

# The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



May 2022

## TJHS Returns to Hybrid Meeting In-Person and on Zoom in Bonham

by Sally Drayer

After two and a half years, the Texas Jewish Historical Society will hold an in-person/hybrid (Zoom) meeting! The last in-person meeting held by TJHS was in January, 2020, in Laredo, Texas. Because of COVID, TJHS, along with the rest of the world, went to Zoom meetings and programs. Welcome Back, TJHS! The next meeting in Bonham will be welcomed by members greeting old friends and conducting business in-person **July 15-17, 2022**. A Zoom link will be provided for those who cannot attend.

Do you know about the Institute of Southern Jewish Life? Do you know that several years ago graduate students researched Jewish communities throughout the South? If not, go to the ISJL website, and click on the tab that says "Departments," then click on "History." To the left will be a drop-down box and at the top is the "Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities." States are listed with towns that had a Jewish presence. As Historian/Archivist for TJHS and member of the program committee, when we are looking for a city to host a TJHS meeting, I click on Texas. Cities are listed alphabetically, and I noticed that one of the "B" cities listed in Northeast Texas is Bonham. Bonham is only an hour from Dallas where I live. I wasn't aware that at one time there had been Jewish families there. So, I started investigating and...

I contacted several people in Bonham and have made trips there to plan our Summer, 2022 board meeting. The people that I have met are thrilled that we're coming to Bonham. The Jewish community disappeared by the 1930s, but while there, were an integral part of the community. We'll be going to the Jewish section of the Willow Wild Cemetery, which is across the street from the hotel; will tour "Mr. Sam's" (the late Speaker of the U.S.

*continued on page 21*



*Morris Rosenbaum's Bonham Bargain House, circa 1882. Photo courtesy ISLJ.*



*Cohen & Goldman's Cheap Clothing Store in Bonham. Photo courtesy Fannin County Historical Commission*

# Content

## Quarterly Magazine

The Texas Jewish Historical Society 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Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents.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.

### Editor

Davie Lou Solka

### Layout/Design Editor

Alexa Kirk

### Proof Readers

Sally Drayer, Jan Hart, Jack Solka, L. David Vogel, Vickie Vogel

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

Message from the President.....	3
We Need your Stories.....	3
Notes from the Board Meeting.....	4
Notes from the Annual Gathering.....	5
Richard G. Santos: A Courageous Historian and Good Friend.....	6
by Mel Eichelbaum	
From Our Archives: The Poet Rita Barr.....	8
by Vickie Vogel	
The Blue House	
by Mark Birnbaum .....	12
TJHS Trip to Poland and the Baltics .....	15
TJHS Awards Nomination Form.....	16
Grant Application Form.....	17
Meet Your Board.....	18
In Memoriam .....	20
Seeking Immigration Stories.....	20
Donate Your Family Records.....	21
Grants Awarded to Gabrielle Dryer and Mark Birnbaum.....	21
Welcome New Members.....	22
Speakers Bureau .....	22
Contributions.....	22
Board of Directors .....	23
Past Presidents .....	23
Photo Exhibit.....	23

## Save the Date

**July 15-17, 2022**

Hybrid Board Meeting  
in Bonham, Texas  
and on Zoom.

## Save Postage:

Notify TJHS if your address changes or if you will be away from your home when the TJHS Magazine will be delivered.

**The deadline for the August 2022  
TJHS Magazine is Friday, July 15.**

# Message from the President

by Sheldon Lippman



*You gotta laugh.*

Or, perhaps I should be more precise: We NEED to laugh. I need to hear a funny joke, read a funny story, watch a funny movie. I have completed my first year as President of TJHS without one in-person meeting because of the Covid pandemic. In this same year, there has been a rise of anti-Semitic activity in Austin and around the world. There is a senseless war in Ukraine, whose president is Jewish and a former comedian. But no one is laughing; in fact, you want to cry.

So, to lighten the mood and swallow a spoonful of sugar, I want to share a funny story. I have never written it down but have told this

story publicly a few times, once at a TJHS Board Meeting where I participated on a panel about growing up Jewish in a small Texas town. It is a true story that takes place in Temple Israel in my hometown, Schulenburg.

When I attended the University of Texas at Austin in the early 1970s, I would sometimes bring friends to Schulenburg for the weekend. My mother would love to give guests a guided tour—Wolters Park, Ike Lippman & Son Dry Goods Store (the family business) on Main Street, my elementary and high schools, the Von Minden Hotel (tallest building in town at four floors), the Cozy Theatre, and the Myrna Loy Apartments (named after a local family's daughter, not the 1940s film actress).

One weekend, I brought a friend, Tom, to Schulenburg. Tom got the full tour through this German-Czech community, with the final and most important stop at Temple Israel. Tom got the history about how this building for the Reform congregation was built in 1951. As it turned out, Tom had never been in a synagogue before. My mother, the *shamus of the shul*,

was proud to show off and explain all items of Judaica in the building. Tom was impressed by the solemnity of the sanctuary; the Eternal Light; and the four ornately carved, high-backed chairs flanked by two seven-branched candelabras adorning the *bimah*.

My mother, always eager to show off all the treasures of the temple, opened the two wooden doors to The Ark whose interior was lushly covered in gold quilted satin fabric and thick ivory-colored silk cording and tassels.

And with a great deal of pride, my mother told Tom, "This is **The Torah.**" Wide-eyed, Tom exclaimed, "And you have it!"

This story always makes me laugh. Do you have a funny story that happened in your synagogue or at a holiday meal at home? Certainly, you must have a story (like I do) about somebody walking through the door as it was opened for Elijah at Passover and scaring all the kids and some of the grown-ups!

Such stories are important to share at this time or, frankly, any time. We NEED to laugh! 🇺🇸

## We Need 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](mailto:editor@txjhs) if you will include your family's history in the TJHS Magazine.





Row 1 – Mel Eichelbaum, Sheldon Lippman, Audrey Kariel, Sally Drayer, Joyce Davidoff  
 Row 2 – Vickie Vogel, Sharon & Sonny Gerber, Pacey Laves, Gayle Cannon, Marc Wormser  
 Row 3 – Bob & Susan Zack Lewis, Janice Gerber, Marilyn Lippman, Shana Bauman, Barbara & Ben Rosenberg  
 Row 4 – Jan & Charles Hart, Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, Paula Stein, Davie Lou Solka, Hollace Weiner  
 Row 5 – Amy Milstein, John Campbell, Joan Linares, Susan Novick, Michael & Lynda Furgatch

## Notes from the Board Meeting, April 3, 2022

- Two grants were awarded. Mark Birnbaum received a \$5,000 grant to help finish a film documentary on “The Blue House” in Dallas. The Blue House was the home of Max Rosenfield, a Jewish businessman and civic leader in Dallas. (See story on the House and Max Rosenfield elsewhere in this issue.)
- Gabrielle Dyer, a Ph.D. student at Texas A&M, received a Grant of \$500 for her dissertation project. The project is to help her travel along the Texas-Mexican border to explore Jewish family settlement histories.
- Total membership now stands at 505.
- Articles from immigrants to Texas from South Africa, Russia, and other countries during the 1970s and 1980s are welcomed for publication in the *TJHS Magazine*. Send information to [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org)
- The bylaws amendments were approved electronically, as well as the Proposed Slate of Officers and Board of Trustees.
- The Summer Board Meeting will be a hybrid one on July 15-17, 2022 in Bonham, Texas.
- Barbara Rosenberg presented programs at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston, and in San Angelo.
- Plans are underway for a TJHS trip to Poland in May, 2023. Contact Vickie Vogel at [vickvogel@yahoo.com](mailto:vickvogel@yahoo.com) for information.

