

# The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



November 2022

## In Memoriam: Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, TJHS Founder and First President

Rabbi Jimmy (James Lee) Kessler, founder of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and its first president, died on September 14, 2022, in Galveston, Texas. He was the Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation B'nai Israel in Galveston. Jimmy was born in Houston, Texas, December 10, 1945, and attended schools in Houston. He was valedictorian and president of his graduating class at San Jacinto Senior High School. He earned his B.A. from the University of Texas/Austin, where he was a member of Tau Delta Phi fraternity. He earned the first doctorate in Texas Jewish History at Hebrew Union College-Jewish



Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, where he was ordained as a rabbi in 1972. Jimmy was especially proud to be a part of this class, because it was the first class in which a female rabbi (Rabbi Sally Priesand) was ordained.

Jimmy spent his Rabbinate in Texas, serving as Director of the University of Texas Hillel in Austin, and as the rabbi in Victoria and Galveston. His one-year out of state was in Alexandria, LA. During his twenty-five plus year career in Galveston, he served the non-Jewish communi-

ty in many leadership positions. In 2009, he was the first rabbi elected to serve as Master (President) of a Masonic Lodge (Harmony Lodge #6, established in 1839) in Texas, where he served two terms. He was a 33-degree Scottish Rite Mason, and in 2015, he served as the Grand Chaplain of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. He was the chaplain for the Galveston County Sheriff's Office.

Because of his long interest in Texas Jewish History, and finding only two index cards on the subject in the library at HUC-JIR, he founded

the Texas Jewish Historical Society in 1980. The organization has grown to over 700 members and has sponsored and supported research for scholars and students in Texas Jewish History, as well as aiding the preservation of synagogues and historic Jewish buildings throughout the state. TJHS presented him with the first Extraordinary Preservation of Texas Jewish History Award in 2016.

Jimmy is survived by his wife, Shelley Nussen-

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# 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.

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Davie Lou Solka

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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.

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## Save the Date

**Sunday, January 22, 2023**

Zoom Board Meeting.

**April 14-16, 2023**

Hybrid board meeting and Annual Gathering, Austin

**April 23 - May 8, 2023**

TJHS trip to Eastern Europe. Contact Vickie Vogel for info.

**October 20-23, 2023**

Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual Meeting at Rice University in Houston.

## In His Own Words

# Reflections on the Creation of the Texas Jewish Historical Society

by Rabbi Jimmy Kessler at the 30th Gathering in College Station, Texas, April 2009

I arrived at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in June, 1967. Eugene Levy of San Antonio and I set out in my new car, a Buick Opel, which broke down in Nashville, Tennessee. We put it in a U-Haul truck and drove the truck to HUC. The rumor upon our arrival was that the Jews from Texas were so rich that we saved the rubber on the tires of the car by putting the vehicle in a rental truck and drove the truck to the Queen City from Houston.

So began one-third of Texas Jewish History known to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The other two-thirds consisted of two cards in the card catalogue of the American Jewish Archives housed on the campus of HUC-JIR in Cincinnati. One card indicated that the original records of the split of Congregation Beth Israel in Houston were stored in a restricted collection. The other card reported that a collection of the writings of Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston, Texas was available for reading in the collection of the Archives.

Can you imagine two cards on the entire state of Texas and the history of its Jews!

A dozen years later I am having lunch with a few folks in Galveston, including a member of my congregation, Temple B'nai Israel. After listening to me bemoan the absence of a significant record of the Texas Jewish experience, Harris L. Kempner, my congregant, invited me to either put up or shut up. He offered to finance a

state-wide meeting that would establish a group to preserve and publish this yet-to-be-cared-for historical experience.

So, with Harris' \$3,000 I set about organizing a meeting. I called my friends, Lonnie Schooler and David Schwarz, and nudged them to help me put together a meeting. Then I chose San Antonio for the location because of the presence of the Alamo and also the new Institute of Texan Cultures. I called Rabbi Jacob Radar Marcus, PhD who was the father of American Jewish history and was teaching at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and asked him to give the keynote address. His presence was a necessity, and he agreed to attend. I then chose to publish a letter in the two Jewish-Anglo presses in Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth calling for all those interested in the history of the Jews to come to San Antonio for a meeting.

In January, 1980, a hundred Jews from all over Texas gathered in San Antonio to hear Rabbi Marcus speak on the concept of preserving the American Jewish experience. Following the lecture, the group constituted itself as a meeting and by acclamation declared the establishment of the Texas Jewish Historical Society and I was elected the first and founding president.

Dr. Marcus, a past president of the American Jewish Historical Society, issued four stern warnings at that time. The first was to never own a building. There would always some group of Jews who would want to


have you take over their building and that would surely be the death of the society. Just as they couldn't afford to keep it up, neither could a state-wide society. In that same regard, he suggested we never have an office or a professional staff. If the society could remain fluid and without fixed expenses, it could survive and grow; it did and it has.

Secondly Dr. Marcus urged us to find a way to maintain an archive without having to pay for it. Documents don't earn money but cost a great deal to preserve and disseminate. In response to this, I contacted Dr. Don Carleton, the then Director of the Barker Texas History Center (now the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History) at UT Austin. He immediately agreed to designate a Texas Jewish Historical Society Col-

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### In Memoriam, continued from page 1

blatt Kessler, his children, Andy (Brandie) and Jenny Kessler (Nick Buis), and his grandchildren, Samara, Ruthe, and Jakxon Kessler. He is also survived by his siblings, Fred (Jean) Kessler and Francine (Brad) Beckman; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Steve and Cynthia Nussenblatt, and a large extended family of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service was held on September 18, 2022, at Congregation B'nai Israel in Galveston. 

