsewhere to take over B'Nai Abraham and maintain the building and the cemetery, making it "a bright, shining beacon for future generations."

When Jewish grade-schoolers from Houston come to visit, he tells them it's important to marry someone Jewish and maintain a Jewish life.

"It's so easy," he said, "for it to slip away." ❁

My Career With Stanley Marcus

by Enid Klass

Editor's note: The Dallas Jewish Historical Society commemorated the 100th anniversary of Neiman Marcus with a lecture in the Harold A. Pollman Lecture Series, "Stories from Lawrence Marcus: His Life and the Legacy of the Marcus Family." In addition, DJHS organized an exhibit of correspondence, photographs, and artifacts detailing the store's legacy. The exhibit included memorabilia donated by a former Executive Secretary of Stanley Marcus, Enid Klass, a TJHS member now of New York. Ms. Klass was inspired to write down some of her memories of working at Neiman Marcus.

In the summer of 1951, after my junior year at The University of Texas, several friends and I (my friends knew me by my college nickname of "Kitty") decided it would be fun to get a summer job at Neiman's—every young girl's dream. We were given sales jobs in the Children's Department which was great fun, until I found that standing all day wasn't for me.

Then I saw a notice on a store bulletin board that the personnel Office was looking for an assistant for administrative duties. I got that job which allowed me to learn all about the inner workings of the store. I also learned who the merchandise managers, buyers, and assistants were for all the sales departments as well as who was in charge of all the non-sales departments and what areas they covered.

After about 1 1/2 years there, Ed Rose, the Personnel Manager, asked me to sit at Mr. Stanley's Executive Secretary's desk in her private office a week or two while she was on Christmas vacation.

I answered the phone and opened and sorted mail while a secretary transcribed his Dictaphone records and a receptionist handled miscellaneous duties.

Noticing that Mr. Stanley's desk was piled high with letters, books, cata-

logs, etc., I decided to organize things in some sort of order. This evidently pleased him, for later, when I was on a leave of absence to attend Mills College in California, Mary Lloyd, the Vice President of Personnel called to say that they wanted me to return to be his Executive Secretary since his had left.



Enid Klass and Leonard Karotkin at a party in Austin in 1956, several months after she left Neiman Marcus to return to the University of Texas.

Being just 22 at the time, I was overwhelmed and excited by the prospect, and did return to Dallas to become his Executive Secretary just two years after he became President.

On my first day back, Mr. Stanley sat down with me and said his office had never been run the way it should. What a responsibility that put on my shoulders! Years later, I realized that just as he knew how to turn a shopper into a buyer, so he knew how to motivate an idealistic young woman into working extremely hard and often until very late hours, long after he had left for the day.

At that time—early to mid-1950s—switchboard operators would leave

shortly after the store closed and no outside calls came in. My dear mother would call the night security guard, who would call me on the interoffice phone telling me that Mother said it was time to come home!

Mr. Stanley was a very dynamic man who spoke fast and walked fast, and I must have absorbed some of that because after I left, people would ask why I was racing down the street. But that was necessary if you wanted to keep up with Mr. Stanley.

My office was just outside his with a door leading to the reception area. As soon as he opened the door, he started talking, so I had to be there with pen in hand ready to make notes on what he had in mind. He was always brimming with ideas and in touch with many people inside and out of the store. He looked at numerous magazines, newspapers, and catalogs and seemed to get ideas from almost everything that came his way.

He was in touch with many celebrities, and one I especially remember was Grace Kelly, who was there to accept one of the Neiman Marcus fashion awards and who was very gracious. That was the only time I was able to get him to completely clear his desk and one of the few times we actually could see the beautiful blond wood.

Mail and phone calls were extremely heavy and one important call came while he was in Europe. It was from the State Department—they wanted Mr. Stanley to select a gift for Claire Boothe Luce, who had just been named Ambassador to Italy in 1953. I didn't need to disturb him in Europe as I knew exactly what he would have done. I called the precious jewelry designer and asked him to design a gold charm in the shape of Italy and put a diamond at Rome for a gold charm bracelet and off it went, with all loving the gift that "he" had selected, especially Mr. Stanley!

continued on page 21

TJHS Members Meeting in Beaumont, January 11-12, 2008



Above: TJHS members enjoy lunch catered by the Temple Emanuel Sisterhood. Left: TJHS Members on the steps of Temple Emanuel.

All photos by Marvin Rich.