# Notes from the Annual Gathering Zoom Meeting

## April 3, 2022

- David Katz presented a program entitled “Yiddish: Not Just Your Bubbe’s Language Anymore!” and Hollace Weiner presented “Secrets in the Yiddish Minutes” of Fort Worth’s Congregation Ahavath Sholom.
- Texas Jewish Historical Society Officers for 2022-2023 and Board of Trustees for 2022-2024 were elected by electronic voting by the membership. Officers are President, Sheldon I. Lippman, Austin; 1st Vice-President, Joan Linares, Baytown; 2nd Vice-President, Susan Novick, El Paso; 3rd Vice-President, Janice Gerber, Houston; Recording Secretary, John Campbell, Austin; Corresponding Secretary, Amy Milstein, Frisco; Treasurer, Ben Rosenberg, Sugar Land; Historian/Archivist, Sally Drayer, Dallas and Parliamentarian, Susan Zack Lewis, Big Spring. Board of Trustees elected for 2022-2024: Elaine Albin, Rockport; Doug Braudaway, Del Rio; Marlene Eichelbaum, San Antonio; Melvin Eichelbaum, San Antonio; Anita Feigenbaum, College Station; Michael Furgatch, Brownsville; Sonny Gerber, Hous-

ton; Henry Greenberg, San Antonio; Jan Hart, Temple; Jeffrey Josephs, Austin; Marilyn Lippman, Dallas; Jane Manaster, Dallas; Hy Penn, Kingwood; Jack Solka, Austin; Paula Stein, Houston; David Vogel, Austin; Betty Weiner, Houston; Hollace Weiner, Fort Worth; Michael Wolf, Beaumont; and Joyce Wormser, Pearland.

- Proposed bylaws were approved by electronic voting.
- Total membership is now 505.
- Summer Board Meeting will be held July 15-17, 2022, in Bonham, Texas, in person and on Zoom.
- President Sheldon I. Lippman presented a “State of the Society” report. He said that the Board had supported the Challenges Ahead for TJHS report he had presented, last year and began to implement some of the Challenges. Some of these included the upgrading of the TJHS Website, improving online functionality with membership registration, dues payments, and registrations for future meeting. He stressed that the strongest tool continues to be the volunteers who

serve on committees, the Trustees, and Officers. He expressed special thanks to three individuals whom he felt responsible for three key functions vital to TJHS, and awarded a virtual Super Volunteer Pin to the following members:

**Rusty Milstein** who has helped build the TJHS Texas Burial Database, a highly significant resource that provides historical records for many families in Texas.

**Marc Wormser**, who has been a one-man membership committee for over a decade. He initiated the current membership software that requires constant updating with each new or departing member, dues notifications, address changes, and more.

**Davie Lou Solka**, who, as Editor of *The TJHS Magazine*, has pulled together an informative and attractive magazine for four times a year.

- TJHS member, Allison Lippman Kuban, conducted the Installation of Officers and Board of Trustees, and asked each one to make themselves known on the Zoom screen.




## Does TJHS Have Your Current Email Address?

Is your email address current? Has it changed since the 2012-2022 directory was printed? Have you changed email providers? If so, please send an email to [membership@txjhs.org](mailto: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. 

# Richard G. Santos

## A Courageous Historian and Good Friend by Mel Eichelbaum

Richard G. Santos was born on January 14, 1940, and was a couple of years my senior. Although exposed to several different versions of Christianity as a young child, he was eventually raised as a Roman Catholic, which was his professed faith when I met him. I first met Richard in the early 1960s when he was attending St. Mary's University in pursuit of his degree in history. I was also a student there majoring in accounting and business administration before I experienced my awakening moment that pushed me on to law school and to becoming a lawyer. At that time while working at the Bexar County Clerk's office, Richard had already been officially designated as the Bexar County Archivist. As we both had an interest in Texas history, a friendship developed, and I even had the opportunity to accompany him on some short weekend digs and explorations when my college and work schedule would allow it.

In 1967, I married Marlene, and after completing law school and satisfying my military obligation, we settled in San Antonio with me working as a staff attorney for the Bexar County Legal Aid Association. Richard was married to Sylvia Santos, and they had a daughter by the name of Cynthia Ann Santos, who everyone called Cindy. Marlene and I taught Richard and Sylvia how to play contract bridge, and Richard became addicted to the game. On many a Saturday evening, we shared a dinner at our apartment or at their house, and afterward we would end up playing bridge into the wee hours of Sunday morning. And between hands we engaged in interesting conversations

discussing Richard's favorite topic—history. We became very good friends, and we were honored when Richard and Sylvia asked us to become Cindy's godparents, which under their Roman Catholic religion was a major big deal. Being Jewish we would have to appear before and be interviewed by Archbishop Flores in order that a special dispensation could be obtained, which it was, and we ended up becoming her godparents.

Our families exchanged holidays, with us going to their place for Christmas and with them coming to our place for Hanukkah and Passover. Indeed Richard felt rather inspired by and somehow especially connected to our Passover Seder. It was at one of our Seders that I first learned that when he was a child of around ten he was told by his maternal grandfather, with whom he had a close relationship, that his lineage was that of being a Portuguese Jew, as his ancestral family initially escaped from Spain fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. He always had felt a curiosity and special feeling for certain things that were Jewish, and he thought that someday he really ought to investigate his ancestry further in that regard. I encouraged him to do so, commenting that he was probably one of the best historical researchers I ever knew.