In His Own Words, continued  
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lection in their archive and in exchange for caring for the materials and making them available, the materials would become the property of the Center. The TJHS agreed to this arrangement and it has now been in force for thirty years. The idea was not to interfere or replace local collections but to maintain a repository for materials that had no secure home in their locale.

The third was that the Society should never lend its name to a publication or project unless some other professional or commercial group had invested in the effort. This would keep the Society from having to judge another's work and being involved with personality issues. Clearly this has been good advice.

The fourth and final was directed at me. Dr. Marcus warned me not to become the perpetual President of the organization. Moreover, he suggested that after my term of office, I should disappear for a few years. He felt my absence would ensure that there would be others seriously interested in the organization who would be willing to take on the leadership of the new group. I followed his advice and I only have to look at the past three decades to see the validity in his recommendation.

After the first meeting in San Antonio, the next Gathering was held in Dallas in 1983, with Frances Kallison of San Antonio serving as President.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society represents the achievement of hundreds of folks whom have espoused an interest in the Texas Jewish experience. Their labors have insured that the efforts of those Jews who settled in the Lone Star State would not go unnoticed. Today's members include those who were present at the beginning as well as others who have joined in later; all of who represent the heirs to and keepers of a rich heritage. 🇺🇸

## Message from the President by Sheldon Lippman



In gratitude of their service, we remember three friends.

Over the past few months, TJHS has mourned the death of several members. Since the July meeting in Bonham, three Members of the Board of Trustees died: Jack Solka, Helen Wilk, and Rabbi Jimmy Kessler. I attended the memorial services for all three, in-person for Jack and livestreaming for Helen and Jimmy. I learned at these services that they each led such remarkable lives full of professional achievements and family

activities. Yet they all generously gave time for the creation and continued management of TJHS over the past 42 years.

I first met Jack and Davie Lou on a 2015 TJHS trip to Cuba. I was not active in TJHS at the time and still living in Washington, D.C., but I learned about TJHS and met many friendly folks like the Solkas on that trip. After becoming president of TJHS in 2021, I visited with Jack and Davie Lou in their home several times to seek their counsel. Jack was always front and center in helping manage Board Meetings and Annual Gatherings and served as Editor of The TJHS Magazine during Davie Lou's term as President. On my last visit with Jack in early spring of this year, he reluctantly yet conscientiously turned over the name badge-making paraphernalia that had been his responsibility for many years at TJHS Meetings and Gatherings.

I never met Helen Wilk in person. I certainly knew her name and had read about her in the TJHS Magazine and heard others speak of her in highest regards. She was the 10th President of TJHS having served 1998 to 2000. She was a big supporter of the recent Zoom Board Meetings that offered her the opportunity to participate again after many years of being unable to drive to out-of-town meetings. Helen sent me many email messages of support in my efforts to meet new challenges facing the future of TJHS.

So much has been written about Rabbi Jimmy Kessler, the founder and first President of TJHS. I never got to meet Jimmy in person, although he did participate in several recent Board meetings via Zoom. At one of the last meetings he attended, there was a discussion of recent antisemitism. He gave an eloquent speech about how TJHS should make a difference in public outreach. The take-away from his talk was the importance of education of young people. I read an article that Jimmy wrote for the February 2003 TJHS Magazine on the History of TJHS. I recommend readers go to the Magazine Archives on the TJHS Website and read this article. At an early age Jimmy became interested in the history of Jews in Texas and was later inspired to create TJHS.

Jack, Helen, and Jimmy are irreplaceable. Each of them leaves behind a legacy of service to TJHS. I am inspired by them. Their legacies express to me the importance of our ensuring an even more effective future for the Texas Jewish Historical Society. 🇺🇸

# Congregation Beth Yeshurun Receives Texas Historic Landmark and Good Brick Award


by Davie Lou Solka

Congregation Beth Yeshurun has received a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, based on the congregation's significant history, the building's architectural merit, and its status as an exemplary model of preservation.

The mid-century modern Synagogue was designed by Architects Eugene Werlin and Lenard Gabert, Sr. in 1962. Preservation Houston announced on March 25, 2021, that the Synagogue was a recipient of the Good Brick Award for outstanding contributions to the preservation, restoration and enhancement of Houston's architectural and cultural heritage.

The Texas Historical Commission announced the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark award in 2019, but due to the pandemic, the Dedication Ceremony was held on Sunday October 23, 2022. The Good Brick Award was awarded at that time, also. Participants in the Dedication Ceremony included Rabbi Brian Strauss, Cantor Rachel Goldman, Representatives Lizzie Fletcher and Abbie Kamen, Debra Blacklock Sloan, David Stein, Jennifer LeVine and the Beth Yeshurun Day School Choir,

and Joan Katz, representing the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

