

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Est. 1980



September 2021 News Magazine

—Notes from the Zoom Board Meeting, July 25, 2021—

- It was announced that the Briscoe Center is hoping to open to the public in the fall, and an intern for the Texas Jewish Historical Society would not be needed until the Spring semester. Searches for archival material can be accessed on the website of the Briscoe Center, as well as the website for TJHS. The Center is open for limited researchers from the UT campus. Davie Lou Solka recommended that an advisory group prepare a list of priority items in the TJHS Collection when the Briscoe begins digitizing material.



Some of the 40+ attendees at the Zoom Board Meeting. Row 1: Sheldon Lippman, John Campbell, Dolly Golden, Willie Braudaway, Jack Solka. Row 2: Joan Katz, Barbara Green Stone, Sally Drayer, Susan & Bob Lewis, Mel & Marlene Eichelbaum. Row 3: Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, Davie Lou Solka, Barbara & Ben Rosenberg, Rusty Milstein, Susan Novick. Row 4: Vickie Vogel, Jules Frapart, Joyce & Marc Wormser, Kathy Kravitz, Helen Wilk. Row 5: Jan & Charles Hart, Marilyn Lippman, Joan Linares, Gayle Cannon, Joyce Davidoff.

- TJHS currently has 518 members. In the past year, 892 names have been recorded for addition to the Texas Jewish Burial database on the TJHS Website. Members were encouraged to volunteer to work on the Cemetery Committee.
- Winners of the TJHS-judged Jewish History Writing Contest were named at Texas History Day sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association. The two winners in senior high school division were Siya Bhakta (first place from Hereford) for the paper "Ravensbruck

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Message from the President

by Sheldon Lippman

There is a growing trend among Texas Jewish Historical Society Members to

give a gift of membership to their children and grandchildren. This is also a good gift idea for Bar/Bat mitzvahs, weddings, graduations, and for any young person who may not be thinking about their legacy. With each gifted membership, it is beholden of TJHS to inspire younger generations to retain their membership for the next year and the years after that. How do we spark the interest of the younger generations? How does the Texas Jewish Historical Society stay relevant to all generations?



With each new gifted membership, it is important to talk to the younger generation about their history and the potential family stories that they have to tell. It may be a story about childhood birthday parties or school events; or about young adulthood memories of leaving for college or moving away from Texas for that new job opportunity; or about family vacations to the Grand Canyon or to Jerusalem; or a newly married couple hosting the in-laws for a first seder or Chanukah party with bubbe's never-fail (but did) latke recipe.

Who knows the story of their parents' (or grandparents') meeting, dating, and wedding? Whether the romance began at summer camp, or a sorority/fraternity mixer, or two mothers' schmoozing, or J-Date swiping, that story is a significant episode of their history. Capture it, share it,


preserve it.

History will be relatable to younger generations when they hear remarkable or even ordinary stories about their foreign-born great-grandparents, their American-born grandparents, and their Millennial parents. But don't neglect the recent past.

There is also a youthful history to tell and preserve in the lives of Gen-Y and Gen-Z.

What might seem like ordinary family stories are part of the fabric of the Texas Jewish experience. Each new member represents potentially new stories to tell, write, share, and preserve. TJHS is a great resource for "sharing" and "preserving."

Hopefully, a gifted membership in the Texas Jewish Historical Society for younger generations will help them relate to the family stories that they will want to remember in 10, 20, 30 years from now when they are parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. And -- fingers-crossed -- they will be motivated to renew their TJHS membership for years to come.

So, with every new gift of a TJHS membership, remind the recipient that "You Are History!." 

The Texas Jewish Historical Society September 2021 Quarterly News Magazine

The Texas Jewish Historical Society News Magazine is published four times annually. Stories about Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents. We recommend that you provide photocopies of all documents and photographs. Please provide color photocopies or scans at 300 dpi or greater in gif, tif, or jpg format, and send electronically to editor@txjhs.org or by mail to Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas. Be sure to include your name and contact information.



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

Visit us on the web at www.txjhs.org.

In Memoriam

EDWIN KATTEN, Waco/Dallas, former TJHS board member, died July 2, 2021. He is survived by his children, Steven, Sue (Chuck) Tilis, and Noni (Max) Smith, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren

**May his memory
be a blessing.**

The Rose of Beth Israel

by Ambassador Arthur Schechter

Rose Brilling began a lifetime of connection to Congregation Beth Israel, Houston in 1925 when her husband, Robert Brilling, died at their home on Alabama Street, a few blocks from the Temple.

Robert Brilling was a young, dynamic accountant, and was the personal accountant for Sam Lewis, the president of the congregation, as well as others. He was also the treasurer of the congregation and in that capacity, was in charge of the dedication of the cornerstone for the new synagogue on Holman Street, that had been designed by Joseph Finger. The dedication and the laying of the cornerstone for this beautiful new structure was to take place the next morning. Numerous community leaders were invited, including the Episcopal bishop, the head of the church across the street from Beth Israel, and the mayor, Oscar Holcombe. It was going to be a very public, beautiful beginning, and was also Robert's fortieth birthday. The building still stands today with the magnificent ceilings and structural features completing its elegance. It is still used by the Junior College across the street.

Rose Brilling, up to that day, had been a very loving housewife. She had been PTA president, written poems and loved reading, poetry, and



Rose Brilling circa 1950

literature. She had a beautiful handwriting, which served her well during her many years at Beth Israel, as well as a wonderful sense of people.

In 1923, she and Robert had been appointed by Mayor Holcombe to head the Houston Board of Censors, a committee that determined "decency." All productions of opera, symphony, or any theater had to be passed upon by this committee for their moral sen-

sitivities. This was a very open time in American life, and much was going on in the "Roaring 20's."

In this capacity, Rose and Robert, did, in fact, attend every opening. Both were very open and "modern" in their time. Interestingly enough, they had become associated with Ma and Pa Ferguson. When Pa got into trouble and Ma took over, they became very friendly with Ma, and were frequently invited to events in Austin. It was this kind of connectivity that Robert and Rose shared with other people.

Up to the time of Robert's death, Rose did everything that a housewife of that time was expected to do. She was in a book club, and was president of the PTA, and suddenly she was left alone to rear their three daughters, who were very young at the time. Helen, the oldest was fourteen when her father died.

On the night of his death, Robert had gone to the temple to check on the arrangements for the cornerstone dedication to be sure that everything was in order for the ceremony the next morning. He came back to their home on Alabama Street and died.

Rose was left with the three children and very little means of support. President Lewis offered her a job at

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Does TJHS Have Your Current Email Address?

Is your email address current? Has it changed since the 2021-2022 directory was printed? Have you changed email providers? If so, please send an email to membership@txjhs.org so your information can be updated. To reduce postage cost and printing delays, we are going to



be electronically sending as much mail as possible, so don't be left out or behind—send your current information today!

Please put "email change" in the subject line and with your name in the text of your message, send it today!

Thank you.



Rose Brillling circa 1949.

Beth Israel, which he and the board had created for her. Her title would be “advisor to the Sisterhood.” This was a title that Rose loved and worked through most of her life. She began during the term of Rabbi Henry Barnston, who was there when her grandson, Arthur, was consecrated at six years old. Rose and Rabbi Barnston had many experiences together.

One of their more interesting experiences was in 1928, when Jesse Jones had brought the Democratic Convention to Houston. As a historical fact, the Convention Center was built in thirteen or fourteen weeks. It was used as a “Music Hall” for many years at the location of the Hobby Center. It was razed in the 1950s to make way for the construction of the new, much more glorious Hobby Cen-

ter. Jones had asked Rabbi Barnston to deliver the opening or closing prayer of the convention, and Rose was sent to take charge of the convention as the hostess. She made arrangements for the greeting of all the guests and had a proper number of “hostesses” available to help all of the guests who were arriving. She took this challenge very seriously on behalf of Beth Israel and the community.

Beth Israel Sisterhood invited Rose to be in charge of meeting and greeting President Roosevelt when he came to Houston to nominate Alfred Smith to be the presidential nominee for the Democratic Party. She arranged to have President Roosevelt, in his automobile, brought in slightly after dark, through a walkway behind the stage to be placed and to be positioned so he could be helped up as he did

not want to be seen in his wheelchair. He was rolled right behind the screen behind the podium and was helped to his feet by an assistant who then escorted him in a dignified manner to the podium where he nominated Alfred Smith for the Presidency of the United States.

At that convention, hundreds of Ku Klux Klan members picketed and demonstrated against the nomination of Alfred Smith because he was a Catholic. Many of these demonstrators were well-known businessmen in Texas. Legendarily, they would also pass, at various prior times, in full uniforms with no masks in front of the residence of Rabbi Barnston, which was then on Fannin Street, and wave to him - “Hi, Rabbi.” Rabbi Barnston knew many of them. Whether they

were antisemitic or not, one can only guess, but it is clear they were certainly not pro-Catholic at this convention.