By that time Richard's expertise in history had been established and recognized. Not only was he teaching it at several universities in San Antonio, but also he had authored a number of historical texts which were published. He had written for the Texian Press regarding their publications of the Battles of Texas (1967), the Six



Richard G. Santos

Flags of Texas (1968), and the Rangers of Texas (1969). In two of those works Richard wrote the narratives covering and describing the artwork in the books; whereas, in the other he was one of the contributing subject chapter authors. By that time he had also written and published his own book entitled: *Santa Anna's Campaign Against Texas—1835-1836*, Texian press, 1968, perhaps one of the most authoritative and well-documented versions of the Texas revolution that I've ever read. In that respect I believe that he was the first Texas author to write that Davy Crockett did not die fighting in the battle of the Alamo, but rather was captured and executed afterward. At that time that was considered historical heresy, and it took courage for him to write it. I recall his concerns and worries when he realized he was about to incur the wrath of the Daughters of the Texas Republic and other Texas historians who adopted the more traditional "Disney version" which prevailed at the time and which I had grown up with.

I can recall when we first moved to San Antonio in the 1950s, my father took me to visit the Alamo. Dis-

continued on page 7



ney's version of Davy Crockett at the Alamo had aired in 1954, and I had a distinct vivid vision of Davy Crockett (played by Fess Parker) all donned up in buckskin, coonskin cap included, fearlessly waving his favorite rifle (Old Betsy) over his head against the attacking Mexican soldiers, just before he died. When I talked to Richard about my dramatized version of Davy's demise he just laughed.

My second cinematic exposure to the battle of the Alamo was the John Wayne's version, which had its debut in San Antonio in 1960. Richard was actually designated a special consultant for that movie. So when I asked him about the historical accuracy of John Wayne's portrayal of Davy Crockett, who after being fatally wounded died by blowing up the Texian's powder in the Alamo chapel so as to prevent it from being captured by the Mexicans, his response was that it was totally pure fiction and that it had been wholly pushed by John Wayne pursuant to his own peculiar concept of dramatic license.

It wasn't until 2004, some 36 years after Richard's book, where the cinematic version of the battle of the Alamo portraying Billy Bob Thornton as Davy Crockett showed his being captured at the end of the battle and then executed afterward. Of course, this scenario finally reflected Richard's version as presented in his book, which was supported by documentary evidence he had discovered in his extensive research.

So, in May of 2001, in Austin, Texas, Richard marched to the microphone, and although he was 61 years of age at the time, he introduced himself as "an angry young man" and

began his talk before the Texas Jewish Historical Society (TJHS) at their 22nd annual gathering and boldly announced: "I'm very proud that my ancestors chose to be burned at the stake." Richard was pointing out that Sephardic Crypto-Jews, who held true to their Jewish religion and culture had risked and sometimes faced the ultimate punishment of death by the Spanish inquisition. According to David Garcia, a reporter for the *Austin Chronicle* at the time, the audience was deeply enthralled by his speech. The reporter also described Richard's anger as genuine, as was his pride sincere. Throughout his career, Richard felt a sense of bitterness because he believed that the traditional teaching of Texas history had over-anglicized the story, without giving due regard to the contributions of the Latinos. After years of painstaking research, Richard viewed himself as having a lineage being that of a Sephardic Crypto-Jew, and having a Jewish heritage just as valid and legitimate as anyone else in the room.

He then proceeded to summarize his latest and last literary work which was his book entitled *Silent Heritage—The Sephardim and the Colonization of the Spanish North American Frontier—1492-1600*, New Sephard Press, 2000, which he wrote after 25 years of extensive research. In this well-documented work he traced the history of Spanish Sephardim Crypto-Jews fleeing the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) due to the dreaded inquisition, with many of them going to the Caribbean, then to Mexico, and finally to the Texas frontier. It is likely that Christopher Columbus' interpreter, as was a goodly number

of Hernan Cortez's Conquistadores, were Sephardic Crypto-Jews. Each step of the way these Jews were pursued by the abhorrent inquisition, and they continually kept on moving toward what was the latest "frontier" (to places where the inquisition hadn't arrived yet) in order to be free of that formidable danger so they could continue to practice, in their own subtle way, their Jewish religion and culture. In his book, not only did Richard trace his own descent, but also that of many prominent and influential Mexican-American individuals, such as Congressman Henry B. Gonzales, Justice Carlos Cadena, State Senator Bob Vale, State Representative Joe Bernal, and City Councilman Pete Torres. In naming these few, he indicated that they also had such an ancestral background in common with his own. All of these persons had made significant contributions to the San Antonio community. As chance would have it, I had dealings with all of those mentioned, never even realizing that our heritage backgrounds included a common Jewish thread.

In reading Richard's book, I also discovered that he had found historical documented evidence that supported a comment that I recalled him making during one of our Seders. Richard had asserted that the first *matzah* in Texas was likely much more akin to the Tex-Mex flour tortilla than the "crackery substance" that we eat as *matzah* today. In his forward, Richard dedicated his book to his ancestors, some of whom died "at the flames of ignorance and religious intolerance" and [to the] generations to come. At the salutation, before placing his name, he wrote:

continued on page 9

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

### The Poet Rita Barr

by Vickie Vogel

---

**This column is based on information available in our archives, supplemented by some online research. If you have corrections or additions to this information, please submit them in writing to the TJHS editor at [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org). We want our archives to be as complete and accurate as possible.**

---

Sara Borschow Bormaster found success in staggeringly diverse arenas—from politics to poetry, from law enforcement to lyrics. She was an award-winning poet, author, law enforcement professional, and political activist from San Antonio.<sup>1</sup> Her goal was to make America more poetry minded, believing that a person who participates in the everyday life of his community has the understanding necessary to reach the hearts of all people. She also was a song writer and penned with Harold Gordon a popular tune called *Let's Make Love Like the Eskimos*. Entered in the Song-Hit Guild Contest, the judges of which included Paul Whiteman, Kay Kyser, Billy Rose, and Guy Lombardo, the song merited favorable comments. Her poetry, under the pen name Rita Barr, was published in various anthologies and magazines, and won prizes in several national contests.

Sara was active in civic, phil-



*Sara Borschow Bormaster, a.k.a. Rita Barr.*

anthropic, dramatic, and political affairs, serving as alternate national committeewoman of the Young Democrats of Texas in 1938 at its convention in San Antonio. Sara's picture was featured in the *San Antonio Evening News*, as she was one of the leaders in the movement to have the

convention held there.<sup>2</sup> She served as executive secretary of the Texas State Democratic Executive Committee in the 1940s. She was Vice-President of the First Voters League of Texas, and state secretary of the Women Democrats of Texas. She was the first woman ever elected sergeant-at-arms of a

**continued on page 9**



State Democratic Convention.