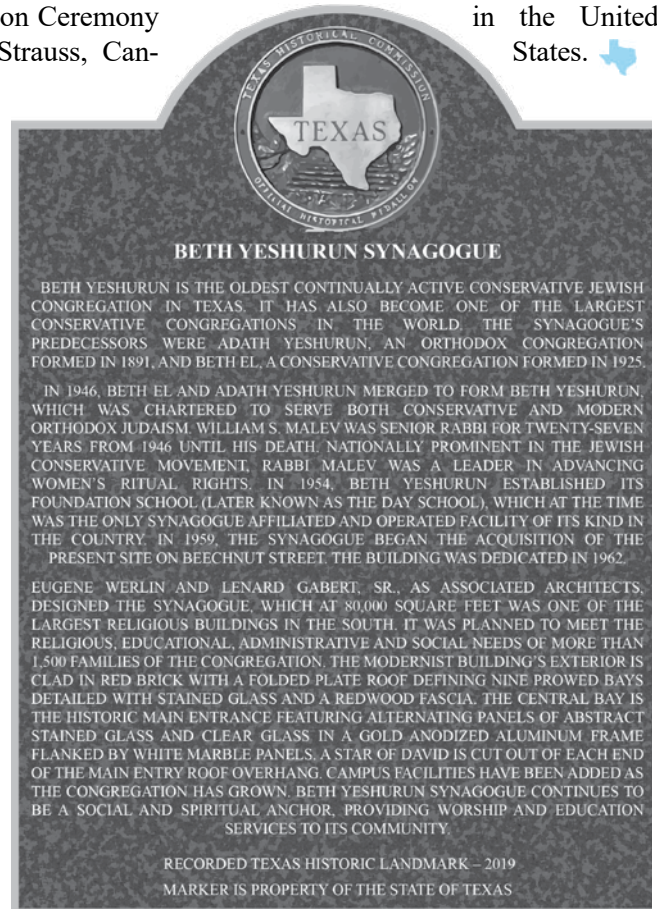
From the founding of Adath Yeshurun in 1891, and the merger with Congregation Beth El in 1946, Beth Yeshurun has grown to become the largest Conservative congregation in the United States. 



*Good Brick Award from Preservation Houston.*



*Certificate from Texas Jewish Historical Society.*



*Beth Yeshurun Historical Marker from Texas Historical Commission.*



*Lionel Schooler, Joan Katz, Rabbi Brian Strauss.*



Row 1 – Sheldon Lippman, John Campbell, Hollace Weiner, Susan Zack & Bob Lewis, Sally Drayer  
 Row 2 – Marilyn Lippman, Susan Septimus, Joan Katz, Barbara Green Stone, David Vogel  
 Row 3 – Barbara & Ben Rosenberg, Jan & Charles Hart, Jennifer Lava, Rusty Milstein, Amy Milstein  
 Row 4 – Joyce & Marc Wormser, Hy Penn, Lyndia & Michael Furgatch, Barbara Rosenthal, Jane Manaster  
 Row 5 – Davie Lou Solka, Sharon Gerber, Anita Feigenbaum, Vickie Vogel, Kathy Kravitz

## Notes from the Board Meeting, October 16, 2022

- Davie Lou Solka reported that a list of items to be digitized by an intern have been sent to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. The list included papers of Rabbi Henry Cohen, papers on the Galveston Movement, and items in the Genealogy folder. There have been other suggestions, and they will be submitted to the Center. We hope to hire an intern for the spring semester 2023.
- According to Rusty Milstein, Cemetery Database Chair, there were 140 new listings in this quarter, and there are 267 known cemeteries in Texas that have Jewish burials. Kathy Kravitz continues to update information on the website with photos and missing information.
- Sally Drayer, Meeting Chair, said that the January, 2023 Board Meeting will be a Zoom meeting on January 22, 2023. The Board Meeting and Annual Gathering will be a hybrid meeting on April 14-16, 2023, in Austin, Texas.
- Marc Wormser, Membership Chair, reported that we have twenty-five new members since January 1, 2022, and a total of 509 member units.
- Vickie Vogel, Travel Chair, announced that there will be a trip to the Baltic area focusing on Jewish sights April 23 - May 8, 2023. Contact her if you are interested.
- It was decided by the Board that there will not be a directory printed for the general membership since it will be online soon on our new website. A printed directory will be available for officers and board members, as well as for those who request one.

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# TJHS at SJHS



*Dr. Josh Furman, John Campbell, Hollace Weiner, Erin Solka, Sheldon Lippman, Debra Polsky.*

The Texas Jewish Historical Society was well represented at the Southern Jewish Historical Society meeting held October 21-23, 2022, in Charleston, SC. The group was met by Erin Solka of Austin, TX, intern with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Erin is a sophomore student at College of Charleston and the granddaughter of TJHS Past President Davie Lou Solka. It was announced that the next annual conference of the SJHS will be held in Houston at Rice University with Dr. Josh Furman, Director of the Houston Jewish History Archive planning the event. 🇺🇸

## Notes from the Board Meeting, continued from page 6

- The Nominating Committee was announced with Susan Zack Lewis as Chair. Serving with her are Sally Drayer, Jan Hart, Kevin Lewis, and Barbara Rosenberg.
- Jennifer Lava was introduced as the new Executive Assistant, replacing Kimberly Dietz, who retired.
- A committee will be appointed to present to the board suggestions regarding a memorial scholarship with the money given to TJHS by James and Rosalie Alexander. The three Vice-Presidents, Joan Linares, Susan Novick, and Janice Gerber, will chair this committee. 🇺🇸

## Mazel Tov

**Davie Lou Solka**, whose granddaughter, Erin Solka, has been awarded an internship with the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina. Erin is a sophomore at the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Michael Wolf**, Beaumont, for receiving the Taubehaus Award from Texas A&M Hillel.