Beth Israel made a home for Rose Brillling. That home was in her heart until the day she died. Her uncle, Rabbi Heinrich Schwartz, actually preached at Beth Israel in the 1880s after he came from Posen when his father, who was also a rabbi, died. Rabbi Schwartz was a modern rabbi of the Mendelsohn School. He believed that Judaism could be celebrated anywhere in the world as long as there was a minyan. He came to Texas around 1875 and joined nieces and nephew, including Gabriel Schwartz, in Hempstead, where they started a synagogue that held services until early 1940 when a minyan could no longer be obtained.

As secretary of the Sisterhood, Rose became a confidante and had a connection to many of the women in the congregation. She played a special role in their lives and never divulged any of their confidences. She assumed many new roles, including teaching in the Religious School, where she was very loved and respected.

At one point, Rabbi Robert Kahn lived with Rose and her children in her home on Alabama Street until he left for military service during World War II. They also had a close and warm relationship until the day he died. After his return from World War II, the board decided not to re-engage Rabbi Kahn, allegedly because of the opposition to Zionism by the congregation. The real reason may have been that before he left, Rabbi Kahn was speaking about civil rights. Upon his return, the official reason was that Rabbi Hyman Schachtel had been hired to replace him. As a result, Congregation Emanu El began when many congregants followed Rabbi Kahn when he left Beth Israel.

During the war years, Rose, Rabbi

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Barnston, his secretary, and George Fields, the maintenance person, comprised the staff of the Congregation. George, who was Black, was a loyal employee from East Texas, and very respected by congregants and the leadership. One time during World War II, Rose walked into the sanctuary and saw George taking the Torah scrolls out and wrapping them in sheets. She asked him what he was doing. He responded, "Well, aint you heard Ms. Brilling, the Nazis are in Paris!" Thinking it was Paris, TX, George was doing what he could to save the Torahs.

Rose was noted for the beauty of her poetry and for the beauty of her handwriting. For over forty years there were very few certificates written in the name of the congregation that had not been filled out by Rose Brilling.. As she wrote commentaries, she always wrote on her Sisterhood stationery. Some of



Robert Brilling circa 1923.

these original documents are now quite fragile. She wrote an especially beautiful poem on the death of her husband, Robert. It is attached to this story. Remember that this poem was written as a love poem at the time of his untimely death and shows a special romantic and loving connection.

*The rose that grows beyond the wall
Near a shoddy wall a rose once green,
Budded and Blossomed in God's Free
Light*

*Natural and fed by morning scent
Shedding its fragrance day and night
As it grew and blossomed fair and tall
Slowly rising to the loftier height
It came to a crevice in the wall
Through which there shone a beam of
light.*


*Onward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear or pride,
And it followed the light through the
crevices*

Length.

*And unfolded itself on the other side
The light, the dew, the broadening
view*


*We found the same as they were before
And it lost itself in beauties new,
Breathing its fragrance more and
more,*

*Shall claims of death cause us to
grieve*

*And make our courage faint or fall?
Away, let us faith & hope receive—
The Rose shall grow beyond the wall,
Scattering Fragrance far and wide,
Just as it did in day of yore
Just as it did on the other side
Just as it will forever more. *

Guess This Member

Well, no guesses this time –take another good look – you do know this pretty girl and now she is a pretty woman. This little one has been a faithful TJHS Board Member for many years. If there's a football game on a TJHS week-end, she won't be attending our meeting! She chaired a TJHS meeting in her hometown. Good luck!

Email your guess to editor@txjhs.org any time beginning Monday, September 6. Entries received before that date will not be considered. Family members and previous winners and their families are not eligible to participate. Good luck! If you'd like to try and stump the TJHS membership, please send your photo to editor@txjhs.org. 



Century-Old Mezuzah Rescued, Returned to Descendants

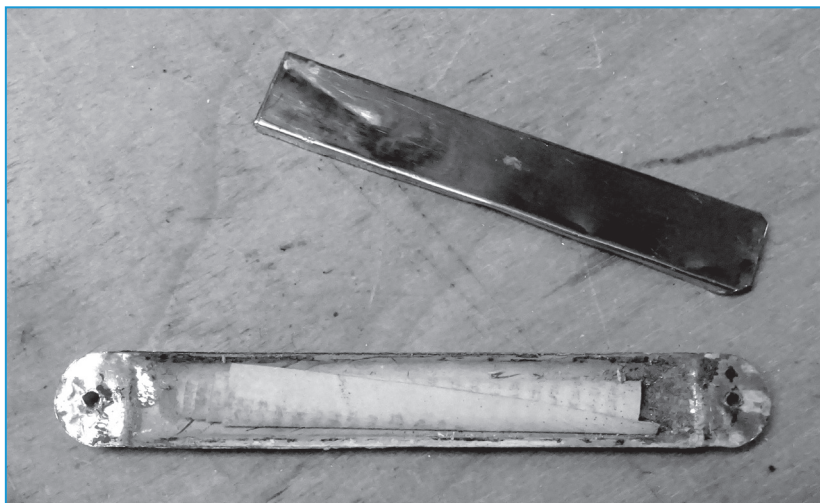
by Hollace Ava Weiner

Originally published on August 2, 2021, and is reprinted from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and JewishInsider.com.

When a Cowtown couple began restoring a ramshackle, century-old bungalow in the Fairmount National Historic District, they realized that attached to a doorway was a tiny, three-inch-long mezuzah—a slender religious object that marks the entry to a Jewish home.

From a title search, they knew that the two-story house at 1717

Hurley Avenue had once belonged to a Jewish cobbler — Wolff Moses, a Russian immigrant who lived there



Mezuzah with scroll. Courtesy Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

from 1920 to 1948. His son, R.D. Moses, born in 1928, had grown up in the house, with its wrap-around front porch and hitching post at the curb.

A downtown shoemaker, Wolff Moses died in 1967. His son, who operated Ajax Glass and Mirrors [and was a long-time board member

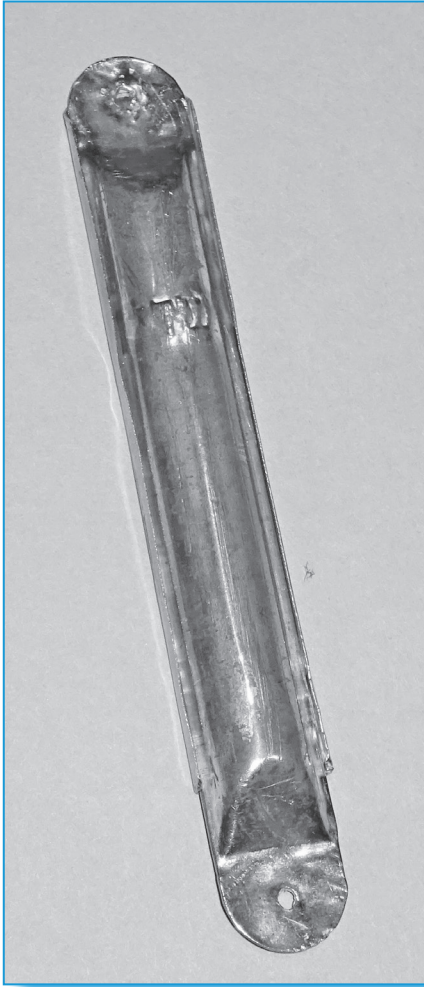
of the TJHS], died in 2009. To track down descendants, the new homeowners contacted the Fort Worth Jewish Archives. By the end of June, they were in touch with Arthur Moses, R. D.'s son, and the custodian of the family's historic photos and memorabilia. Arthur had never been inside the house, but he knew its location. Whenever he and his father had dined on chicken-fried steak at Massey's, an 8th Avenue landmark, they drove to the restaurant via Hurley Avenue. His dad would point out his boyhood home with its gables and half timbers.

Arthur Moses, an internationally-known collector of Houdini memorabilia, understood the intrinsic value of the religious object his grandfather had left behind. "I am a very nostalgic person as was my dad," he said. Within 24 hours, he was at the Fairmount address to meet the new owners and, hopefully, retrieve the mezuzah that his



House at 1717 Hurley Avenue. Courtesy Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

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Mezuzah after cleaning. Courtesy Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

grandfather had affixed to an interior doorway 100 years before.

Literally meaning “doorpost,” a mezuzah is a decorative case that protects a parchment scroll on which a scribe has written Hebrew verses from Deuteronomy. The biblical verses command Jews to affirm the oneness of God and to place these words on the doorposts of their homes.