Newspaper clippings in our files reveal that Sara was secretary of the Women's Division of the Texas Democratic Party. Attending a women's meeting in Waco in 1936, Postmaster General James A. Farley was to dedicate the new post office. His secretary consulted Sara as to what color suit, shirt and tie he should wear. He wore a sedate blue ensemble and "beguiled the ladies with his broad Irish smile and blarney."<sup>3</sup>

Sara was one of the secretaries of the Young Democrat Convention around that time, and was charged with sending questionnaires to delegates for planning purposes. They included a date bureau for eligible bachelors. Asked if they preferred blondes, brunettes or redheads, one delegate answered, "Yes."<sup>4</sup>

The daughter of the first governor of Oklahoma, Frances Haskell Edmonson, was a mentor for Sara in the field of women's rights. Sara met her at a Young Democrats meeting and they conducted letter-writing campaigns to elected officials and Democratic women. Bowen's Bus Lines, which became Bowen Trailways, gave them free transportation to organize women until they had a Democratic Committeewoman in all thirty-one senate districts in Texas. Sara was a leader in the fight to secure equal representation for women on political party councils. She was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Women's Participation in the New York World's Fair in 1939. Sara mingled with the most prominent Texas Democrats, including Lyndon Johnson. Sara was elected

Executive Secretary of a Democratic Convention and was pictured with Senator Tom Connally in the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.<sup>5</sup> Sara and Edmonson also crusaded against marijuana and worked to get a "women's bill" passed.<sup>6</sup>

The TJHS sponsored book *Deep in the Heart: The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews* contains two photographs of Sara. In one of them, Sara is talking with St. Louis, Missouri Mayor Bernard S. Dickman during a Young Democrats Convention around 1945.<sup>7</sup>

As a deputy sheriff in Bexar County, Sara served as associate editor of the Sheriff's Magazine, the official publication of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas. Another of her many hats was as deputy district clerk and secretary to the District Clerk of Bexar County.<sup>8</sup> She was one of only three women in the history of Oklahoma at the time to be appointed Lieutenant Colonel on the staff of the governor.

We have copies of newspaper clippings of her exploits in our archives, but nothing about her family or personal life. TJHS member Dorothy Borschow and I tried to track down her connection to Dorothy's husband's family, and we eliminated some trails, but much of the following is my best guess. If you knew Sara Borschow Bormaster's family, I hope you will write a letter to our editor and fill in some gaps.

Sara Borschow was born in Galveston on August 3, 1910 according to one source. She died September 5, 2003.<sup>9</sup> According to the 1940 census, however, she was born in 1915 and was living in San Antonio with her

"con orgullo y terquedad," which translates to: "with pride and stubbornness." On May 18, 2001, just days after his speech to the TJHS, Richard presented us with an autographed copy of his book, the inscription reads as follows: "To my dear friends Mel & Marlene Eichelbaum, who were there at the very beginning when this journey began. Hope you enjoy this tidbit of our history."

Richard eventually divorced Sylvia, had a number of subsequent marriages also ending in divorce, and he finally married Sally Santos, who was Jewish and to whom he remained married until his death. According to Sally, he converted to Judaism before his death. He died on February 22, 2013, and was buried as a Jew in Pearsall, Texas. Rudi Rodriguez who was a prominent San Antonio businessman and the founder of the Hispanic Heritage Center of Texas, referred to Richard stating, "At the end of the day, he said some things that needed to be said." Rest in peace my friend.



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

parents Emanuel and Rebecca, her brother Sidney (23) and sister Pearl (19).<sup>10</sup> This is where the details get murky. Sidney (1916-2006) and Pearl (1920-2007)<sup>11</sup> are listed as children of Emanuel and Rebecca on findagrave.com, with other siblings Rachel Leah Borschow Nathan, Miriam Borschow Chodorow,<sup>12</sup> and Lucy Elizabeth Borschow Hoffman. Sara is missing.<sup>13</sup> Another mystery is that when Sara wrote historian Ruthe Winegarten in 1988, she mentioned her sister Pearl and her sister Ella. Ella is not listed among the family siblings.<sup>14</sup> In this letter, Sara wrote she was recuperating from “necessary surgery” and her sisters, Pearl Schaffer and Ella Spiegel, were caring for her in Dallas, along with her brother-in-law Joe Spiegel. She planned to return to Joplin (where she and her husband lived) when she recovered, since her husband was ill. The letter mentions her sister Miriam and Miriam’s daughter Ima Joy came to visit her and they examined family archives that historian Ruthe Winegarten was interested in.

Sara tells a little about her father, Emanuel, writing that her family roots were in Russia, her father having come to the United States during the reign of the last Czar. He lost an eye from being kicked in the face by a Cossack’s horse during a pogrom. He never discussed it, but spoke lovingly of Russia and its people. However, he used to wake up screaming during Sara’s childhood. His stated memories were all beautiful: Russia’s air was pure, the strawberries were sweeter, the waters of the River Dwina in which he swam as a boy were “clear and invigorating.” Russians had taken the family into their home to protect them from persecution.

Rebecca, Sara wrote, came from

England but was of Russian extraction.

In April, 1938, someone, presumably Sara, wrote a post card from Oklahoma to Ima Joy Chodorow. Signing it “Love, Bubu,” she announces she has been made a policeman in Tulsa. Sara took extension courses from the University of Mexico in San Antonio, and traveled in Mexico, learning fluent Spanish. She wrote of her many mentors, including Sophie Bodenheimer, President of the National Council of Jewish Women in San Antonio when Sara was President of the Junior Council. Bodenheimer was principal of the Beth-El Sunday School, which Sara attended and taught kindergarten just after her confirmation.

I believe Sara married Ted Bormaster of Dallas, but I couldn’t confirm how or when they met or wed. Ted’s parents were Sara Kowal Bormaster (1896-1972) and Morris Bormaster (1889-1985) of Joplin, Missouri. Morris was born in Lublin, Poland in 1889 and had been in Joplin since 1910 or 1911. He operated many businesses in the area and owned historical buildings including hotels and bank buildings. Morris and Sara had two sons, Ted of Dallas and Leon of Houston.<sup>15</sup> I connected Ted to Sara through online records of a lawsuit of Ted and Sara Bormaster who had moved from Joplin to Dallas.<sup>16</sup> Since Ted’s parents lived in Joplin and Sara’s sisters lived in Dallas, it seems a likely assumption. The pleadings in the lawsuit state Ted was a victim of manic depressive psychosis and became an anti-social recluse, refusing to communicate with family and friends. He was bedfast and unable to attend to business. His depression lasted eight years. He refused

medication for fear of becoming a drug addict. His depression ended suddenly in September, 1983 which he attributed to prayer intervention. Sara managed the family business during his illness. This history was detailed in excuse for failing to file timely pleadings in the lawsuit.

Ted was born in Missouri in 1916 or 1917 and was single and living at home, as was his younger brother Leon, in the 1940 census.<sup>17</sup> He died in 2002 in Joplin.<sup>18</sup> Perhaps he owned Ted Bormaster Sales Co. in Dallas, which closed in 1963.