Above: the Perlstein Family Decedents. Left: David Hoffman explained the restoration at the Tyrell Historical Library. Below: The cast and the author of A Divine Restoration: Charles Hart as Architect Albert S.Gottlieb, Sherry Zander-costume designer, Hollace Weiner as Muse, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler as Rabbi Rosinger, David Hoffman-the playwright, and Rusty Milstein as Artist Ze'ev Raban.



Shirley and Marvin Rich at the historic McFaddin-Ward mansion.



Longview Synagogue Celebrates Fiftieth Anniversary and Reunion

With Guest Historians from TJHS

Longview's Temple Emanu-El welcomed more than eighty congregants from near and far for an October "Homecoming Weekend" celebrating the synagogue's 50th anniversary. Out-of-town families from California, Washington, Louisiana, Dallas, Austin, and Fort Worth made the pilgrimage to Longview's handsome white-brick and stained glass synagogue, located 120 miles east of Dallas.

The synagogue's origins date to March 28, 1957, when Jewish community leaders signed a bank note to borrow \$4,500 at 5% interest to purchase 5.96 acres of land on the city's Eden Drive. The building, which cost nearly \$175,000 to construct, was completed the following April. Membership totaled 65 families—compared with around 25 today—who hailed from Longview, Kilgore, Gladewater, Henderson, Overton, and other towns in Gregg, Rusk, and Harrison Counties.

The Longview temple replaced an oil-patch synagogue that opened its doors in Kilgore in 1936. Named Congregation Beth Sholom, the original Kilgore synagogue was a small brick building. As the congregation grew, members purchased a run-down, wood-frame honky-tonk, moved it to their plot of land, and converted it into a social hall. During the 1950s, the Jewish community agreed that larger, more modern facilities were needed. Under the leadership of Beth Sholom's president, Ben Balter, an expansion



The old oil patch synagogue in Kilgore that no longer exists

committee decided that "since the overwhelming majority of the Jewish population resided in Longview," the new synagogue should be constructed in the neighboring city. To avoid confusion, members voted on October 20, 1958 to change the congregation's name to "Temple Emanu-El."

Temple Emanu-El's Homecoming Weekend began October 12 with Sabbath evening services led by Rabbi Heidi Coretz, soloist Barry Silverman, who grew up in Longview and now resides in Mobile, and organist Betty Sisk followed by a gala Oneg Shabbat.

On the following day, three historians who have been active in the Texas Jewish Historical Society spoke from the bimah about the region's colorful past. Audrey Kariel, former mayor of Marshall and historian of Marshall's Jewish community, recounted the rise and, sadly, the disappearance of Temple Moses Montefiore, which had a Moorish-style synagogue. Author Jan Statman spoke about the Depression-era oil boom that brought Jewish merchants into the Longview-Kilgore region. Statman wrote a chapter in

Lone Stars of David, the TJHS's new coffee-table book, that recounts how Jewish scrap metal dealers became captains of the lucrative pipe-and-supply industry.

Hollace Weiner, the editor of *Lone Stars of David*, gave a Texas-Jewry-101 talk, sketching a broad picture of the Jewish settlement across the state. After the program, several dozen copies of the award-winning book were autographed and sold while the crowd feasted on barbecue and chocolate cake.

The day also included tours of Longview and visits to the Kilgore Oil Museum followed by an evening dinner dance at the Cherokee Club. The

weekend closed with Sunday cemetery services and a golden anniversary reception at the temple. Local organizers, who turned the reunion into a rousing success, included Rusty and Mitzi Milstein, Mendy and Natalie Rabicoff, Debbie and Evan Shelan, Max and Jan Statman, and Sandi Sachnowitz. Sarah Litvin, oral historian with the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, traveled to Longview from Jackson, Mississippi, to interview

and videotape longtime congregants.

Many people at the reunion had not been back to Longview for decades. Some had been reluctant to attend because so many of their peers have passed away. However, any sadness evaporated as congregants from near and far shared warm memories of the East Texas Jewish community.



The ark doors, made of stained glass at Temple Emanu-El in Longview.

Photo by Jenay Solomon



The 29th Annual Gathering of TJHS

April 4-6, 2008 in Waco, Texas

All members of the Society are encouraged to attend.

Headquarters will be at the **Clarion Inn**

801 S. 4th St. at IH-35, Phone: 254-757-2000 or 1-800-275-9226, Fax: 254-757-1110, www.clarionhotelwaco.com.

Ask for the Texas Jewish Historical Society rate of \$79.95 or \$89.95.

Continental Breakfast will be included in room rate. Full Breakfast is \$5.

