

From Our Archives

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

Ima Joy's Waco by Vickie Vogel

Many of you will remember Ima Joy Gandler of Waco. She was a TJHS board member and the elected archivist for a number of years. Ima Joy was diligent in recording Texas Jewish history, and especially the history of Jewish Waco. There are many Waco photographs in our archives at the Briscoe Center for American History, largely as a result of Ima Joy's efforts.¹

There are a few notes and labels of the photographs, in Ima Joy's handwriting. The Walgreen Drug Store was on the first floor of the Liberty Building (entrance on North 6th Street). Ima Joy's father, Nate Chodorow,² owned the Liberty Building at one point. He was born around 1899 in Russia and arrived in Texas at an early age. He married Miriam Borschow,

who was born around 1903. Nate died in 1985 and Miriam in 1998.³

There is a photo of the Ramblers of Waco, with the notation that it is not the entire group picture of the organization, in the late 1930s or early 1940s. There have been country bands out of Waco named the Ramblers, but there are no clues as to whether this group was a band or a social organization. In any event, standing are Robert Hoffman, Ben Reed, Sam Aronson (1913-1986),⁴ and seated are Barney

Bahme (1912-2013),⁵ Asher Joseph "Jem" Englander (1913-1945),⁶ and Sam "Steve" Chazanow.

A photograph (c.1913) shows the interior of Congregation Agudath Jacob Synagogue in Waco, located on the southeast corner of Columbus at N. 7th. On the right side on the back row facing the camera is Leizer Levy (1873-1952).⁷

In the next row forward facing the camera is Israel. Standing

facing the camera is Hymie Hoffman. Sam Baume is on the right side but more left, next to the columns. No one else is labeled.

The photo of the L&M Cafe in Waco is from 1946. Named for Louis (1876-1952)⁸ and Mary (1867-1951)⁹ Meinstein, the first owners, it was started after the Great Depression by Mary and her daughter Sarah. Louis had the liquor store next door. Pictured on the top row, third from left



Walgreen Drug Store.

Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

continued on page 15



The Ramblers of Waco. Standing: Robert Hoffman, Ben Reed, Sam Aronson. Seated: Barney Bahme, Asher Joseph "Jem" Englander, Sam "Steve" Chazanow. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

is "Blackie," the cook, then Abe and Minnie Schikman Meinstein. Abe was Sarah's brother. On the bottom row in the middle is Leon Meinstein, son of Abe and Minnie. There are some handwritten notes with the photograph, stating Mary taught Blackie how to cook. After Sarah's divorce, she moved to Hearne. The handwriting is small and cramped and difficult to read. It says during the war, soldiers and doctors from Marlin came to eat here. The notes say Leon and his wife had four boys, and list three: Eddie, Charles, and Marvin.¹⁰

According to Ancestry.com, Louis Meinstein was born in Warsaw on December 25, 1876, to Meyer Yechiel Meinstein and Hannah Finkelstein. He and Mary had four children, all born in Warsaw before 1907: Frances, Sarah, Saul, and Abe. Sarah was born in 1903. She married Charles Greenberg; they had one child. Charles died in Israel, date unknown. Saul married Fannie Shub, and they had one child.

Ima Joy's notes say Estella Maxey played the L&M on Saturday nights. Maxey grew up loving the music she heard at Second Baptist Church and was declared a prodigy by her music teacher. During the Depression, Maxey organized an orchestra, "Stella and Her Boys," which performed at parties and clubs. As a local tour company puts it, "Stella bridged the gap between the races, and was well respected by the entire Waco commu-

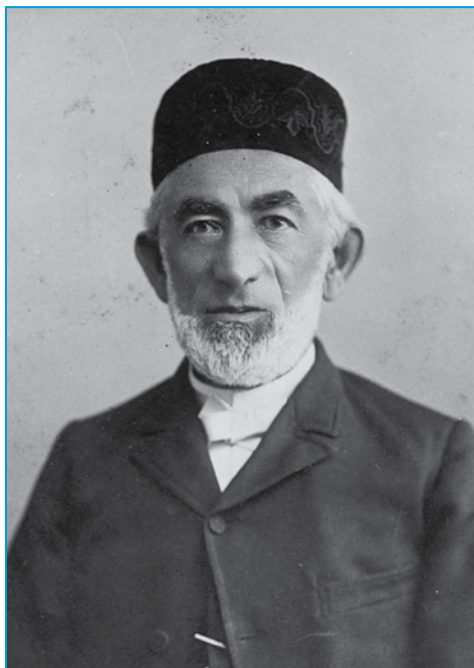
continued on page 16



Congregation Agudath Jacob Synagogue. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.