We know more about Sara’s professional life than her personal life. She started writing poetry at the age of ten, and composed hundreds. In 1946, the *San Antonio Evening News* called her one of the city’s rising young poets and lyricists. She used the pen name Rita Barr. She formed the name from Sarita, a diminutive of her own name plus the first syllable of her surname. At this time, she was a deputy district clerk at the county courthouse. Ted Florita, the bandman, wanted to write music for some of her song poems. She was published in nationally-rated poetry magazines in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

One of her greatest accolades was winning first place in a national poetry contest sponsored by *Embers* magazine of New York. The collection which won was called “Beyond Remembering.”<sup>19</sup> Many of her poems were published in national magazines. She was an associate editor of *The Raven*, a magazine and the official organ of the Avalon Poetry Shrine of Corpus Christi. She also won first prize in a Shakespearean sonnet contest conducted by *NOW* poetry journal.<sup>20</sup> She won the John Milton Smithers Book

continued on page 11

Award and published poems in other magazines. In 1988, she was a recipient of the Golden Poet Award for her poem “That Joyful Tomorrow,” which was dedicated to Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan in gratitude for their efforts to bring about peace and understanding. A special show in all the awardees’ honor was held at the Anaheim Hilton in California.

Another news clipping shows Rita Barr with Warren Hull, host of the popular TV show, *Strike It Rich*, which she visited while on vacation in New York City, helping a polio-stricken youngster who wanted to win money for a television set.

Sara Borschow Bormaster, aka Rita Barr, would probably like this article to end with some of her actual poetry.

---

### That Joyful Tomorrow by Rita Barr

**Let the taproots of justice and truth sink far deeper  
than stones that are dropped in a bottomless pool;  
and let each son of man be his brother’s keeper  
in a world whose law is the Golden Rule.**

**Let the children grow old without knowledge of hating,  
for hate is the offspring of envy and fear;  
then the sweet wine of peace which the world is awaiting  
will flow from those hopes that our hearts have held dear.**

**There will be no more boundaries, notations, no races...  
but all men, as brothers, will walk in the light  
with uplifted hearts and glad, radiant faces  
extolling the ultimate triumph of right.**


**And never again will there be want or sorrow,  
and never again will a child be afraid—  
then, come, let us welcome that joyful tomorrow—  
the day we have longed for...and hoped for...and prayed!**

---

#### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all information is from Box 3A169, Folder: Poets, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.
- <sup>2</sup> *San Antonio Evening News*, May 20, 1938 “Pay-as-You-Go Government Offered as Platform Plank to Young Demo-

crats.” Box 3A169 op cit.

- <sup>3</sup> Undated and unnamed news article, San Antonio, Texas, p. 13A. Farley was appointed by FDR and served from 1933-1940. <https://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/pmg-farley.pdf>. [https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM-W36Z\\_76701\\_Former\\_Post\\_Office\\_Waco\\_TX](https://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WM-W36Z_76701_Former_Post_Office_Waco_TX).
- <sup>4</sup> Unidentified, undated news clippings.
- <sup>5</sup> George Godoy, “A Little Bit of Everything,” undated, in TODO.
- <sup>6</sup> Letter Sara Bormaster to Ruthe Winegarten, March 5, 1989. Box 3A169 op cit. Connally was a Senator from 1928 to 1953, so the photo is from that time period.
- <sup>7</sup> Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schechter, *Deep in the Heart: The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews*. Eakin Press: Austin, Texas, 1990, pp. 213 and 141.
- <sup>8</sup> “Miss Sara Borschow,” *Avalon Annual*, San Antonio, Texas; October, 1941.
- <sup>9</sup> <http://www.isfdb.org/cgi-bin/ea.cgi?111136>.
- <sup>10</sup> <https://www.archives.com/1940-census/sara-borschow-tx-110870152>
- <sup>11</sup> Pearl’s first husband was killed in the war in 1945. Her second husband died of ALS in 1964. Her last husband, Morris, died in 1985.
- <sup>12</sup> Miriam was the mother of long-time TJHS archivist, Ima Joy Chodorow Gandler who died in 2010. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/95793819/miriam-chodorow>.
- <sup>13</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68154693/sidney-borschow>. Sidney’s daughter Nancy died in 1991 at the age of 36, three years after receiving a double lung transplant. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68154695/nancy-forderer>.
- <sup>14</sup> There is an Ella Siegel born in San Antonio and died in Dallas in the right timeframe but no other family is listed. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/11225392/ella-spiegel2>.
- <sup>15</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58466835/morris-bormaster>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/58466795/max-bormaster>.
- <sup>16</sup> <https://www.casemine.com/judgement/us/59148d04add7b0493453c171>.
- <sup>17</sup> <https://www.archives.com/1940-census/ted-bormaster-mo-48537341>.
- <sup>18</sup> <https://www.archives.com/1940-census/ted-bormaster-mo-48537341>.
- <sup>19</sup> Godoy, *ibid*.
- <sup>20</sup> *ibid*.
- <sup>21</sup> See <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1989-09-02-vw-1343-story.html> for an alternate view of the significance of this award. 



# The Blue House

by Mark Birnbaum

Early one morning in 2016, an excavator was discovered parked in front of the sole remnant of Dallas' 19th Century Jewish community, poised to demolish the structure. Known as the Blue House, the 138-year-old home, occupied almost continuously since its construction in 1884, was about to be torn down for a parking lot. One scribe called it "the Joni Mitcheling of Dallas."

A deep taproot of history anchors the Blue House to Dallas' Cedars neighborhood, which became a favored residential location for successful merchant class Jewish families arriving on the new railroad to Dallas, beginning in the mid-1880s. At its height, the Cedars was home to five



*The Blue House, Dallas*



*The Blue House, at its original location on Griffin Street in Dallas.*

continued on page 13



*Demolition equipment in front of The Blue House.*

synagogues and was known as “Little Jerusalem.”

In the early 1950s, a new Interstate slashed a 6-lane trench through the Cedars, separating it from downtown Dallas. Among the buildings razed in its path was one of the city’s oldest synagogues, Temple Emanuel. The Blue House was spared,



*Sanger Brothers Store*

left perched above the very edge of the freeway, the last house standing of the once-thriving Jewish community. The Cedars neighborhood began a steady decline after the coming of the freeway, from which it has only recently begun to recover.

An architect who officed across the street from the Blue House saw the demolition equipment parked in the yard and called a friend in the Cedars Neighborhood Association, who called the Director of the nearby historical park, who called the head of the local Preservation Society, who called the Preservation Office at City Hall, who called the Landmark Commission, who called Time-Warner Cable which owned the property and was intent on tearing down the house to expand its site next door, all in an hour and a half. “At that point,” said Katherine Seale, Chair of the Dallas Landmark Commission, “it’s all hands on deck!” The city posted a “Stop Work Order” on the house to halt any further action on the site, while everyone caught their collective breath.