## Contributions

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

**In Memory of** **From**  
Robert Adler Janice & David Gerber

**In Memory of** **From**  
Arthur Gurwitz & Dr. Neil Gurwitz Dr. Bryan Stone

**In Memory of** **From**  
Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Sally Drayer

Marlene & Melvin Eichelbaum

Jan & Charles Hart

Barbara & Ray Kalmans

Susan & Bob Lewis

Joan & Reuben Linares

Cindy Lindauer

Mitzi & Rusty Milstein

Barbara & Ben Rosenberg

Linda & Rabbi Robert Scharff

Davie Lou Solka

Dr. Bryan Stone

Phyllis Turkel

**In Memory of** **From**  
Jack Solka Sally Drayer

Janice & David Gerber

Lynn Lipsitz

Joan & Reuben Linares

Cindy Lindauer

Mitzi & Howard Milstein

Sheldon Lippman & John Campbell

Sally Drayer

Joan & Louis Katz

Lynn Lipsitz

Vivian & David Picow

Robin & Kurt Schriefer

Dr. Bryan Stone

Phyllis Turkel

Vickie & David Vogel

**In Memory of** **From**  
Helen Wilk Nancy Boocker

David V. Crumly

Carol & Jerry Doctrow

Sally Drayer

Jan & Charles Hart

Susan Zack & Bob Lewis

Joan & Reuben Linares

Mitzi & Rusty Milstein

Barbara & Ben Rosenberg

Dr. Bryan Stone

Davie Lou Solka

Phyllis Turkel

Vickie & David Vogel

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

# The Jews of Bonham

by Vickie Vogel

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**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.**

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The activities of the Texas Jewish Historical Society sometimes have unexpected consequences. When Sally Drayer proposed a quarterly meeting in Bonham, the local historical society became interested in learning more about their Jewish history. When Covid delayed our meeting for two years, it gave them time to do some research and publish a long essay on the subject. They presented it to us when we met there in July. It will be placed in our archives at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Fannin County in the northeast part of Texas has been home to settlers since the 1830s. Bonham was founded in 1837 and grew with the railroad's arrival. Early Jewish residents included several of the six Rhine brothers from Bavaria, in Texas from at least 1846, who became merchants in Northeast Texas. David Rhine



*The photo on the front of the book [The Jewish Merchants of Bonham, Fannin County, Texas](#), by Malinda Allison*

served in the Confederate Army, and later opened a store in Bonham with “goods for the orthodox and the heterodox, the Jew and the Christian, the publican and the sinner.”<sup>1</sup> David’s daughter Dora died of tuberculosis and is buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Bonham. Allison included the death notice, her gravestone photo, and her university record, along with photos of Bonham in this time frame. The obituaries of David (d. 1900) and his wife Florence (d. 1902) are included, along with other family members’ obituaries and a photograph of the Rhine home and its historical plaque. The house burned in 1995.

Next Allison examines the life and career of Morris Rosenbaum (1845-1909). After a long and successful career as a merchant, his

family left Bonham. Allison includes news clippings from when he left, an obituary, and many photos of his family, home and store. His obituary praised him as a public-spirited man of fine morals and habits, and praised his kindness and generosity.

The Levine brothers, Henry and Max, were merchants and cotton brokers in Bonham. News clippings and photos illustrate their lives and families. Some of the Levine extended family perished in the Galveston hurricane of 1900.

The Marcus Klappholz family came to Bonham from Poland and ran the Klappholz Bargain House in the late 1800s before moving to Vienna, Austria. The newspaper said he “came to Bonham broke and went away a broker.”<sup>2</sup> There’s a photo of his store

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Jews of Bonham, continued  
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and naturalization papers. Daughter Lotta became an opera singer in Nurnberg. By 1920, Klappholz was suffering greatly from the effects of World War I. He appealed to his old friends in Bonham for help. "O, dear Bonham, why did I leave you?"<sup>3</sup> Their generous response helped the family and their neighbors survive.

Brothers Louis and Max Brown of Hungary also owned a dry goods store in Bonham. Photos are included.

Other Bonham Jews covered include Hannah Marie Feder, Arnold Englander, Max Hermer, and David Mayer. There are news clippings about High Holy Day store closures and services. A special section on the Jewish cemetery and a list of burials close out the book.

Malinda Allison performed a great service for TJHS by her research and publication. If you are interested in having your own copy of *The Jewish Merchants of Bonham, Fannin County, Texas*, contact the Fannin County Museum of History at 903-583-8042 or [fcmuseum@hotmail.com](mailto:fcmuseum@hotmail.com). Sale proceeds support the museum.

**Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Allison, Malinda. *The Jewish Merchants of Bonham, Fannin County, Texas*. Fannin County Museum of History. 2022, p.6

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 31

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 33



## Letters to the Editor

### Re: Article on Schools in Texas Named for Jews, by Jane Manaster

To the Editor,

I enjoyed your article, *Texas Education Connections to the Past: Schools in Texas Named for Jews*, by Jane Manaster, in the August, 2022, issue of *The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine*. But you missed a school in Houston (Houston Independent School District) named for a Jewish Texan.

The Sharon Goldstein Halpin Early Childhood Center is named for my cousin, Sharon Goldstein Halpin. (She was married to my cousin, Steve Halpin, also a native Houstonian.) Born and raised in Houston, she attended Peck Elementary School, Cullen Middle School, and Memorial High School, all in the Houston area before attending the University of Texas, where she completed her degree with a major in elementary education. She taught at Burnet Elementary School and Travis Elementary School. She passed away in 1987 from cancer, and is buried in Emau El Memorial Park in Houston. She was survived by her husband, Steve Halpin, and daughter, Jennifer and Stephanie.

Dennis Halpin  
Houston, Texas

To the Editor,

I really enjoyed reading the article in the August, 2022, edition entitled *Schools in Texas Named for Jews*. I have one addition to make. It is Frank Guzick Elementary School in Dallas, which opened in 2006.

Here is a little background on Frank Guzick: He was born in Houston in 1915, son of Hymy and Leba Guzick. He moved to Dallas in 1947 to teach and coach sports at Adamson High School. He worked his way up the school administration ladder, and in 1970, was named principal of Dallas's first magnet school, Skyline High School. Frank was a much admired and respected administrator; beloved by both teachers and students alike. He was one of the main reasons that Skyline High School became the pride of the Dallas Independent School District. Frank retired in 1985 at age 70 and passed away in 1996. He is buried in the Jewish section of the West Hill Cemetery in Sherman.