Inside the Hurley Avenue address, amid dust, peeling wallpaper, piles of new lumber and old bricks jarred from a fireplace, Arthur was directed to a doorframe propped against a kitchen wall. On one support beam, layers and layers of white

paint covered the tiny, oblong mezuzah. A Christian tenant who had lived in the home until last summer used to touch the talisman every time she walked through the doorway, because it made her “feel good.”

Arthur had come equipped with a razor blade and a few small tools. Patiently he scraped away decades of paint caked around the object. Then he gently pried it from the doorframe. Two small nails that had held the mezuzah in place for 100 years gave way to new hands. Quietly, he recited several words from a Hebrew blessing. Although the current homeowners are not Jewish, he promised to buy them a mezuzah of their choosing once the bungalow was restored.

The couple rehabbing the house are Stacy Luecker, who serves on the Tarrant County Historical Commission, and John Ladd, who has rehabbed a house in Rosemont and another in Fairmount. The Hurley Avenue dwelling, constructed in 1911, was built for John Naylor, a rancher. Wolff Moses and his first wife, Rachel, purchased the property in 1920 for \$2,000 and moved in with their five children.

After Wolff’s wife died from breast cancer in 1923, a matchmaker introduced him to Aida Kushovotsky, a widowed immigrant visiting relatives in Dallas. The couple married in 1926. She gave birth to a son in 1928. Much to the new wife’s displeasure, the baby was named Rafael David, in memory of the father’s first wife, Rachel. The new wife shortened her son’s moniker to R.D., and it stuck.

Wolff Moses had immigrated from Minsk to New York in 1903 when he was 26. After three years eking out a living in Brooklyn, an

agency relocated him to Fort Worth. Initially, he worked with another cobbler, a Mr. Feibelstein, for \$9 a week. Within months, he and Feibelstein became business partners. Ultimately, Moses opened his own shoe-repair shop at 107 E. Belknap St. He named the business Liberty Bell Shoe Repair when he moved to 108 W. 9th Street. The shop, which employed 30 people, became a gathering place where bus drivers, cowboys, bankers, and even the minister of the First Baptist Church kibitzed as they waited to catch the trolley.

Wolff was a regular at Con-



Arthur Moses in door frame of house.

gregation Ahavath Sholom, the city’s traditional synagogue located downtown on Taylor Street until 1951. Granddaughter Lynell Moses Norman said that her “Pappa Moses” was a regular at daily prayer services. Undoubtedly, he affixed a mezuzah on each of the doorposts leading into his house on Hurley Avenue and on many interior doorways.

The mezuzah that Arthur Moses removed from the house weighs

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Mezuzah, continued from page 7

“less than a penny” and is fashioned from tin. Later, in his own workshop, he gently rubbed and cleaned the religious object, using very fine steel wool until it glistened. Gingerly, he removed the klaf — the Hebrew term for the parchment scroll inside. The parchment—a thin, transparent writing material made from animal skin—was in mint condition. Although faded, its handwritten text containing 713 Hebrew words remains legible.

However, the three raised Hebrew letters that adorn the mezuzah’s exterior – shin, dalet, yud — are less distinct. Those letters, which spell the Hebrew word Almighty, have been slightly worn down by people who touched the talisman, no doubt out of reverence or superstition, as they passed through the doorway decade after decade.




*Arthur Moses removing mezuzah.
Courtesy Fort Worth Jewish Archives.*

Notes From the Board Meeting, continued from page 1

Letters: The Invisible Ink That Shocked the World,” and Tanaz Muhamed (second place from Plano) for “The Stab-in-the-Back Legend: How Conspiracy-Laden Communication Destroyed the Weimar Republic.” The winning papers will be available to read on the TJHS website (www.txjhs.org). See article on page 11 of this issue.

- The Texas Jewish Historical Society is joining the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society for a conference on the Galveston Movement to be held October 29-31, 2021, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Several TJHS members are on the program, and activities will be available on Zoom.
- The next TJHS Board meeting will be Saturday, October 30, 2021.
- A discussion was held on recommendations made in a discussion paper, “Challenges for TJHS,” prepared by President Lippman, for

the future of TJHS. There was a consensus among the Board Members that TJHS was ready for revitalizing public outreach and updating administrative functions. A motion was made to proceed with preparing a new membership form that correlates with a new electronic membership form with online dues payment on the TJHS Website. Registration would also be made available electronically on the website.

- The Texas Jewish Historical Society *News Magazine* will update its appearance and introduce a new title, *The TJHS Magazine*, in the fall issue.
- A By-Laws Committee will be named to review the TJHS By-Laws, with particular changes to the Election of Officers and Board, and TJHS meetings to reflect the use of electronic balloting and Zoom, respectively. 

Reviving the Name and Flame of Jeannette Miriam Goldberg

by Hollace Ava Weiner

Within months of Jeannette Miriam Goldberg's fatal heart attack in 1935, four nonprofits bearing her name were raising money or touting causes the charismatic Texan had championed during three decades of public service in Philadelphia and across the U.S. It was unthinkable that this "modern Miriam," the longtime leader of the Jewish Chautauqua Society, would ever be forgotten.

- Hebrew Union College heralded its "Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Exchange Lectures," whereby faculty from the Cincinnati rabbinical campus spoke at Yale Divinity School, the Union Theological Seminary, and vice versa.
- The Philadelphia Camp Council created a "Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Vacation Fund" to help Jewish kids go to summer camp.
- A display ad in the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent proposed a nation-



al memorial fund supporting "some Jewish educational endeavor."

- When the Hillel at Penn State College noted the need for Jewish-student loans, the Pennsylvania Federation of Temple Sisterhoods created a "Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Fund" in 1936 to assist.

Today, 86 years after Goldberg's death, all but the latter fund have lapsed. Only the college-loan fund, which morphed into a fund for Jewish teens, keeps Goldberg's flame alive. Administered by Women of Reform Judaism's Atlantic District, the fund helps youngsters in West Virginia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania attend conferences and camps sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism.

In concert with the trend to resuscitate women lost to history, the WRJ Atlantic District is promoting the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Youth Fund by researching this native Texan's accomplishments.

Born in 1868 in the East Texas town of Jefferson, Jeannette Miriam Goldberg was the daughter of Russian immigrants who in 1873 were charter members of the city's Hebrew Sinai Synagogue. She traveled east for college, studying at Vassar and graduating from Rutgers Female Institute before returning to Texas (and for a time to Alabama) to teach in religious and secular schools.

She jumped on board the emerging women's club movement and in

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Photo above: Jeannette Miriam Goldberg. Photo at left: Memorial Fund ad from the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent, April 12, 1935



NMJHS and TJHS Plan “The Galveston Movement” Conference for October in Las Cruces, New Mexico

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has been in the planning stages for several months with the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society for the Conference “West of Hester Street and the Galveston Movement: Jewish Immigration in the Southwest.” The Conference is scheduled for October 29-31, 2021, in Las Cruces, NM, at the Hotel Encanto.


The Conference is now planned as a “hybrid” gathering with in-person

son attendance and a simultaneous streaming/Zoom option. However, if the health and safety landscape due to COVID should change dramatically in the coming months, the Conference would pivot to all virtual with the same schedule of speakers.

A showing of the classic film “West of Hester Street” will open the conference on Saturday afternoon, October 30, followed by a discussion with the filmmakers, Allen and Cynthia Mondell of Dallas. The two-day program will also have outstanding speakers as well as panels of family

members who will discuss how their lives have been affected as descendants of immigrants who arrived in America during the Galveston Movement from 1907 to 1914.

Over the next month, more detailed information will become available regarding hotel accommodations, program schedule, and conference in-person meeting and Zoom registration.

This information will be available on the TJHS and NMJHS Websites, www.txjhs.org and www.nmjhs.org. 

Mazel Tov

to the following
TJHS Members

SUSAN ZACK LEWIS, Immediate Past TJHS President, who was the Parade Marshall for the Rodeo in Big Spring in June, 2021.

DAVID BEER, on the birth of his first grandchild, Gabriel Herschel Beer, on August 5, 2021, in Kansas City. Proud parents are Alex & Laura Beer.

**The deadline for
the November
2021 TJHS
News Magazine
is Friday,
October 29.**

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

We Want Your Stories!

The Texas Jewish Historical Society would like to print your story if you or your family immigrated to the United States from the former Soviet Union, South Africa, India, or other countries. We have received many stories – and still want to include them – from families who immigrated during the earlier part of the twentieth century, but realize that our beautiful Texas history is much more than those stories. Help us tell the rest of the story and contact editor@txjhs if you will include your family's history in the TJHS *News Magazine*.