The Dallas Morning News col-



*Max and Jenny Rosenfield*

umnist Robert Wilonsky and his son visited the house the next day. “The moment you stepped inside,” he said, “you realized you were in something more than a century old. I came to



*John Rosenfield*

*continued on page 14*



## The Blue House, continued from page 13

find out it was a significant home in terms of journalism, in terms of Judaism, and what this home represented in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was extraordinary!”

“When I heard that the house was threatened, and started to look into it,” said historic preservationist and historian Carol Roark, “I realized that it had a story that was really the story of Jewish Dallas.”

“This house was kind of a refugee, up on a hill. I immediately knew it had to be saved,” said Mark Martinek, a local developer who took an interest in bringing the Blue House back to its former glory. Time-Warner (now Spectrum) responded to the uproar to save the house, offering to pay to have it moved to a nearby lot so the 19th century home could begin a new life in the 21st century.

The Blue House was built for Max Rosenfield. Charming, hard-working, sharp-as-a-buggy-whip Max Rosenfield, from Wissig, Prussia, was brought to Houston by his parents in 1865. He began his career in America as a cash boy at Sanger Brothers Department Store and wound up as a member of their board of directors.

Max married Jenny Lind Kramer, from Louisville, Kentucky, who was vitally interested in the arts and soon became active in clubs and charity work as a founding member of the Dallas Literary Circle and the Council of Jewish Women.

Jenny gave birth to a son, John, who as a child played with neighbor Stanley Marcus. John Rosenfield later became the arts journalist for the *Dallas Morning News* from the 1920s to the 1950s and brought architect Frank Lloyd Wright to Dallas to build the Dallas Theater Center. Jenny helped start the Free Kindergarten movement and became an advocate for the protection of child laborers.




*Relocating The Blue House to its new location on Browder Street in Dallas*

And thus began a history of social justice associated with The Blue House. An active supporter of Reform Judaism, Max served on the Board of Directors of Temple Emanu-El was elected the Temple's President.

In order to save the house from demolition, it was pried from its 19th century foundations and moved

11 blocks to a lovely corner lot on Browder St., the same street where it was originally located. Mark Martinek's restoration of the home will be completed this spring.

Mark Birnbaum Productions is producing a documentary on the story of The Blue House, which should be completed this year. 



# TJHS Trip to Poland and The Baltics

**MAY 27, 2023**

## 14-Day trip

## Optional 5-Day Extension to St. Petersburg and Moscow

From \$3,834 + airfare  
from your departure city  
(14-20 people—price  
depends on number of  
registrants.)

*Includes breakfast daily  
and six dinners, guide, 10  
tours, and deluxe coach.*

New travelers who reserve their spot have 60 days to change  
their mind and receive a full refund.

## For full itinerary & sign-up:

**<https://www.grouptoursite.com/vickievogel>**

*There may be a DISCOUNT depending on number of registrants*

*For details contact Vickie Vogel, Travel Chair at [vickvogel@yahoo.com](mailto:vickvogel@yahoo.com).*



Warsaw Rising Museum  
Wolf's Lair - Vilnius, Lithuania  
Museum of Occupations and  
Freedom Fights  
Palaces, castles, gardens  
Auschwitz/Birkenau  
Oskar Schindler Factory  
Synagogues  
Warsaw Ghetto  
River Boat Ride  
Riga, Latvia  
Tallinn, Estonia  
Food, beer, cider tasting  
National park scenic walk





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

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

TJHS now seeks your help to identify and honor those individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact on the preservation of Texas Jewish History. Only one award per year can be given in each category; but it is not mandated to be given yearly, only when an outstanding accomplishment merits the award. Recognitions as determined by TJHS Award Committee will be presented at TJHS Spring Annual Gathering. Applications must be received by July 15, 2022 and mailed to Award Chair, Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193 or [awardchair@txjhs.org](mailto:awardchair@txjhs.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@txjhs.org](mailto:awardchair@txjhs.org).  
[www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.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](mailto:grantchair@txjhs.org)  
[www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org).*



# Meet Your Board

**SHELDON I. LIPPMAN**, President, grew up in Schulenburg and attended the University of Texas, Austin, where he earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree. He began his communications career in Washington, D.C., working at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (1975-81). He returned to UT/Austin to get a M.A. in TV-Film and was media director for Keep Texas Beautiful (1981-87). He returned to Washington where he worked at the National Academy of Sciences on a PBS science documentary series and for the next thirty-plus years at the World Bank as a writer/editor. Sheldon returned to Austin in 2017 in “semi-retirement.”



**JOAN TETER LINARES** is a retired elementary teacher who taught for thirty-two years at Harlem Elementary School in Baytown, Texas. Joan grew up in Baytown and learned about Texas Jewish Historical Society from her parents, Don, who is a past president, and Gertrude Teter. She is President of Congregation K’Nesseth Israel in Baytown and treasurer of the Baytown Chapter of Hadassah. She and her husband, Ruben, have three daughters, one son, and eight grandchildren. Joan is serving as 1st Vice-President of TJHS.



**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. Susan serves as 2nd Vice President of TJHS.



**JANICE GERBER**, 3rd Vice-President, lives in Houston and says “due to World War II, was born in Louisiana,” but considers herself a Texan from birth. After World War II, her family moved back to Houston and she attended schools in Houston. At San Jacinto High School, she was on the rifle team as ROTC sponsor and won All City College competition. Janice attended Sophie Newcombe college, and after her marriage to David, Cornell University. They lived in Heidelberg, Germany, for two years while David served in the Army, and then they moved back to Houston. Janice is active in Hadassah and other Jewish organizations. She has worked as a Jewish community professional and as a political fundraiser. She and David have three children, and ten grandchildren, ranging in age from ten to eighteen.



**JOHN P. CAMPBELL**, Recording Secretary, lives in Austin. He received a B.A. from Tulane University and a M.P.A. from the LBJ School at UT-Austin. 1984-1986 he was on the staff of the Texas Select Committee on Higher Education. 1987-2004 he was a staff member of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. In 2005 he became the Executive Director of the Inter-Academy Council in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He retired from this position in 2014. John is also the Web Master for the TJHS web site.

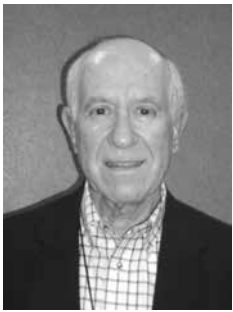


**AMY MILSTEIN**, Corresponding Secretary, is from Frisco, and grew up in Longview. She graduated from the University of Texas/Austin. She has been teaching for twenty-three years – English for fifteen and now she teaches Introduction to Culinary Arts. Amy loves to travel and has taken several trips with TJHS. In her spare time, she like to scrapbook, read and attend movies. She has been involved with TJHS for many years and is the daughter of Mitzi and Past President Rusty Milstein.



continued on page 19

**BEN ROSENBERG**, Treasurer, was born and grew up in El Paso. He attended the University of Texas/Austin, and graduated with a BBA in Accounting in 1967. After graduation he moved to Houston and joined a CPA firm until his retirement in 2015. Ben is a Past Chairman of the Houston Jewish Community Foundation, and serves on the board of other charitable organizations based in Houston. He is married to Barbara, Past President of TJHS, and they enjoy travelling when they can.