Purim, Agudath Jacob, undated. Left to right: Roddy Sanger, ?, Leon Zlotowicz, Morrie Fred, last two unlabeled. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.



Rabbi Henrich Schwarz. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

nity.”¹¹ Abe and Minnie ran the cafe after Mary and Sarah.

The last file in the box has photos of Temple Rodef Sholom. Rabbi Henrich Schwarz came from Hempstead to dedicate Rodef Sholom. There is an undated photo from a Purim celebration taken in the temple basement. Left to right are Roddy Sanger, ?, Leon Zlotowicz, Morrie Fred, ? and ?

Morris Aaron Fred, a jeweler, was born in 1890 in Lithuania. He died in Waco in 1946. A photocopy of the picture has the names written on it.

Also in this file are letters from Ima Joy trying to collect addresses for an invitation list for the Rodef Shalom 125th anniversary celebration in 2004. She chaired the celebration committee.

In a separate box,¹² the bulletins of Congregation Rodef Shalom

can be found, some from 1961-62 when Amiel Wohl was the abbi, and 1965 when Mordecai Podet was rabbi and Bernard Rapoport was president. The bulletins are quite impressive, with news items and articles of interest, including one titled “Baylor University and the Jews.”

“Very often we hear very uncomplimentary remarks from our people about Baylor... It may not be the world’s greatest university, but it is an impressive school... But we should remember particularly as Jews who supposedly have a great reverence and respect for learning that rather than tear

down this wonderful institution by our negative attitude, that we ought to be encouraging Jewish students from all over to come to Baylor. Now some people thing [sic] that it is terrible that Baylor has certain required religious courses—but why shouldn’t they? After all they are supported by the Baptist Church, and this is within their rights... We hope that every one of us will be Baylor Boosters, because this great university does deserve our support. It is an old adage: ‘One should never knock any institution or anything in one’s own city that helps one make his living, or that makes his city something.’”

There are also two bulletins from 2009, but they are shorter and have much less news in them.

This file reminds us how important it is to label our photographs right away. As time passes, the informa-

continued on page 17



LM Cafe, 1946. Top row, third from left is "Blackie," the cook, then Abe and Minnie Meinstein. Bottom row middle is Leon Meinstein. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

tion of who, what, where, when gets lost. Use an archival pen, or to avoid writing on the photo or its back, you can make a photocopy of the picture and label it. You can also lay a piece of thin paper over the group photo and lightly circle the heads with a pencil, then label your drawn heads. The most important thing is to label them in some way, because eventually, no one will be left who remembers who they are. As for Ima Joy Gandler, she died in Waco in 2010, age 80, but will long be remembered by the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

Endnotes

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all photographs and notes are from Box 2F511, file Labeled Photographs 2012-181 or file Photographs from Temple Rodef

Sholom, Texas Jewish Historical Society Records, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. Thanks go to Dr. Don Carleton, Hal Richardson, Cindy Taylor and Amy Bowman for help with the photographs.

² <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=gandler&GSfn=ima&GSmn=joy&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=2674&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=47227387&df=all&>

³ <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/ssse.dll?gl=allgs&gsfn=Nate&gsln=C&hodorow&gss=seo&ghc=20>

⁴ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=aronson&GSfn=sam&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95737048&df=all&>

⁵ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=bahme&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=105433336&df=all&>

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=englander&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95315009&df=all&>

⁶ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=englander&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95315009&df=all&>

⁷ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Meinstein&GSfn=Louis&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95635451&df=all&>

⁸ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Meinstein&GSfn=Louis&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95635451&df=all&>

⁹ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=Meinstein&GSfn=Louis&GSbyrel=all&GSdylrel=all&GSst=46&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=95635488&>

continued on page 18



Rodef Shalom. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

8X11
 (48) page 2
 LEFT TO RIGHT ON LEDGE?
 TEMPLE RODEF SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, 924 WASHINGTON, WACO, TEXAS
 MAY 1961