Save the Date

October 29-31, 2021

Texas Jewish Historical
Society and New Mexico
Jewish Historical
Society Conference, Las
Cruces, New Mexico
Topic will be “The
Galveston Movement”

October 30, 2021

TJHS Fall Board
Meeting via Zoom


Hereford and Plano High School Students Win TJHS Awards at Texas History Day

Two high school students, Siya Bhakta of Hereford High School and Tanaz Muhamed of Plano East Senior High School, each earned a Jewish History Award at the Virtual Texas History Day competition April 24, 2021. Both winning papers will be posted on the Texas Jewish Historical Society website at txjhs.org.

The Jewish History Award is sponsored by the Texas Jewish Historical Society. The First Place award is \$100, and \$50 is awarded to the Second Place winner. This year's winners were both in the Senior Division.

The 2021 Texas History Day is sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association. This year's theme was "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding."


Siya Bhakta's Senior Division paper, "Ravensbruck Letters: The Invisible Ink that Shocked the World" earned First Place for the Jewish History Award. The Texas Jewish Historical Society's judges' comments on the First Place paper, Bhakta's "Ravensbruck Letters," included: "a gripping story, masterfully related," and "though it is difficult to read about Ravensbruck, I am glad that this student...points out the importance

	JEWISH HISTORY AWARD Senior Division	
1 st -	Siya Bhakta Senior Paper <i>Ravensbruck Letters: The Invisible Ink that Shocked the World</i> School: Hereford High School, Hereford Teacher: Richard Lamascus	 
2 nd -	Tanaz Muhamed Senior Paper <i>The Stab-in-the-Back Legend: How Conspiracy-Laden Communication Destroyed the Weimar Republic</i> School: Plano East Senior High School, Plano Teacher: Rhett Carter	
Sponsored by the Texas Jewish Historical Society		

of having historical documentation so that the truth is known."

Tanaz Muhamed's Senior Division paper, "The Stab-in-the-Back Legend: How Conspiracy-Laden Communication Destroyed the Weimar Republic," was awarded Second Place. One judge noted that Muhamed's "Stab-in-the-Back Legend" "hit the nail on the head with the statement, 'Current events in several democratic nations have an eerie resemblance to those in post WWI Germany.'" This paper also won First Place in Senior Division Papers and went on to be judged in the National History Day competition.

This year there were four papers submitted for review to the Texas Jewish Historical Society judges: Willie Braudaway, Jan Hart, Jane Manaster, and Hollace Weiner. "We enjoy reading the papers each year and look forward to rewarding these students' hard work. We would love to see more middle and high school students choosing to make some aspect of Jewish history the focus for their papers for Texas History Day 2022," says Braudaway.

The 2022 History Day theme is "Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." For more information, go to the National History Day website at <https://www.nhd.org/debate-diplomacy-history>. 

Contributions

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

In Honor of

Chris and Robert Adler

From

Annette Corman

In Memory of

Ed Katten

From

Mitzi and Rusty Milstein

A Gift Membership for

Nancy Polk

From

Marilyn Lippman

Please Note:

If you are sending a check to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, please indicate the purpose of the check—dues, gift, contribution, etc.

Meet Your Board

Jules Dorfman Frapart was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and grew up in Brownsville surfing, playing music, and working in the family business. He attended the University of



Texas in Austin, where he met and married his wife, Phyllis (Goldstein). They returned to Brownsville where he opened and ran a jewelry store and a children's clothing store for twenty years. He completed his Bachelor's degree from University of Texas/Brownsville, and was the Textbook Manager for UT/Brownsville for fifteen years. Jules taught Middle School for Brownsville ISD for five years and has sold insurance policies for New York Life Insurance Company after completing his insurance certification. Jules has been active in the Jewish community of Brownsville, and is involved with the Masonic Fraternity. He was recently accepted to membership in the Sons of the Republic of Texas. He belongs to the Chais of Texas, a Jewish Motorcycle Alliance, Texas Club, and before COVID, he made several trips a year of three-four thousand miles on his motorcycle with a masonic riding club. He and Phyllis have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Susan Goodman Novick is a fourth-generation El Pasoan, and has written several books and articles about El Paso Families. She holds a Master of Library Sciences



degree from The Catholic University of America, a Master of Public Affairs

degree from The University of Texas/Austin, and an A.B. in History from Smith College. She is a Certified Archivist who works with individuals, organizations, and businesses to find, save, understand, and explain their history.

Laurie Pink Selzer was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas. Her parents, Gladys and Louis Pink, were



long time members of TJHS. She graduated from the University of Texas in Austin, and has been married to Alan Selzer (also a TJHS Board

Member) for forty-four years. They have three children and five grandchildren. Laurie is a senior marketing strategist for the Meredith Corporation (New York based) working remotely from home. Her career has encompassed journalism, marketing, public relations, business development, and fundraising. Her maternal grandparents migrated to the United States through Galveston and her paternal grandparents settled in Wichita Falls during the oil rush.

Ruthe Berman is from Katy Texas, and attended the University of Texas. She worked at Dow Chemical as a



paralegal for seventeen years, and upon retiring, began volunteering in various organizations. She has two

children and two grandchildren. She likes to travel, cook, play Mah Jongg and read.

Willie Braudaway is a native of Iowa, but has been a Texan since 1990. She is the librarian at Southwest Texas Ju-



nior College in Del Rio. She and her husband, Doug, also a TJHS board member, live in Del Rio. Her passion

is family history and she is a History Consultant for Church of Latter-day Saints. Willie is proud to be the mother of five and grandmother to fifteen wonderful people!

Lynda F. Furgatch was raised in Abilene and now lives in Brownsville. She participated in TOFTY (now



NFTY-TOR). She is married to her husband, Michael Furgatch, and they have two children and three grandchildren. Her many activities

include Sisterhood President; member of Hadassah, hospital volunteer, and helps coordinate Temple social activities. She lived in Puerto Rico for eight months before the hurricane! Lynda has been a TV and radio spokesperson and in commercials since 1975. She has worked in customer service for Ford for twenty-three years and enjoys cooking, exercising, and reading.

Michael Thomas Wolf was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, but

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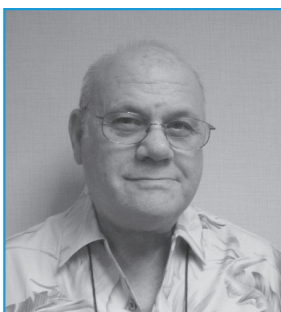
moved to Brownsville, Texas, with his parents, Raymond and Madeleine Wolf.



Michael grew up in Brownsville, where he became an Eagle Scout and was involved

in BBYO. He attended Texas A&M University and was a member of the Corps of Cadets and was commissioned as an Army Officer. He was involved in Hillel, and graduated with a degree in Finance and also earned his MBA from Texas Tech. He moved to Beaumont where he served many years as Treasurer of Temple Emanuel until he became President of the congregation. Michael is Past Chair of the Greene Family Camp Committee, and has served as president of many community organizations. He has thirty-three years of perfect attendance in the Rotary Club of Beaumont and serves on the Rotary Foundation Board. Michael is a partner in Wolf Bunt and Associates, a financial services company. Michael and his wife, Cynthia (TJHS Board Member), have two children and spouses and four grandchildren. He is Chair of TJHS Grant Committee.

Gordon Alan Cizon was born in Kansas City, and grew up in Amarillo, Texas. He was the Librarian for the



Amarillo High School Band. He attended Oklahoma University in Norman, Oklahoma,

and graduated from West Texas State University with an Economics Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis on management and finance. His hobbies are photography, opera, and sailing. He lives in Dallas and is married to Deidre, also a TJHS Board Member.

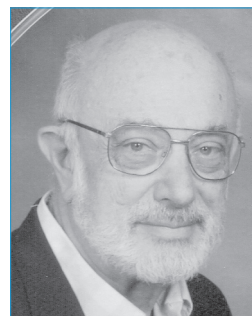
Sharon Gerber is from Houston and married to TJHS First Vice-President Sonny Gerber. They have six children,



each with a spouse, and eight grandchildren—seven of them girls! She works as a psychoanalyst in private practice,

and likes to read, crochet, and exercise.

Jack Solka was born in Mexico City and immigrated to Texas in 1945. He grew up in Corpus Christi. Jack received a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from Texas A&M College and a Masters in Architecture from Columbia University in New York City. He practiced architecture for over fifty years, and had his own firm in Corpus Christi for over forty years. He is married to TJHS Past President and *News Magazine* editor, Davie Lou Solka. They have three sons and daughters-in-law and six grandchildren—one is married, and one is engaged. He and Davie Lou relocated to Austin in 2007 to be closer to their family. In addition to his TJHS work, Jack volunteers in construction management projects for non-profit organizations in Austin. He has been a member of Rotary since 1968, and continues this active role in Austin. He was involved in the



moving of the Brenham Historic B'nai Abraham Synagogue to Austin from Brenham, Texas. As Regional Director for

the Volunteers for Israel Program, Jack assists civilian volunteers from Texas and New Mexico to go to Israel to work in Israel Defense Forces camps. Jack is a member of the Grants Committee.