Sincerely,  
Bob Weltman  
Dallas, Texas

## Save Postage:

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

## Looking for a Program for Your Organization?

Consider contacting the TJHS Speaker's Bureau. We have people who can speak on a variety of subjects with interesting, entertaining programs. Contact Gayle Cannon at [gayle.cannon70@gmail.com](mailto:gayle.cannon70@gmail.com) or Jan Hart at [jshauthor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jshauthor@sbcglobal.net)

## Come and Take It: Mayn Shtetele Gonzales Blog post from Van Wallach

While Mission, Texas is the town where I grew up, then Gonzales, Texas is the font of tribal memories. Just as some of you treasure family tales of Anatevka, Brooklyn, Vilna, Alexandria, Thessaloniki, or Odessa, my inherited memories hover over the little town with the big Jewish history on the road between San Antonio and Houston. Members of my family lived there for at least eighty years, and I view myself as an honorary son. I even think of it as Mayn Shtetele Gonzales, in a homage to the Yiddish song, “Mayn Shtetele Belz.”

Mayn Shtetele Gonzales is in the news, indirectly these days. How so? It popularized the pugnacious phrase, “Come and Take It” in 1835 at the start of the Texas Revolution, and it’s still associated with the place.

The phrase dates back to the Greek term “motion labe.” Spartan King Leonidas hurled that taunt at the Persian King, Xerxes before the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 BCE.

Fast forward 2,300 years from the Battle of Thermopylae to the Battle of Gonzales. In October, 1835, Mexican troops tried to seize a bronze cannon held by Texas forces in Gonzales. The local militia refused and wrote “Come and Take It” on a flag with a drawing of the cannon. That’s been part of the civic identity ever since. Far beyond Gonzales, the phrase and the cannon grew into a political signal of defiance.

But in 2020 and beyond, it turns out that “Come and Take It” connotes in some circles the wrong kind of defiance. In August, Project Veritas publicized the leak of an FBI list of

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*Eva and Jacob Michaelson, around 1898.*



*Gonzales High School Class 1909. Eva Michelson standing on left; others unknown.*

symbols and images used by “militant violent extremists.” High on the

list was the phrase “Come and Take It,” illustrated with that flag and the

brave little cannon that could.

The issue also surfaced in 2021; the president of the University of Texas at San Antonio, Taylor Eighmy, sent a letter to the UTSA community about the flag and motto which had been used by the university’s athletic department. He wrote with exquisite vagueness:

*The history of Texas is steeped in the tradition of the “Come and Take It” image. However, the image can have sharply different meaning for different people. Recently, this imagery has been associated with some political movements and causes. It has even made its way into political protests on the grounds of the Texas State Capital. For these and other reasons, there are concerns that his [sic] tradition may no longer reflect its originally intended purpose of rallying football fan [sic] and is not reflective of our university, our founding mission and our collective values.*

If Eighby doesn’t like Come and Take It, I bet he’s really irked by the name of the high school sports team, the Apaches, and the Confederate statue in the town’s Confederate Square. I leave those matters for the town citizens to address.

Switching from the political to the personal, I embrace Gonzales as the site for photos that depict a big happy Jewish family in Gonzales. One from the late 1890s shows my grandmother, Eva Michelson, posing with her younger brother for a formal photo at a Gonzales photo studio. Another shows her in a white dress, dark-haired with her head slightly tilted in the six-member 1909 graduating class of Gonzales High School.

Others show my great-grandparents, the German-born Lehman and

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Esther Michelson, outside their stately brick house with Eva and her husband, Jared Lissner; and their young daughter, my mother, Shirley; and her older sister, Charlotte.

Other photos show Esther's grandkids sitting with her on the house's steps in the 1920s, and other groupings of Esther and her seven children as adults: Eva, Ruth, Sue, Adrienne, Jacob, Harold, and Lawrence.

I've visited the Jewish cemetery on Water Street, where Lehman, Esther, Jared, Eva, and my mother, Shirley, are all buried, along with other relatives. I say kaddish for them and place a rock on my mother's gravestone.

I treasure images and stories of the extended family that gathered from around Texas in the home of the entrepreneurial German-born Michelson patriarch and matriarch. I like thinking of my mother and her aunts, uncles, and cousins mingling in Gonzales. Fifty years later, many of them were still getting together in San Antonio, where my mother's aunts, Ruth, Sue, and Adrienne lived. What started in mayn shtetele Gonzales moved west to the golden land of San Antonio.

Over the decades, visits back to Gonzales gave me a sense of the place. In the 1960s, my mother took my younger brother and me to visit the graves of her parents. In 1989, I took my fiance there to pay our respects to my mother who died in 1984. I even looked into buying a burial plot in that cemetery, a notion that proved wildly impractical given that I live in suburban New York. In 2008, during a solo vacation in Central Texas, Abbi Glosserman Michelson, the irrepressible widow of my



Michelson's Café, 1912.

mother's first cousin, David "Buddy" Michelson, drove me to Gonzales to the cemetery and the county courthouse, where officials still remembered the Michelson family. (Editor note: Buddy Michelson is the brother of former TJHS board member, Samylu Rubin.) Memories of the Michelsons and other Jewish families are surprisingly well documented in histories of Jewish Gonzales.