**SALLY DRAYER**, Historian-Archivist, is from Dallas, and is a Past President of TJHS. She grew up in Alice, and has three children and one granddaughter. Sally is a retired teacher and substitutes in the Richardson Independent School District. She volunteers at the Dallas Museum of Art for the Arts and Letters Live Program; is on the board of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Guild, and is a CASA advocate. Sally currently serves as Meeting Chair.



**SUSAN ZACK LEWIS**, Parliamentarian, and Immediate Past President, is from Big Spring, and is married to Bob Lewis, aka Tumbleweed Smith. They have two sons and four grandchildren. Susan is involved in many civic activities in Big Spring. She and Bob have owned Multi Media Advertising for forty years, where she serves as Technical Director when Tumbleweed has a speaking engagement. She has a degree in Interior Design.



**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 had his own architectural firm in Corpus Christi for over forty years. He is married to TJHS Past President and *The TJHS Magazine* editor, Davie Lou Solka. They have three sons and daughters-in-law and six grandchildren – two are married. He



and Davie Lou relocated to Austin in 2007 to be closer to their family. In addition to his TJHS work, Jack has volunteered 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. Jack served as a regional Director for the Volunteers for Israel Program, which assists civilian volunteers from Texas and New Mexico to go to Israel to work in Israel Defense Forces camps.

**JAN SIEGEL HART** grew up in Dublin, Texas and is a grandchild of immigrants from Russia that were part of the Galveston Movement. She attended the University of Texas, Kilgore Junior College, and Lon Morris Junior College. She and Charles Hart (past TJHS President) met at Echo Hill Ranch in 1960, and were married in 1961. They have three children and six grandchildren. Jan participated in several productions at Temple Civic Theater and sang with Sweet Adelines, Int. for many years. She is the author of three children's books based on her family histories. For over twenty-five years she has performed a one woman show as "Hanna, the Immigrant" for groups across the nation. Her presentation was selected for Texas Commission on the Arts, Touring Program in 2001-2003. Jan has served in many positions of Texas Jewish Historical Society, and currently is co-chair of the Speaker's Bureau. She is proud to be part of five generations of women who are members of Hadassah.



**SONNY GERBER** is married to Sharon, also a TJHS Board Member, and they have been married forty years. They have six children and nine grandchildren. Sonny is retired and spends his time managing real estate investments, volunteering, and running errands. As he says "If you're married, you understand."



**MARLENE EICHELBAUM** is now retired after having served as a Paralegal/Office Manager in her husband, Mel's, law practice for twenty-five years. Prior to that she taught Middle School and High School Math for eleven years. She is now involved with the National Council of Jewish Women, working with Voter Registration, cooking, baking, and of course, playing Mah Jongg. Marlene enjoys visiting old synagogues, and looks forward to the opportunity to do this with TJHS, and her husband, Mel, who is also a TJHS Board Member.



**MEL EICHELBAUM** is a retired attorney and practiced law for over forty years. He is a published author, having published the book *The Legal Aid Lawyer*, in 2019. He enjoys speaking to Law Schools and civic groups about his book and the significant civil rights and poverty law reform cases in which he was engaged. These events are described in his book. Mel is interested in History and photography. He is married to Marlene, also a TJHS Board Member.



**WILLIE BRAUDAWAY** is a native of Iowa, but has been a Texan since 1990. After nearly twenty-eight years in Del Rio, she and her husband, Doug, also a TJHS Board Member, are retiring to the Farm in Karnes County. Willie is a retired librarian with a passion for building family trees and serves as a Family History Consultant for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.



Willie is proud to be the mother of five and grandmother to seventeen wonderful people! She serves as Texas History Day Chair for TJHS. 🇺🇸

## TJHS on Facebook

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



## In Memoriam



**DAVID H. HOFFMAN**, former vice president of TJHS, died February 23, 2022 in Evant. He is survived by his wife, Binnie, daughters, Shay Hoffman, Casey McCreary; brother, Joel (Crickett) Hoffman; one grandson and many nieces, nephew, and cousins.



**STEVEN KESSELMAN**, TJHS member, died March 2, 2022, of Rio Rancho, NM. He is survived by his wife, Debra (Kane) Kesselman, daughter, Rachel Kesselman, sister, Ilene Kesselman, and several cousins.



**ERVEN ROVINSKY**, TJHS member, died February 26, 2022, in Dallas. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Robyn Rovinsky Mirsky and Rabbi Michael (Selina) Rovinsky; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**MILLIE ZALIM**, TJHS member, from Corpus Christi, died January 29, 2022. She is survived by her daughter, Jackie Zalim, of Dallas.

**May their memories be a blessing.**


## Seeking Immigration 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](mailto:editor@txjhs) if you will include your family's history in *The TJHS Magazine*.



# Donate Your Family Records

Donate your family records to our collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas. Items you can donate are numerous. Below is a list that you could consider. Call the Center before you take any items and be sure to indicate that you want them included in the Texas Jewish Historical Society collection.

- **Artistic Materials**—posters; drawings; photographs.
- **Business Papers**—no active records that are needed for operation. correspondence; ledgers or record books; classified files, financial records such as receipts, invoices, and inventories; legal records such as contracts, deeds, court records; flyers; calendars; schedules; posters; memos;
- **Literary Productions/Writings**—essays, poetry, works of fiction, and speeches.
- **Organizational Records**—charters, membership lists, minutes, yearbooks, programs, press releases, correspondence, newsletters, newspapers, and brochures.
- **Personal Papers**—family trees; histories; letters; diaries; journals; passports; naturalization papers; birth certificates; death certificates; records and certificates of marriage, circumcision, consecration, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or Confirmation; war records; recorded or written oral history, interviews, or memoirs; legal records such as wills, estate materials, deeds, court records, and contracts; photographs and photo albums, identified or unidentified.
- **Scrapbook materials**—report cards, graduation certificates, invitations, programs.
- **Printed Materials**—newspapers, books, pamphlets, posters, and maps.
- **Religious Materials**—Synagogue records such as minutes, programs, bulletins, record books, and membership lists; prayerbooks; hymnals; photographs or photo albums, preferably identified; and cemetery records.
- **Sound Materials**—Music on disc, cassette tape, or sheet music. 