David Beer, TJHS Past President, was born and raised in Dallas. He worked in the restaurant business for eleven



years before joining the family real estate business. He is in his 38th year of representing buyers and sellers

in real estate in Dallas. David has two sons and one grandson. Alex and his wife live in Kansas City and are teachers in the Kansas City Independent School District. Nate is the manager of The Taco Joint in Dallas.

Howard "Rusty" Milstein, was born in Longview and still lives there. He is retired from Industrial Steel Warehouse and is married to Mitzi Milstein, TJHS Board Member. Rusty is a retired state level soccer referee; Administrator, Treasurer, Lay-leader, and Schlepper for Temple Emanu-El in Longview; and has performed in a community theatre production of "Fiddler on the Roof." He and Mitzi

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From Our Archives

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

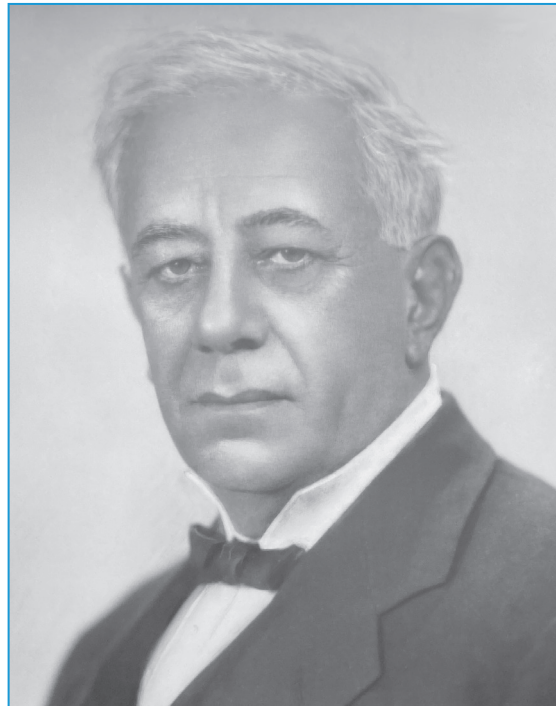
Judge Brachfield of Henderson

by Vickie Vogel

In our last issue, we looked at the life of Judge Norman W. Black. Now we turn to another Jewish Texas judge who held court in an earlier era. Charles Louis Brachfield was born shortly after the Civil War in Vicksburg, Mississippi, but he got here, as the saying goes, as fast as he could. His parents moved to Henderson in Rusk County in 1877, when Charles was six years old.¹ Rusk County (carved out of Nacogdoches County in 1843) had been home to Caddo, Cherokee, and Shawnee Indians, with Anglo settlers entering around 1830. After the Texas Revolution, the population increased dramatically, largely with immigrants from the Old South, attracted by cheap land for farming. The railroad arrived to the area in 1872, making it more attractive to settlers.²

Benjamin Brachfield (1844-1918), from Austria-Hungary, and his wife Yetta (Henrietta) (1837-1920), from Poland, had six children born to them in Mississippi: Jeannette (1867), an unnamed child who was born and died in 1868, Charles in 1871, Frieda (1872), Rosa (1874), and Lena in 1876. The name Brachfield is an Ashkenazic German name meaning “fallow field.”³

In Henderson, the Brachfields were merchants.⁴ Charles attended school at the old Henderson Male and Female School and College, which



Judge Brachfield in Rusk County Courthouse. Photo by Vickie Vogel.

was established the year he was born. It was a fairly large school, with 160 students in 1873 and ten faculty members, including J. C. Mizner who had graduated from the Leipsig Conservatory of Music and studied under Franz Liszt.⁵

Charles was admitted to the bar at the age of nineteen after reading law with Judge W. H. Wood of Waco.⁶ In the 19th century, one could become an attorney by self-study and apprenticeship without a formal legal education.⁷ He practiced law for 47 years, until the end of his life. He held many official posts in Henderson and in Rusk Coun-

ty. In 1897, he was elected Rusk County Judge⁸ and served until 1902. In 1903, he was elected to the Texas Senate. His term ended in 1911. He served on numerous committees, including Educational Affairs, Finance, Judiciary, Labor (Vice Chair), and chaired the Internal Improvements Committee as well as the Stock and Stock Raising Committee. His district included Rusk, Panola, Gregg, Harrison and Shelby Counties. He was elected Senate President Pro Tempore in 1909.⁹

As a member of the Texas Senate, he was the lone opponent in the enactment of the Terrell Election Law, which established the primary election system in Texas.¹⁰ He was mentioned as a potential candidate for lieutenant governor.¹¹ Brachfield was elected an alternate delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Texas in 1916.¹²

Governor Will Hobby appointed Brachfield to fill an unexpired district judge term in 1918, where he, after reelection, remained for ten years. In 1920, a group of friends in Henderson and Rusk County published in the newspaper that Brachfield couldn't campaign because he was at the bedside of his aged mother who was seriously ill. They wrote that they knew Brachfield “as an honest, upright, conscientious man, with a broad and unselfish sympathy for humanity, a

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patriotic citizen, one hundred per cent American, who has served his country with distinction and honor in every position of trust where he has been called.” They praised his record as a state senator and lauded his patriotism during World War I by serving as a member of the State Council of Defense and his fundraising efforts with Liberty Bonds.

“Judge Brachfield has always been on the moral side of every question that came up for discussion...and has proven himself peculiarly fitted for the position [District Judge].” They pointed out the majority of the local bar had endorsed him. There are over forty signatories, including the president of the Chamber of Commerce, the president of First National Bank, numerous merchants, farmers and ministers.¹³

Prohibition was a major topic of the day for progressives, and Judge Brachfield worked to make Rusk County dry throughout his life. This was a popular position in East Texas, but may have hurt his election chances when he ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for Texas

Attorney General in 1926.¹⁴ Dan Moody got the nod, and after one term, was elected governor.¹⁵ Brachfield was the first Jew to seek statewide office, and he came within 3600 votes of forcing a runoff. The Ku Klux Klan had enormous power and influence at this time, making Brachfield’s showing impressive.¹⁶

Active in community and civic service, Judge Brachfield was a director and attorney for Henderson’s second railroad in 1908-9.¹⁷ He was a

Mason and became a Master Mason in 1890 and Worshipful Master after that. He was named Grand Master of Texas Odd Fellows 1916-1917.

During the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1917-1918, he wrote a letter to the Odd Fellows of his attempts to get information on the condition of members in training at Camp Bowie in Fort Worth where the epidemic raged. He visited the camp and arranged for another member to have access to the camp hospital to get information. He also recommended that any members in the armed forces who were delinquent in their dues should be carried on the record until the war ended. If killed in action, his family would receive benefits from a lodge fund.¹⁸ For almost fifty years, he never missed a Grand Lodge meeting.¹⁹

Later on, Brachfield served as Sovereign Grand Lodge of the World from 1926-1941 as well as other high posts. In World War I, he served on the Rusk County Defense Council and chaired the Liberty Loan drive in 1918. His experience in that effort was called into play in World War II as well. In 1947, Henderson church officials put a notice



Former First National Bank where Judge Brachfield lived on the top floor. Photo by Vickie Vogel.

in *The Eagle* newspaper endorsing Brachfield as “a man of strong moral character, unimpeachable integrity, and a citizen who has all his life, or more than forty years...in this town, stood for and advocated all moral issues and questions looking toward the uplifting of civic progress and the betterment of the country. He is honest and conscientious, a lawyer of exceptional ability with the courage to stand by his convictions; a citizen who has lived an honorable and exemplary life, characteristic of a Southern gentleman.”²⁰

Judge Brachfield was active in banking, serving as director of the First National Bank in Henderson from 1918; he was elected president in 1944. Built in 1902 on the site of Henderson’s first commercial enterprise, an 1838 dry goods store,²¹ the upper stories of the bank building were added during the oil boom days under his leadership in 1931. The bank printed its own money until 1935.²² The fifth floor was used as his living quarters. Brachfield never married, but enjoyed a full social life.²³ The historic building at 101 S. Marshall was put up

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TJHS Board Member and former Congressman Martin Frost with picture of his uncle in Rusk County Courthouse.