ZIG ZAG 1. JOEL FLORSHEIM 2. DEBBIE CHERNOFF 3. FRANCES SCHEINBAUM (TALL) 4. MARTY FRIEDMAN 5. PAULA LEVINE 6. STEVE BARSHOP 7. MRS. LOU Y. FEINSTEIN (CETHEL LIVINGSTON) (IN GLASSES) 8. BARBARA SCRINOPSKIE 9. MAURY HARRIS 10. MIKE LEVINE (PLAID SHIRT) 11. (HIDDEN) 12. (ADULT) 13. LEON ZLOTOWICZ 14. JODY ROTTNER 15. ELLEN ROSS (IN GLASSES) 16. RONNIE RAPAPORT (IN GLASSES) 17. ELLEN FAULE 18. NEAL ARNET (IN FRONT OF RONNIE) 19. STEPHAN GOLDSTEIN (ADULT) 20. LORRAINE "BOACHY" GINSBURG 21. RABBI AMIEL WOHL (IN SUIT) 22. MRS. JAY ARNET (MURIEL) (IN FRONT OF RABBI WOHL) 23. JOAN KUCHMAN (IN WHITE DRESS) 24. MRS. NATHAN BRICKMAN (GLORIA FEINSTEIN) (IN PLAID BLOUSE) 25. MRS. JAY ARNET (MURIEL) (IN DARK DRESS)

NEXT ROW 1. MARK MILES (TALL) 2. 3. MRS. LEONARD ENGLANDER (EYSSIE GOLDSTRICH) 4. KAY FERNALD 5. CAROL ANN LEWIS 6. STANLEY GINSBURG 7. BEVERLY BRICKMAN (IN PLAID DRESS) 8. LORIE SCHEINBAUM 9. SHARLANE MICHAEL GANDLER (IN GLASSES) 10. JACK KESTNER, JR. 11. JANIS UNELL 12. LINDA SCRINOPSKIE

NEXT ROW 1. 2. 3. HANK HENRIQUES 4. GENE ANN ELLIS 5. ELLAN FREED 6. MARILYN BRICKMAN 7. MARY LYNN ZIGEL 8. CRAIG BEASLEY 9. SYLVAN "YOGI" FLORSHEIM 10. LAURA BETH GANDLER (IN STRIPE DRESS) 11. LAUREN FREED 12. MRS. AL JOSEPH (ROSALIE LEVINSON) 13. JO ANN ROSENFELD (BEING HELD BY MRS. JOSEPH) 14. THEN ZIG 2. 2. 14. MAURY KLEIMAN 15. SYDNEY DAY HENRIQUES 16. MARY LYNN ZIGEL 17. KAREN MILLER (BLACK HAIR) 18. LYNN ROSENFELD 19. GAIL FRED (IN WHITE) 20. PAT ROTTNER (IN GLASSES) 21. JUDY BERNSTEIN 22.

BOTTOM ROW 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. MARY FRIEDMAN 6. KLEIMAN 7. 8. KLEIMAN 9. HOWARD IRWIN GANDLER 10. 11. SHE KATTEN


Back of the Rodef Shalom group photo above. Many are identified. Photo courtesy of Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

continued on page 19

*Ima Joy's Waco, continued
from page 18*

¹⁰ This information cannot be verified on ancestry.com as it is marked "private." http://records.ancestry.com/leon_s_meinstein_records.ashx?pid=193514042
Only three Meinsteins are buried in Agudath Jacob Cemetery: Louis, Mary, and Frances, and family relationships are not clarified. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gsr&GSiman=1&GScid=1979161&GSfn=&GSln=meinstein>

¹¹ <http://www.snobbytours.com/wacotours.html>

¹² Box 2.325/c44, Texas Jewish Historical Society Records, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin. 

Save the Date

March 17, 2015

Dedication of a Historic Marker for Rabbi Sidney Wolf, Corpus Christi, Texas

April 24-26, 2015

Annual Gathering
(joint meeting with Dallas Jewish Historical Society)
Dallas, Texas

June 8-15, 2015

TJHS Mission to Cuba

Proposed Slate of Officers, TJHS 2015-2016

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<i>2nd Vice-President</i>	Davie Lou Solka (Austin)
<i>3rd Vice-President</i>	Jane Manaster (Dallas)
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<i>Historian</i>	Sally Drayer (Dallas)
<i>Archivist</i>	Samylu Rubin (Dallas)
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Vickie Vogel (La Grange)

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Jerry Wells (Plano)

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Marilyn Lippman (Dallas)	Bobbi Wells (Plano)
Amy Manuel (Denton)	Gary Whitfield (Fort Worth)
Abbi Michelson (Lockhart)	Joyce Wormser (Pearland)

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Marc Wormser, Chair; Sally Drayer; Jan Hart; Rusty Milstein; Helen Wilk