For example, the Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities has a Gonzales page. It states,

*The Jewish community of Gonzales began to grow substantially in the 1870s, with the arrival of Jewish merchants and peddlers. Over the next forty years of so, families such as the Stahls, Michelsons, Forgotsons, Ephrons, Orinovskys, Gurinskys, Friedmans, Tudzins, and others arrived to take their place in this small town of approximately 4,000 people. Even at the height of its Jewish*

*presence, it appears that no more than forty to sixty Jews lived in the city. However, their existence was very much part of the commercial activity of Gonzales....Gonzales Jews were involved in a wide array of businesses. The Michelsons had a candy shop and café which also served as the Greyhound bus station, as well as the local Coca-Cola franchise. (<https://www.isjl.org/texas-gonzales-encyclopedia.html>)*

One exceptionally useful document is *From Ghetto to Gonzales, From Oppression to Opportunity: The Study of Jewish Businesses Along the Victoria Road*. Kay C. Goldman wrote this in 1995 for her master's degree at Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State University at San Marcos). Its longest chapter is about Gonzales, and its first direct connection to my family says, "Prior to the turn of the century, Lehman Michelson moved to Gonzales and

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Gonzales, continued from page 12

opened the Barrel House Saloon in the Reese building.”

In 1912, Harold and Jake Michelson bought the Candy Kitchen and later expanded it to include an ice cream parlor and foodservice operation. Around 1914, the family bought a bottling plant. It handled Coca-Cola and stayed with the Michelsons for the next fifty years. The Michelsons also held religious services on the third floor of the family home.

Goldman wrote, “As in other Texas towns, the Jewish families of Gonzales intermarried.” Three Bath sisters married into the Stahl, Michelson, and Forgotston families. The Bath (spelled Badt in Germany) daughters were Sara, Selma, and Esther. Esther married Lehman and had seven children, including my grandmother, Eva. Esther is the stern matriarch in many of the family photos of which I’m now the conservator.

I’m happy to see Gonzales remembers its history and is carrying on. Local businesses include Come and Style It & Company, along with the Come and Take It Bar and Grill. Like the Michelsons of one-hundred years ago, they knew the value of a catchy name. I’m doing my part here to honor and expand the knowledge of the Jewish families in the town. Most of my maternal relatives still



Front: Jacob Michelson (Samylu Rubin’s father), Lehman & Esther Michelson (Samylu Rubin’s grandparents), Eva Michelson & Lawrence Lissner, and Jared Lissner. Back: Shirley, Lissner and Charlotte Lissner.

live in Texas. I don’t live there, but I do like writing about the place.

And to top off the vibe, the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture held a “Come and Take It Celebration” in October, 2022. The chamber’s online store sells hats, coffee mugs, flags and t-shirts with that

motto and art work. I like to think that Lehman and Esther belonged to the chamber with the other Jewish entrepreneurs and made their mark on the town.

I’ll come and take that hat and hold it close to my special family place, Mayn Shtetele Gonzales. 🇺🇸

## 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](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. 🇺🇸



# 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 Awards Committee will be presented at TJHS Spring Annual Gathering. Applications must be received by July 15, 2023 and mailed to Awards 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: Awards 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.

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

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

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Please detail the timeline of your project.

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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).*

# In Memoriam

## ISIDORO IRVING “PANCHO” GREENBLUM,



TJHS member, Laredo, died September 29, 2022, in Laredo. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Brad (Jennifer), Jeff, Gary (Desiree), and Robbie Greenblum; ten grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## RABBI JIMMY KESSLER, TJHS founder and Past President



(1980-82), Galveston, died September 14, 2022, in Galveston. He is survived by wife, Shelley, his children, Andy (Brandie) Kessler, Jenny (Nick Buis) Kessler, and three grandchildren, siblings and nieces and nephews.

## CHARLES H. NORMAN, TJHS member, Fort Worth,



died June 18, 2022, in Fort Worth. He is survived by his wife, Lynell, her children, Ari (Ellen) Bond and Whitney Bond, two grandchildren; sister, Anna Marie Wanesek, and brother, T.H. Norman (Jan).

## SYDELLE (SYD) POPINSKY, TJHS member, Austin,



died October 3, 2022, in Austin. She is survived by her husband, Chuck Mandelbaum, children, Diana Hyland, Mitchell Popinsky, Carol Ellzey and Noah Mandelbaum.

## BABETTE SAMUELS, TJHS member, Corsicana,



died August 30, 2022. She is survived by her children, Dr. Phillip (Betsy) Samuels, Robin (Kurt) Schriefer, and Douglas (Michele) Samuels; four grandchildren and spouses, and three great-grandchildren.



**LEONARD SCHWARTZ**, TJHS member, Austin, died October 13, 2022, in Austin. He is survived by his wife, Sandy; daughter, Michele (Jesse Gordon) Schwartz, and one granddaughter.



**JACK SOLKA**, Past TJHS Vice-President and past Editor, *The TJHS Magazine*, Corpus Christi/Austin, died August 27, 2022, in Austin. He is survived by his wife, Davie Lou, (Past TJHS President), his children, Michael (Liz), Steven (Andrea), and Gary (Shelley) Solka; and six grandchildren and spouses.

## MONTY JOSPEH STRAUSS, Lubbock/Plano,



TJHS Member, died September 9, 2022, in Plano. He is survived by wife, Jane L Winer; his sister, Susie Salfield Avnery, and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.



**HELEN K. WILK**, Past TJHS President (1998-2000), Corpus Christi/Houston, died September 7, 2022, in Houston. She is survived by her children, Chuck (Chris) Wilk, Patty Block, Andy (Dara) Wilk, Athena Demos; eight grandchildren and spouses.

**May their memories  
be a blessing.**



# Sam Lack

by Vicki Aaronson Hutson

Samuel Lack was born in 1901 in Lutzen, Vitebsk, Russia, to Fannie Raizes and Solomon Lack. In 1905, when Sam was four, there was a huge parade through the streets celebrating a manifesto of a creation of a Duma (congress or parliament) that the Czar had granted the people. It proved to be a false manifesto designed to identify “revolutionaries.” Sam’s father had participated in the parade, so he realized it would not be safe for him to remain in Russia. Sol hid in a hay barn for several days, and slipped out to cross the border to go to London then to South Africa, where one of his uncles had immigrated. While in London, South Africa made a new law requiring that all immigrants have a visa sent to them from a resident and twenty-five pounds. Sam had neither, so after waiting seven weeks, he decided that America might be as good as South Africa. His visa arrived seven days after he left for America.