Photo courtesy General Photograph Collection of Frost Papers at UTSA Libraries Special Collection

for sale in 2018.²⁴

A home-owned bank, Citizens National, called him to duty as its president in the dark days of 1930-1931. The bank is still in existence, but changed its name to VeraBank in 2019.²⁵ Also in 1931, Brachfield was elected the first president of the East Texas Lease, Royalty Owners and Producers Association.²⁶ The discovery of oil meant a return to prosperity for many in East Texas.²⁷

Brachfield was active in community affairs chairing in 1932, for example, the Aviation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce charged with selecting a site for an airport.²⁸ He delivered the graduation class address in Henderson in 1936, telling the students, "Service is the greatest adornment of human life," urging students to compare life to the building of a house. Determine what kind of house you want, and consult knowledgeable

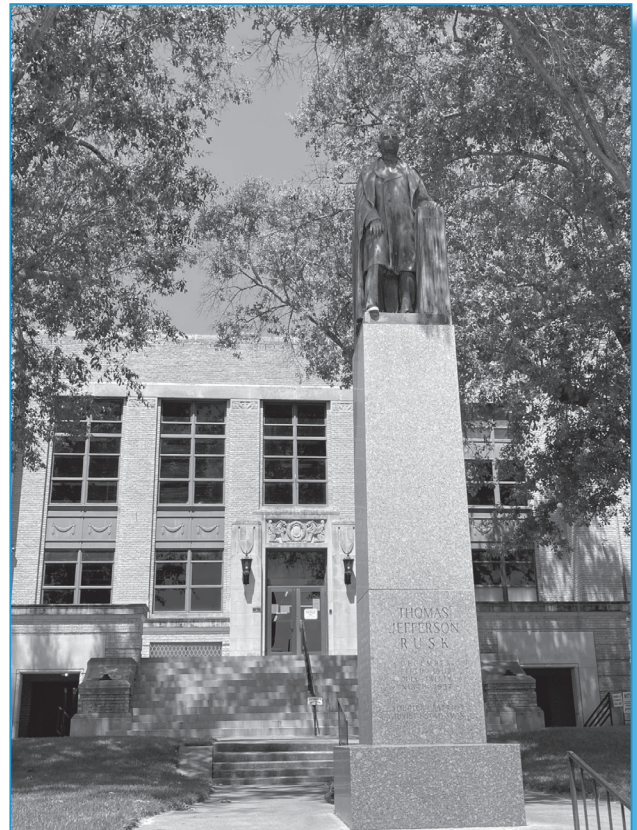
people, build a solid foundation, and place furniture carefully. Paint the house and have an attractive lawn in harmony with its surroundings. The best adornment is service to mankind.

A small community a few miles southeast of Henderson was renamed Brachfield in the judge's honor in 1900, because he made his first campaign stump speech for county judge there, literally standing on a stump. The post office was named Brachfield, but it ceased to operate in 1906. Brachfield never enjoyed a popu-

lation boom, reaching around 80 residents in the 1950s and 1960s. In the 2000 census, the population is listed as 40.²⁹

Around 1940, Judge Brachfield and two other attorneys were honored at a party in Henderson for having practiced law for fifty years. "Each indicates that he is still on the firing lines and bars no foe," said a member of the bar.³⁰

Judge Brachfield died at his home in Henderson on June 6, 1947 after a long illness, and was buried in the Jewish cemetery in Palestine. The services were conducted jointly by a rabbi and a Methodist

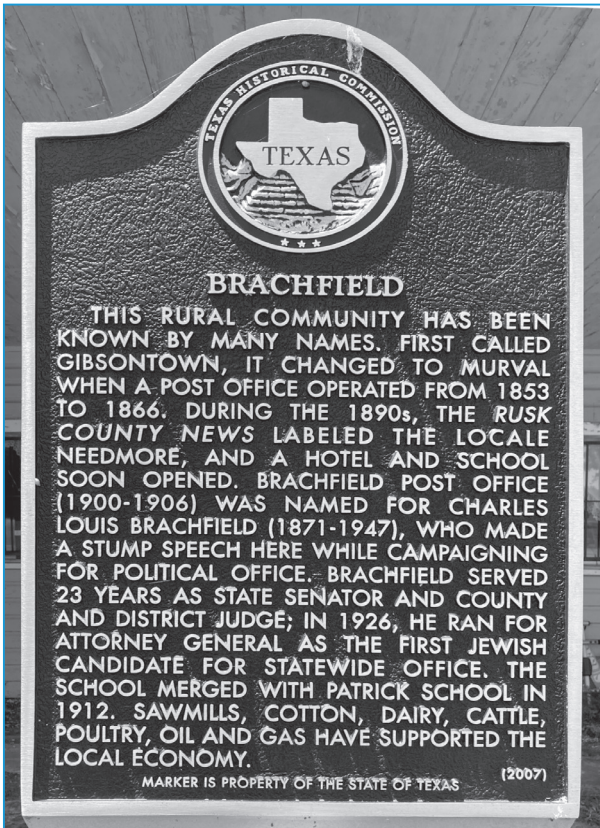


Rusk County Courthouse, Henderson, Texas. Photo by Vickie Vogel.

minister.³¹ The courthouse in Henderson has a large photograph of him in the Fourth District Court. The legal and political community mourned his loss. Former State Senator McDonald Meachum wrote to his Senate colleague William John Bryan to advise him of the death. Meachum had visited Brachfield a week earlier, when he learned he was seriously ill. He called Brachfield "one of the best men I have ever known...(H)e was always considerate of his good friends."³²

Charles Brachfield was survived by one of his sisters, Rosa Sachs. Two of his nephews were his namesakes and practiced law with him, Charles Williams (son of his sister Frieda) and Charles Wolfe (son of his sister Lena).³³ TJHS Board Member and former Congressman Martin Frost is the great-grand-nephew of Judge Brachfield.³⁴

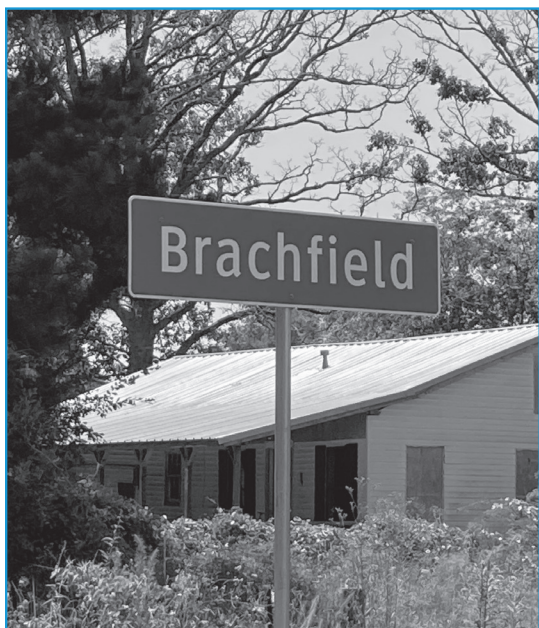
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Brachfield Historical Marker – photo by Vickie Vogel.