Reservations for transportation to and from airport may be made at time of making room reservation.

Deadline for Hotel Reservations is March 18, 2008

Friday, April 4, 2008

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Registration in the Hotel lobby.

3:30 PM Board Meeting

6:30 PM Shabbat Dinner will be held at Temple Rodef Sholom followed by Shabbat Services and Oneg.

Saturday, April 5, 2008

9:00 AM Guest Speaker, Ellen Brown, Texas Collection Archivist at Baylor University will have a display and presentation about the Jews of Waco. Speakers from Waco's Jewish community will provide additional information. (Optional: Shabbat morning services conducted at Agudath Jacob Synagogue at 9:00 AM. No transportation provided.)

11:30 AM Bus trip to Greene Family Camp in Bruceville, Texas for lunch, speaker, and tour. (Optional Jewish Cemetery tour following this bus trip.)

7:00 PM Havdalah and Dinner with Suzanne Scriff, Ph.D., Project Co-Director and Curator "Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America through Galveston Island," Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum

Sunday, April 6, 2008

9:30 AM Annual General Membership Meeting: election of officers and board.

Everyone is invited to attend.



Annual Gathering Registration Form

Deadline for Registration is March 18, 2008.

Please list name of each person attending:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Registration Fee: \$85 x _____ = \$ _____
(number attending)

Mail form and check made out to TJHS to: Alfred Hiller, 3619 Willow Bend Circle, Waco, TX 78708.

Mr. Hiller's email address is ahiller@hot.rr.com.

If you have any questions, contact Meeting Committee Chair Ima Joy Gandler at 254-772-5717.

He tried to answer about 70% of the mail by dictating into his Dictaphone for a stenographer/secretary to transcribe, even if his reply was just a sentence or two. About 20% was sent to others to handle and I took care of about 10%.

I also handled numerous special requests from customers and complaints that came to the President's office ("Why isn't my daughter's wedding gown ready?") and enjoyed the customer relations and public relations that was an important part of my responsibilities. It was an exciting and glamorous place to be, and I learned a great deal about business and art and how to go to a president if you want action.

Mr. Stanley's wife Billie was a lovely and gracious woman who often asked for my help with personal and family matters. After I left Neiman Marcus, I continued to help her and she heaped praise on me to my mother, who appreciated her fourth-born daughter a little more after that.

In 1955, after I lost my dear sister Freda, to whom I was very close, I grew dissatisfied with my situation and after Christmas, I returned to college. Later, when my mother became ill and moved East to live with a married sister, I moved to New York where two former Neiman Marcus colleagues were living and began to pound the pavement.

I recall one funny incident at a well-known art gallery where I was applying for a position. I suppose I always looked youthful for my age and when the man interviewing me saw that I had been Executive Secretary to Stanley Marcus on my resumé, he looked at me incredulously and said, "What would you do if I picked up the phone and called Stanley Marcus right now?" I said, "I would say, 'Tell him hello for me!'" Well, he didn't call and I didn't get that job, but by perseverance I did get a job in the Painting and Sculpture Department at Parke-Bernet (later Sotheby's) and later did art, photo, and historical research for companies such as Time, Inc., CBS, ABC, McGraw Hill, and Holt, Rinehart and Winston, and also held a position in corporate communications research at Merrill Lynch.

After two and a half years as Historical Research Consultant in Corporate Communi-

cations at Merrill Lynch, I retired at the end of 1999. I have been a long-time Trustee of the Murray Hill neighborhood Association and Co-Chair of our Quality of Life committee.

I would run into Mr. Stanley from time to time at art openings and such and I recall at least one lunch where he kept asking me, "Why did you leave?" Years later, I learned from

his then Executive Secretary that after I left, he went through twelve secretaries in two years—perhaps a tribute to my hard work or, more likely, to my knowledge of the store and my enthusiasm, as a young person, to do the very best I could and use my own initiative.

One contribution I made that he

continued on page 23

Welcome New Members!