## Grants Awarded to Gabrielle Dryer and Mark Birnbaum

The Texas Jewish Historical Society approved two grants at the April 3, 2022, Board Meeting. A grant of \$500 was awarded to Gabrielle Dryer for travel expenses to gather details of Jewish communities that settled along the Texas-Mexican border. Another Grant of \$5,000 was awarded to Mark Birnbaum, Dallas, for the completion of a film documentary on The Blue House in Dallas, Texas.

## 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.

### Bonham, continued from page 1

House of Representatives, Sam Rayburn) home, library, and museum. At the conclusion of the board meeting on Sunday, we will cross the street to go to the cemetery and have a short service to consecrate the Jewish section.

I (along with members of the Fannin County Historical Commission and the Willow Wild Cemetery Association) are seeking help in locating members/descendants of the Jewish families that are either buried in the Willow Wild Cemetery or lived in Bonham or near-by Honey Grove. Their names are: Morris Rosenbaum; the Rhine (at one time spelled Rein) brothers David, Abraham (he's buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney), and Samuel. Other Jewish families that at one time lived in Bonham are: Englander, Klappholz, Cohen, Goldman, Henry and his brother Marks Levine, and Hermer. The Cohen family also had a business in nearby Honey Grove.

If you think you may be related to the families that once resided in Bonham, or Honey Grove or know of friends that could be related, please contact me at [archivist@txjhs.org](mailto:archivist@txjhs.org).

Mark the weekend of July 15-17, 2022 on your calendars for return of TJHS's summer board meeting in Bonham. The Sam Rayburn Museum and Library, part of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, is hosting a private reception for TJHS on Friday, July 16, 5:30 to 6:00 PM, come and go at the Museum. The invitation is extended to TJHS by Executive Director of the Briscoe, Dr. Don Carlton.

# Welcome New Members!

**Mark Birnbaum Productions**



**Allen & Rita (Nelkin) Blumenfeld**



**Toby Fram Joachim**



**Jeff LeVine (not Levine)**



**Gary Libman**



**Michael & Julie (Goldberg)  
Lowenberg**



**Barry H. & Rosalyn Margolis**



**Betty (Tounton) Slomosky**



**Brian Stone**



**Jackie Zalim**



**Harry & Nancy Eneman**



**Joyce Garb**



**Reuben & Maxine Grinstein**



**Ray & Barbara Kalmans**



**Sara Kesselman**



**Nora Laufman**



**Douglas & Pamela Neimand**



**Ito & Marion Perl**



**Andrew Rabinovich**



**Shirley Rich**



**Barbara Spigel**



**Jerry & Sylvia Wilkenfeld**



If you have any changes in your information, please send them to [membership@txjhs.org](mailto:membership@txjhs.org)

## Speaker's Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau of the Texas Jewish Historical Society has members who are available to bring programming to congregations and organizations on a variety of subjects. These include historical Jewish people and places, and information about the Texas Jewish Historical Society. During the pandemic, speakers have been provided to organizations on Zoom, as well as in person. Recent presentations include Barbara Rosenberg speaking at Congregation Beth Israel in Houston after a showing of the film, "West of Hester Street." She spoke about the Galveston Movement and showed a scroll that was made listing TJHS members whose families immigrated through Galveston. Other presentations have been made by Vickie Vogel speaking about families whose papers are in the TJHS Collection at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History in Austin. For programs for your group, contact Gayle Cannon at 214-236-9436 or Jan Hart at 254-718-8131.

## Contributions

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

In Memory of	From
Gordon Cizon	Sally Drayer
	Susan Zack and Bob Lewis
	Mitzi and Rusty Milstein

In Memory of	From
Millie Zaliem	Sally Drayer



# TJHS Board of Directors

## Officers

### *President*

Sheldon Lippman (Austin)

### *1st Vice President*

Joan Linares (Baytown)

### *2nd Vice President*

Susan Goodman Novick (El Paso)

### *3rd Vice President*

Janice Gerber (Houston)

### *Recording Secretary*

John Campbell (Austin)

### *Corresponding Secretary*

Amy Milstein (Frisco)

### *Treasurer*

Ben Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

### *Historian/Archivist*

Sally Drayer (Dallas)

### *Parliamentarian*

Susan Zack Lewis (Big Spring)

## Past Presidents

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

David Beer (Dallas)

Sally Drayer (Dallas)

Charles B. Hart (Temple)

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler (Galveston)

Susan Zack Lewis (Big Spring)

Rusty Milstein (Longview)

Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

Lionel Schooler (Houston)

Davie Lou Solka (Austin)

Vickie Vogel (Austin)

Helen Wilk (Houston)

Marc Wormser (Pearland)

## Board of Trustees 2020-2022

Jim Bernick (Beach City)

Willie Braudaway (Del Rio)

Gayle Cannon (Austin)

Nelson Chafetz (Austin)

Joyce Davidoff (El Paso)

Jules Frapart (Brownsville)

Lynda Furgatch (Brownsville)

Sharon Gerber (Houston)

Dolly Golden (Austin)

Kathy Kravitz (Austin)

Cindy Lindauer (Austin)

Eric H. Nelson (Houston)

Alan Selzer (Houston)

Laurie Selzer (Houston)

Susan Septimus (Houston)

Barbara Stone (Dallas)

Phyllis Turkel (Houston)

Cynthia Wolf (Beaumont)

## Board of Trustees 2021-2023

Elaine Albin (Rockport)

Doug Braudaway (Del Rio)

Marlene Eichelbaum (San Antonio)

Melvin Eichelbaum (San Antonio)

Anita Feigenbaum (College Station)

Michael Furgatch (Brownsville)

Sonny Gerber (Houston)

Henry Greenberg (San Antonio)

Jan Hart (Temple)

Jeffrey Josephs (Austin)

Marilyn Lippman (Dallas)

Jane Manaster (Dallas)

Hy Penn (Kingwood)

Jack Solka (Austin)

Paula Stein (Houston)

David Vogel (Austin)

Betty Weiner (Houston)

Hollace Weiner (Fort Worth)

Michael Wolf (Beaumont)

Joyce Wormser (Pearland)

## 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 dis-

played 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](mailto:txjhs_exhibits@txjhs.org).



# Texas Jewish Historical Society

P. O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

[www.txjhs.com](http://www.txjhs.com)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



## The Texas Jewish Historical Society New Membership and Information Update Form



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

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

☐ Please **update** my information.

### Check the Appropriate Box(es)

☐ New Member

☐ Renewing Member

☐ Special interests, professional background, talents \_\_\_\_\_

Who suggested TJHS to you?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Category

☐ \$35 Annual Member

☐ \$50 Supporting Member

☐ \$18 Student Member

☐ \$100 Sponsor

☐ \$250 Sustaining Member

☐ \$500 Benefactor

☐ \$1,000 Patron

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

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