Endnotes

- ¹ Box 3A168, Folder 4, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin. Accessed by UTBox. In 1988, historian and TJHS member Ruthe Winegarten received a brief biography of Judge Brachfield from the Rusk County Judge at that time, Sandra Hodges. Judge Hodges, after 24 years on the bench, retired in 2009 and died in 2014. https://tylerpaper.com/news/local/rusk-county-judge-hodges-dead-at-75/article_357b958d-ec59ec-a69c-4434268f9d33.html
- ² <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/rusk-county>
- ³ <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/K8C8-7C5/charles-louis-brachfield-1871-1947>
- ⁴ Telephone conversation with Martin Frost, April 14, 2021.
- ⁵ <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/henderson-male-and-female-college>
- ⁶ <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/brachfield-charles-louis>
- ⁷ <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2012/05/23/tracing-legal-education-19th-century-style/>
- ⁸ The custom was for the youngest lawyer in town to serve as county judge. Martin Frost op.cit.
- ⁹ <https://lrl.texas.gov/legeLeaders/members/memberdisplay.cfm?memberID=2918#bio>
- ¹⁰ *Texas Bar Journal*, May, 1948, p. 295 found in heinonline.org.
- ¹¹ <https://ioof-grand-lodge-texas-pgm.weebly.com/c-l-brachfield.html>
- ¹² <https://politicalgraveyard.com/geo/MS/jewish.html>
- ¹³ *East Texas Register*, Carthage, TX Vol 19, No. 29, July 16, 1920 <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht638306/m1/4/zoom/print/?q=judge%20charles%20brachfield&resolution=6.37901350714559&lat=6560.205726224484&lon=3884.347457676022>
- ¹⁴ Email Martin Frost to author, April 11, 2021.
- ¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Attorney_General
- ¹⁶ <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/brachfield-charles-louis>; <https://www.forbes5.pitt.edu/article/why-do-you-persecute-us>
- ¹⁷ https://www.ttarchive.com/Library/Articles/Timpson-Henderson_19xx_Out-Of-Past.html
- ¹⁸ <https://ioof-grand-lodge-texas-pgm.weebly.com/c-l-brachfield.html>
- ¹⁹ *Texas Bar Journal*, op. cit.
- ²⁰ <https://ioof-grand-lodge-texas-pgm.weebly.com/c-l-brachfield.html>
- ²¹ https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/wm11M9B_First_National_Bank_Building_Henderson_Commercial_Historic_District_Henderson_TX; <https://www.hendersontx.us/DocumentCenter/View/213/Walking-Tour-Brochure?bidId=>
- ²² <http://www.antiquemoney.com/national-bank-notes/texas/old-money-from-the-first-national-bank-of-henderson-6176/> From 1863 to 1929, the Government permitted thousands of banks to issue their own notes under the National Banks Acts of 1863 and 1864. These were called “national bank notes,” and were produced on paper authorized by the U.S. government and carried the same basic design. <https://www.mycreditunion.gov/financial-resources/history-united-states-currency>
- ²³ Telephone conversation with Martin Frost, April 14, 2021.
- ²⁴ <https://hendersonedc.com/former-first-national-bank-historic-downtown-henderson>
- ²⁵ <https://www.verabank.com/verabank>
- ²⁶ <https://texasalmanac.com/topics/culture/jewish/jewish-texans>
- ²⁷ Statman, Jan. *Raisins & Almonds and Texas Oil* quoted in <http://nlsd.net/TexasOil.htm>
- ²⁸ *Henderson Daily News*, April 8, 1932.
- ²⁹ <http://www.texasescapes.com/EastTexasTowns/Brachfield-Texas.htm>; <https://tshasecurepay.com/land-rush/town/1858/Brachfield/>. The town had been named Need-more until discovery that there was another Needmore in Texas.
- ³⁰ <https://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?collection=texbarj&handle=hein.barjournals/texbarj0005&id=236&menutab=srchresults>
- ³¹ <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/brachfield-charles-louis>
- ³² Letter McDonald Meachum to Senator W. J. Bryan, June 11 1947, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht1091297/?q=%5BBrachfield%5D>; <https://lrl.texas.gov/legeleaders/members/memberdisplay.cfm?memberID=2891>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/21566018/washington-carroll-bryan>
- ³³ Wolf is sometimes spelled Wolfe in Robin Richmond’s family tree. <https://www.robinrichmond.com/trees/hbrachfield.shtml>. *Texas Bar Journal* op. cit.
- ³⁴ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/martin-frost> Frost’s maternal grandfather, M. H. Marwil, served as mayor of Henderson. His paternal grandfather, Joe Frost, founded Frost Brothers Department Store in San Antonio. The Marwil Building in Henderson was built in 1885. A downtown fire in 1905 damaged many buildings. For photos, see <https://www.hendersontx.us/DocumentCenter/View/213/Walking-Tour-Brochure?bidId=>



Brachfield, Texas sign. Photo by Vickie Vogel.



The TJHS is Accepting Nominations for Two Outstanding Recognition Awards for the Preservation of Texas Jewish History

Texas Jewish Historical Society (TJHS), founded in 1980, is seeking nominations for Outstanding Recognition Awards in two areas: (1) Significant Historic Site Preservation (first awarded to Leon and Mimi Toubin for the restoration of the Orthodox Synagogue originally in Brenham and moved to Austin, in order to continue as a sacred place for Jewish worship services) and (2) Extraordinary Historic Project (first awarded to Rabbi Jimmy Kessler for the 1980 founding of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, which continues to educate, to preserve stories, and to archive Texas Jewish History).

TJHS now seeks your help to identify and honor those individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact on the preservation of Texas Jewish History. In any given year, awards may be given in each category, not to exceed a total of two awards per year. It is not mandated that either award be given yearly, only when an outstanding accomplishment merits the award. Recognitions as determined by TJHS Award Committee will be presented at TJHS Spring Annual Gathering. Applications must be received by July 15, 2022 and mailed to Awards Chair, Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193 or awardchair@txjhts.org.

Application Form

Date of Submission: _____

Name and contact information of nominee(s): _____

Name and contact information of person(s) recommending nominee(s) for consideration: _____

Category of nomination:



☐ Significant Historic Preservation

☐ Major Historic Project

In the packet that you will return with this sheet as your cover page, please include the following:

- Complete description of the accomplishment
- Reasons that you are submitting this nomination and how you became aware of this accomplishment
- Pictures and other documentation
- Impact of this accomplishment and how it has and will continue to make a difference now and in the future on the ongoing story of the Jews of Texas
- Short bio of nominee(s)

Thank you for helping us recognize deserving individuals!

*Send applications to: Award Chair, Texas Jewish Historical Society,
P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193 or awardchair@txjhts.org.*



The Texas Jewish Historical Society Grant Application

The mission of the Texas Jewish Historical Society is to expand and enhance the knowledge and understanding of the Jewish presence in Texas and the history of Jews from their first arrival in the State to the present.

We solicit applications for research projects that are in this spirit.
Deadlines for submission are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1.

Application Form

The Texas Jewish Historical Society will consider applications from individuals and non-profit organizations in any written or visual media. Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Contact Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Cell: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Title and Description of project.

Briefly outline personal and professional background information that support this application.

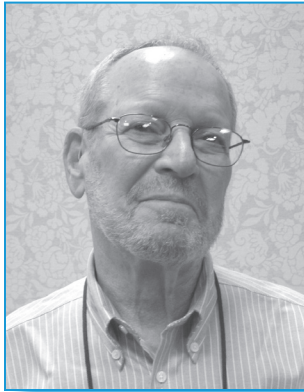
What is the anticipated budget for the project? Are you seeking additional support from elsewhere?

Please detail the timeline of your project.

Completed project must acknowledge TJHS support. A copy or account of the completed project should be submitted to the Society's archive at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Send applications to: TJHS Grant Committee: P.O. Box 10193, Austin TX 78766-0193, or email to grantchair@txjhs.org.

are the main reason there is still a congregation in Longview. They have three children, Randy, Jeff and Amy.



Rusty attended the University of Texas, Austin, and was a member of Phi Sigma Delta Fraternity. He


was President of TJHS 2010-2012.

Barbara Rosenberg, Past TJHS President, lives in Sugar Land, Texas, with her husband, Ben, TJHS Treasurer. She is a native-born Texan who grew up in San Angelo and is a first generation American. Her family owned the Hollywood Shoppe and Boston Store in San Angelo. She attended the Uni-

versity of Texas, Austin, and graduated at age twenty, when she married Ben. They moved to Houston and she attended University of Houston graduate



school for a Master's degree in Speech Pathology. She has worked in schools, hospitals, and has had

a private practice. Barbara visits Jewish hospital patients as a volunteer of Houston's Jewish Chaplaincy, is a docent for the Fort Bend Museums, is a member of a citizen's advisory committee (CAP) for a chemical company, and is a former member of the Ft. Bend County Historical commission. Barbara enjoys flower arranging and gardening and is Treasurer of the Sugar Land Garden Club. 


the 1890s gravitated to the newly chartered National Council of Jewish Women. She organized the Council's first Texas sections in Tyler, Dallas, Gainesville, Beaumont, Waco, and Fort Worth. Then she carved out a volunteer role as NCJW field secretary, traveling cross-country to organize chapters and motivate Jews who had grown indifferent to Judaism.

Noting her success, the Jewish Chautauqua Society headquartered in Philadelphia hired her in 1905, initially as field secretary, later as executive secretary. For 30 years, she organized study circles, assemblies, and correspondence courses in Judaism. She assigned Jewish scholars to speak at college campuses, counseled young rabbis, established synagogues at farm colonies in New Jersey and the Dakotas, and championed occupational therapy for the disabled.

She never forgot her Texas roots. In written articles for the American Hebrew and in various Jewish "Who's Who" compendiums, she always listed her residence as Jefferson, not Philadelphia.

Described by contemporaries as both engaging and intimidating, Goldberg fit the Progressive Era profile of a professional woman. Role models like Hadassah's Henrietta Szold demonstrated what a well-educated, single woman could accomplish in the new field of social service.

Goldberg is buried in Jefferson's Mount Sinai Cemetery. Rabbis from Philadelphia, Shreveport, and Texarkana officiated at her funeral. A plaque on a wall at the old Hebrew Sinai Synagogue—now a garden club and summer theater—describes Goldberg as a "high priestess" of Judaism.