*Standing: David, Sam, Abe Lack  
Sitting: Sarah Lack Orr, Rose Lack Hamovit*



*Sam Lack*

After ten years of married life, Fannie was left to care for four children. For the first three or four years, they lived with her mother’s parents. Her family owned a large house and tavern that Fannie was responsible for. By 1910, Sol had saved enough money to send for his oldest son, Abe, to help him earn money to send for the rest of the family. During his examination at the port Fannie was told that Sam would not be permitted entry because he had trachoma. Sam was ten years old and said, “You and Rose and Ed go to Papa. I’ll stay here and you can send for me.” Sam was taken back to Russia and stayed with different members of the family for two years. He traveled alone to American at the age of thirteen. When he ar-

rived at Ellis Island, they did not want to let him in because he had scars on his eyes. Since his father had become a citizen, he derived citizenship, and they could not send him back. After about ten days, a man from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society put Sam on a train to Omaha where the family now resided. The family later moved to Tulsa, OK, where Sam met and married Bea Haas (born 1898), who had moved to Tulsa from Nashville.

Sam and Bea Lack came to the lower Rio Grande Valley in the fall of 1934, searching for a good place to earn a living. Uppermost in their minds was a desire to be among friendly people, particularly those of Jewish heritage. With \$2,000 in his pocket borrowed from his mother,

*continued on page 18*



*Sam & Bea Lack*

and Adolph Westerman's name on a slip of paper, Sam arrived in McAllen to look for a location for a store.

Adolph introduced him to friends on Main Street and helped him find an empty store across from The Mans Shop. Lack's Tire & Supply opened in 1935; later he would convert his business to become Lack's Furniture Stores. Today in 2022, the Lack's Valley Stores are led by Sam's son-in-law, Lee Aaronson, and his grandson, Seth Aaronson, making them the third and fourth generations to be in the store.

The Lacks rented a house on 7th and Gumwood across the street from the Westermans. They were delighted to find that Sunday School classes were being held around the corner at the Melchers. Later, a group, including the Lacks, formed a congregation in Mercedes. In 1939, the Wester-

[continued on page 19](#)



*Lack's first store at Main and Beaumont, Mc Allen, Texas*

## Sam Lack, continued from page 18

mans and the Lacks built homes next to each other on Kendlewood.

Many meetings were held on Kendlewood to plan methods for raising the necessary funds to build a new temple in McAllen. Not only were they instrumental in the planning, but


Adolph and Sam actually supervised the construction of the building on a daily basis.

Sam was the first Vice-President of Temple Emanuel and the second President. He was awarded the David Ben Gurion award for exemplary

leadership in support of Israel. Along with Sam Lutz, Sam was instrumental in convincing two McAllen banks to be the first anywhere to buy Israel bonds (which financed industrial, agricultural, and civic projects in Israel).

He was very active in the community. In 1955, he was named the first “Outstanding Man of the Year” by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce and was also honored by many civic and Jewish organizations.

Sam and Bea had three children, Jean (Robert) Cohen, Sylvia (Myles) Aaronson and Stanley (Helen Nosovsky) Lack. Their grandchildren are Lance Cohen, Marc Cohen, Lee Aaronson Keim, Carolyn Aaronson, Vicki Aaronson Hutson, Gerald Lack, and Randy Lack, and when he died, six great-grandchildren. Sam’s siblings were A. I. Lack, David Lack, Rose Hamovit, and Sarah Weiser Orr.

Sam and Bea are both buried in the McAllen Memorial Cemetery. 



*Sam Lack Family. Sitting on floor: Vicki Aaronson Hutson, Lee Aaronson, and Carolyn Aaronson. Middle row: Julie Aaronson Keim, Sam & Beatrice Lack, Mark Cohen, and Lance Cohen. Top row: Myles Aaronson, Sylvia Lack Aaronson, Stanley Lack, Jean Lack Cohen, and Robert Cohen.*



*Lack's store in Weslaco, Texas.*

## Immigrant Story Request

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*.

# Meet Your Board



**Doug Braudaway** is from Del Rio, and teaches government and history at Southwest Texas Junior College. He is married to Willie, who is also a TJHS Board Member, and they have five children and seventeen grandchildren. Doug enjoys writing history and historic marker applications.



**Hollace Ava Weiner** joined TJHS in 1996 while researching her first book, *Jewish Stars in Texas*, which focuses on legendary Lone Star rabbis. Since then, she has written and edited four books on Texas Jewish history, including the anthology *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, which was published by TJHS with Brandeis University Press in 2007. She

writes a monthly column for the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* and is the director for the Fort Worth Jewish Archives. Hollace has served on the board before and we welcome her back.

**Jeffrey Josephs** lives in Austin. He grew up in Corpus Christi.



**Jim Bernick**, Beach City, Texas was born and raised in Los Angeles, and graduated from USC with a degree in history. He and his wife, Pam, moved to Baytown forty years ago, and have been active members of Congregation Knesseth Israel. They raised their family, practiced medicine, and participated in community organizations in Baytown.



**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 Uni-



versity of Texas/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 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 or four thousand miles on his motorcycle with a Masonic riding club. He and Phyllis have two daughters and three grandchildren. Jules is now retired and enjoying life.

