

— The Rubinskys of Brownsville, Texas —

by **Guerta Geifman Rubinsky**

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

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

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

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



Guerta Geifman Rubinsky

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

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

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

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

He passed away on September

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

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

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

**The deadline for the November
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