October 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007

Abzug, Robert H.
Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies (University of Texas)
1 University Station B-3600
Austin, TX 78712
512-475-7240
zug@mail.utexas.edu

Backal, Debbie & Ricardo
2704 Sam Efrain
Mission, TX 78572
956-467-1766
debbie@halfspoon.com

Berk, Frieda (Fritzie)
17 Primrose Place
Amarillo, TX 79106
806-468-1010

Joseph, Clariette & Marvin
7803 Lindenwood
Austin, TX 78731
512-345-1179
cjoseph2@austin.rr.com

Lampinstein, Shirli & Steve
101 Fox Home Lane
Georgetown, TX 78633
512-869-1140
shirli@sslamp.com

Levy, Mary & Isaac
4919 Lake Arrowhead
Waco, TX 76710
254-772-6443

Nathan, Ruth & Charles
7723 Hopewell
Houston, TX 77071
713-728-3139
resparkles@aol.com

Schroeder, Karen & Gary
7213 Brookfield Lane
Amarillo, TX 79124
806-353-0138
garyandkaren@amaonline.com

Yendell, Jane
211 Scurry Pass
Georgetown, TX 78633
914-260-7528
jakadold@aol.com

Update

Please update the following entries in your directory:

Eisen, Jayne & Harold
409-892-3233

Solka, Davie Lou & Jack
3808 Woodbrook Circle
Austin, TX 78759
512-527-3799

Has Your Address Changed?

If you have any changes in your information, please send those changes to **Leon Brachman** at 3720 Autumn Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109, call him at 817-924-9207, or email him at leonhb@flash.net.

Honor or Memorialize a Friend or a Loved One With a Donation to the Endowment Fund of The Texas Jewish Historical Society

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

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

Your support of 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 to its Endowment Fund in the amount of

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

Austin's Texas Book Festival Features *Lone Stars of David*

Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas, the TJHS's award-winning volume, was among 150 books featured at the Texas Book Festival, a two-day extravaganza staged on the State Capitol grounds in Austin, November 3-4, 2007.

Co-editors Hollace Weiner and Rabbi Ken Roseman spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in a meeting room at the Capitol. The pair delivered remarks that were both clever and incisive, drawing laughter as well as insightful questions about the Galveston Movement



and the future of small-town congregations in Texas. Said Weiner, "The two of us had a great time sharing the podium and fielding questions from our well-informed audience."

Throughout the weekend, guest authors were treated to a Saturday-night cocktail party on Congress Avenue, a private tour of the University of Texas Ransom Center archives, and a catered breakfast at the LBJ Library.

"I felt privileged and excited to be part of the festival lineup," said Weiner. "The writers at the festival were top drawer."

Among the writers she most enjoyed was TV news commentator Jeffrey Toobin, who spoke about his book *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*. She heard Carl Bernstein discuss his new biography of

Hilary Rodham Clinton. Another favorite was New York author Shalom Auslander, whose book, *The Foreskin's Lament*, is an angst-ridden, humorous recounting of growing up in a strictly Orthodox setting.

Also on the festival program was writer/musician Kinky Friedman who performed in the festival's Music Tent. Kinky generously gave Hollace's husband, Bruce, one of his trademark cigars.

Lone Stars of David received double billing as part of the Texas Book Festival and the Austin Jewish Book Fair, which is sponsored by the Jewish Community Association of Austin. The TJHS underwrote *Lone Stars of David*, which was published by Brandeis University Press. The anthology received the 2006 Deolece Parmelee Award from the Texas Historical Foundation.



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David Vogel (La Grange)

Hollace Weiner (Fort Worth)

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My Career With Stanley Marcus, continued from page 17

applauded was to round up all the names and addresses of people with whom he was in touch and turn them into a row of Rolodexes. For youngsters, those were devices that held small cards on which alphabetical information could be stored.

Now, how did my collection of memos, letters, books, gifts, etc. come to be at The Dallas Jewish Historical Society? A year ago, I was going through some old scrapbooks and came across a brochure from Neiman's titled "The First Forty Years 1907-1947." Realizing that the one hundredth anniversary was approach-

ing, I thought I should find a home for all my memorabilia. Also in the scrapbook was a letter from the mother of some dear friends, Herb and Bud Silverberg, responding to my note of congratulations on Bud's engagement.

I thought that Bud would like to have his Mother's charming letter and sent it to him with a letter asking his thoughts on where my Neiman Marcus collection might fit in Dallas. He suggested the Dallas Jewish Historical Society where he had been on the Board and since I am Jewish, this seemed to make sense. Bud put me in touch with Debbie Tobias with whom I have been

working since then, and I thank Bud for his interest and Debbie and the Board for offering a good home for my collection, which I made in memory of my beloved parents, Joseph and Sarah Klass and my sisters, Freda Klass Tennenbaum, Lillian Klass Feinstein and Trudy Klass.

Now, as a new member of TJHS, I am in the process of donating my mother's hand-worked linen collection to the Texas Jewish Historical Society archives at the Center for American History in Austin, where it will be housed in the fiber section.