The WRJ Atlantic District is accepting contributions to the Jeannette Miriam Goldberg Youth Fund at www.wrj-atlantic.org. 

Using the News Magazine Index

by Vickie Vogel

Were you thinking of writing about your cousin for the *News Magazine*, but weren't sure if your other cousin had already done so? Were you looking for a photo of a particular rabbi? Did you see an article you wanted to share with a friend but can't remember what issue it was in? Would you like to see if your family has appeared in the *News Magazine*? Now there is a way to do all that and more.

The index to the TJHS *News Magazine* contains almost 20,000 entries, and the table of contents lists the titles of all the articles. Using it is a snap. Go to txjhs.org and click on TJHS News Magazines at the top of

the home page. There is a large blue box labeled Index to TJHS News Magazines. When you click it, you will see a search box on the right and instructions for using the index.

Here are some tips for reading the entries. If two people are joined by "and," that means they are married or partnered. Couples' names are listed in the order they were given in the news magazine, so sometimes the index says "Ben and Barbara" and sometimes it says "Barbara and Ben." The names listed in parentheses are their children listed in the article. There may be other children not listed. If the

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Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience

by Davie Lou Solka

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience opened its doors to the public in May, 2021. Located at 818 Howard Street, in the heart of the New Orleans Arts District, the Museum is the only museum in the United States that is dedicated to telling the specific story of the Jews who came to live in the South. Kenneth Hoffman, Executive Director, says that you don't have to be Southern and you don't have to be Jewish to understand the story. Everyone has been a stranger in a strange land at some time in their lives – or their ancestors were. It's also a window on American history with the telling of Jewish life in the South.



The interior of the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

Artifacts found in the museum were originally located in a building at the Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, MS, but when the camp needed the building in 2012, the collection was placed in storage. Plans were begun under the leadership of Macy Hart, who had been Director of Jacobs Camp and founder of the Museum, for another location for the Museum. It was found in New Orleans because of its Jewish population, tourism industry and the fact that it did not have a Jewish-themed attraction. Today, this beautiful Museum is a testament to the hard work of many people.

There are exhibits that highlight early Jewish settlers to the area dating back to 1585, when the first known Jewish colonist


arrived in Roanoke, VA. Also included is a trunk carried in 1905 by an immigrant to Galveston, as well as a photograph and information on Rabbi Henry Cohen, who was one of the organizers of the Galveston Movement.

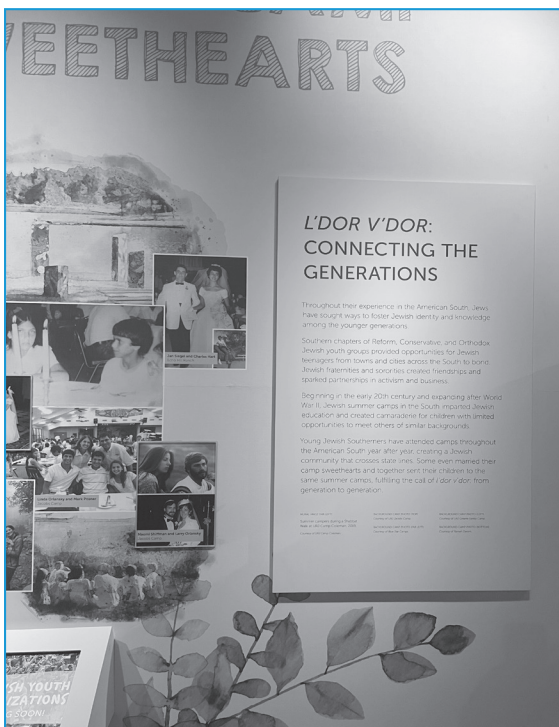
The Museum exhibits are based on themes with three main galleries in the permanent exhibit area downstairs. Specific exhibits will be located on the second floor, and interactive exhibits will be placed throughout the museum so that everyone can have a hands-on experience.

Current Jewish life is represented with Jewish artifacts, including Torahs, shofars,

kiddish cups, candlesticks, and fifty replicas of stained-glass windows from synagogues throughout the South and Texas. The civil rights movement and antisemitism in the South is represented along with oral histories, photos and documents from World War II survivors and military. Local Jewish celebrities are not forgotten with a special exhibit showcasing them. TJHS members Jan and Charles Hart are a part of the exhibit called "Summer Camp Sweethearts."

The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Mondays, and admission is \$15 for adults; \$13 for seniors, students and active military; \$10 for children 6-17; and free for children under 6.

The official Opening Celebration was planned for October, 2021, but that has been postponed due to COVID. Check the museum's website for more information on exhibits, membership, and donations: www.msje.org. 



"Summer Camp Sweethearts" exhibit with Jan and Charles Hart.

Welcome New Members!

Richard & Merriessa (Ratkin)

Anton

5005 Lodge View Lane
Austin, TX 78731

Wendy (Weil) Atwell

312 Pearl Pkwy #4902
San Antonio, TX 78215

Esther (Seide) Friedman

2420 W. Village Green Circle
Conroe, TX 77034

Margo (Spitz) Marbut

225 Kennedy Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78209

Nancy Polk

4261 Royal Ridge
Dallas, TX 75229-5461

Bob Weltman

17723 Sunmedow Dr.
Dallas, TX 75252

Calvin Wolff

806 Chadbury Lane
Seabrook, TX 77586

Directory Changes

Annette (Adler) Corman

240 Manderville Lane #410
Dallas TX 75231

Helen Wilk

Village of Southampton
5020 Kelvin Dr. #1601
Houston, TX 77005

If you have any changes in your information, please send them to membership@txjhs.org

Using the News Magazine Index, continued from page 20

names are joined by commas rather than the word “and,” it means they are siblings or otherwise related, or the relationship is not obvious from the magazine article. Where possible, maiden names or previous married names are included.

Store names are often listed unless they are the same name as the owner. If you are looking for a store, try the owner’s name or the town name. Organization names are listed if they were significant to the article. If the article is about a person who was also a Mason or a Rotarian or belonged to B’nai B’rith, that is probably not listed because it was such a small part of the article. If there is significant information about B’nai B’rith, etc. in an article, it will be listed in the index.

If the person was a rabbi, the first name is preceded by R. unless they are only listed by their initials and it would look confusing (R. E. W. would be listed as Rabbi E. W.). Synagogues and temples and congregations do not include that designation unless needed for clarity, e.g. Temple Israel. If there are a great many synagogues of the same name, the city name follows. There are multiple spellings for Emanu-El, so be sure to scan the list to find the one you are

looking for.

Every photo is identified as a photo, since researchers are often looking for photographs. Where a typo was suspected, I tried to research the name, but if there was a typo in the original, it may be continued into the index.

Columns of new members are not listed individually in the index, since it contains personal information intended for the membership only. The table of contents, however, indicates where lists of new members can be found. This is useful if you are trying to remember when you joined TJHS!

If you are looking for a person with different versions of the name, try both versions. Looking for Rusty Milstein? Try Howard Milstein. Looking for Richard Friedman? Try Kinky Friedman. In some articles, the writer would include a list of family names remembered from the home town, with no other information. These are often listed this way: Families: Stein, Rosen, Jacobs, Green, Ehrenberg. If you are looking for evidence of your own family name, be sure to also search under “Families.”

Where significant or useful information is given about a town, the town receives a separate listing.

We hope you enjoy using the index and can find information easily. 🇺🇸

Correction

In the last issue (May, 2021), it was reported that Congregation Knesset Israel in Baytown was awarded a grant for a two-year project enabling the congregation to stay healthy by investing in their buildings. It was awarded from the National Park Service, not the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We apologize for the error. 🇺🇸

TJHS on Facebook

TJHS on Facebook: Search *Texas Jewish Historical Society* on your device and “Like” us!





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TJHS Photo Exhibits

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has three museum quality photo exhibits, with explanations depicting early Jewish life and contributions.

The exhibits highlight the lives of Jews in Texas since the early part of the century.

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



freight via UPS in waterproof boxes to your location. There will be the expense of prepaid freight back to the shipper via UPS ground.

The exhibits have been displayed in various locations in Texas and other parts of the United States, including Rhode Island and California. They are an excellent program for schools, congregations, and other organizations. To schedule the exhibits, please contact txjhs_exhibits@txjhs.org.

Texas Jewish

Historical Society

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Join the Texas Jewish Historical Society today! Or use this form to update your contact information. Mail this form with your check made payable to the Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. Please PRINT.

☐ YES! Count me in! My dues are enclosed.

☐ Please **update** my information.

Check the Appropriate Box(es)

☐ New Member

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☐ Special interests, professional background, talents _____

Who suggested TJHS to you?

Name: _____

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