**Dolly Moskowitz Golden** grew up in Baytown, Texas.



She married Ed Golden from Corsicana and they settled in Austin, where she now lives. Ed passed away in 2018. Dolly is a Certified Travel Counselor, and continues to plan trips. She has visited two-hundred sixteen countries and plans to visit the rest. She has two children, and one granddaughter who live in Austin. Dolly is Chair of the Photo Exhibit Committee.

Dolly is Chair of the Photo Exhibit Committee.

**Kathy Cornelison Kravitz** grew up in Oklahoma City, but



now lives in Austin. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, she taught high school biology and geometry. She did graduate work in botany, then was a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia. She met her husband, Bruce, while working for AT&T/Western Electric as a Statistical Quality Control

Engineer. They moved to New Zealand, where she was the

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## Board, continued from page 20

Quality Manager for Mitel Telecommunications NZ. Their son, Scott, was born there. In 1991, they moved to Austin, where she has worked a variety of jobs, including Assistant Librarian for AISD, and volunteering for numerous organizations. Kathy currently spends most of her days working on TJHS Cemetery Committee needs, although she continues to volunteer for other organizations and tries to find time to “play” in her garden, walk in nature and occasionally travel to new places.

**Cindy Lindauer** is a third generation Austinite. She graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, with a degree in Special Education and earned a Masters Education in Learning Disabilities from the University of Miami. She has two adult children, and has worked in the film industry as a Studio Teacher for thirty-one years. She enjoys researching her family’s genealogy, travelling, and Mah Jongg. Currently, she is Sisterhood President at Congregation Agudas Achim in Austin, and belongs to a local genealogy group.



**Alan Selzer** was born and raised in Houston. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin and has had a fifty-year career in the plumbing supply and manufacturing business. He is presently serving as a manufacturer representative with Alliance Manufacturer Representatives. He has been married to Laurie Pink Selzer (also a TJHS Board Member) for forty-four years, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Alan enjoys volunteer work and staying active playing with his family, golfing, fishing and being outdoors.



**Cynthia Roosth Wolf** was born in Galveston and grew up in Tyler. She graduated from Newcomb College with a BA in English, and received a Bachelor of Music from Lamar University in Beaumont, where she lives with her husband, Michael, also a TJHS Board Member. She taught English and History at Randolph Air Force Base, and English and Spanish at Central High School in Beaumont. She has been active in her community, and has served as President of Sisterhoods in Fort Smith, AR and Beaumont. She has



She is Chair of the Awards Committee.

**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.



**Michael Furgatch** was born and raised in Texas. He has lived in Beaumont, Dallas, Austin, and now Brownsville for over forty-seven years. He is married to Lynda (also a TJHS Board Member), and they have two children and three grandchildren. Michael and Lynda were married in 1973, when he graduated from UT/Austin. They moved to Brownsville where he began working in the Ship Dismantling and Recycling Industry, which is



continued on page 22

## The following books have been brought to the attention of TJHS

*Changing Perspectives: Black-Jewish Relations in Houston during the Civil Rights Era* by Allison Schottenstein examines discrimination against Jews and the disenfranchisement of Blacks in Houston. Schottenstein's book was highly reviewed in the *American Jewish Archives Journal*, vol LXXIII, 2021, number 2.

*The Spirit of Ruchel Leah* by Lester Blum recounts the story of one woman's determination for more than mere survival in the face of unimaginable obstacles. It is based on letters written by Ruchel Leah from Poland to her family in New York from 1938-1941 further enhanced by commentary on her correspondence and the correspondence of extended family members after the war. Members of the family eventually settled in Fort Worth and Corpus Christi.

*When Lightnin' Struck* by Betsy Rosenthal is a historical novel set in Odessa, Texas, in 1928 and touches on the subject of Converso and Crypto Jews in the Southwestern United States, primarily in Texas. Although enjoyed by adults, this book is written primarily for children, for whom not much has been written on the expulsion of Jews from Spain and the existence of Crypto and Converso Jews. 🇺🇸

**The deadline for the November 2022 TJHS Magazine is Friday, October 14.**

## 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.

**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).**

## TJHS on Facebook

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



### Board, continued from page 21

his occupation today. He enjoys working with non-profit and service organizations, and has been involved with the Temple Beth El Board of Directors in Brownsville for almost thirty years. Michael serves on the Grants Committee.

**Betty Fram Weiner** grew up in Goose Creek (now Baytown). While attending UT Austin, she met her husband, Ira Weiner, who was in the U.S.



Air Force. He was her life partner for over sixty-five years until his death in 2017. After moving to Houston in 1962, she worked for many years in fundraising, volunteer activities, and planning special events for non-profit groups, including the Mental Health Association, Jewish Family Service, and the Houston Ballet. Then, acting on her love of travel, she became a travel agent for several years before retiring. Betty now spends her time enjoying her family – a son in New York City, and a daughter and her husband and two grandchildren living in Houston. She also enjoys reading,

theater, travel, and various volunteer groups. 🇺🇸

## Welcome New Members!

**Caron Cooper**  
El Paso, Texas

**Isyjean Pinchin Korenek**  
Hallettsville, Texas

**Jewish Community Council**  
Corpus Christi, Texas

**Jeff Lefkowitz**  
Houston, Texas

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



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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](mailto:txjhs_exhibits@txjhs.org).

# Texas Jewish Historical Society

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Check the Appropriate Box(es)

- New Member       Membership Renewal       Gift\*       Information Update

### Category of Annual TJHS Membership

- \$18 Student Member       \$100 Sponsor       \$1,000 Patron  
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\*If a gift, name of person(s) giving the Gift Membership (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to the Texas Jewish Historical Society are tax deductible within the limits of the law.  
Please send this completed membership form along with a bank check to  
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