

# The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



March, 2023

## Passover at Harlingen Army Air Field, March 28, 1945 by Larry Holtzman

On March 28, 1945, the line of cars from Brownsville carrying the Temple Beth-El Congregation entered the gates of the Harlingen Army Air Field. They told the guards that they were invited for Passover. A Jeep led the procession to the basketball court which had been filled with lines of tables and chairs.

World War II was raging in Europe and the Pacific. The Harlingen Army Air Field was a gunnery training facility. There was good news from the European theater – General Patton's Third Army tanks were 225 miles from Berlin. Gunnery training was now preparing the soldiers for duty in the Pacific. The newspapers told of Japan's resolve for a twenty-year war.

At the door to the basketball court the Jewish citizens of Brownsville were met by the base's Jewish soldiers, many of whom they recognized. Brownsville Jewish families hosted soldiers in their homes for Shabbat dinners before all attended services at the synagogue on St. Francis Street. Sam Perl, the lay rabbi, officiated on Friday nights. He enjoyed seeing the young soldiers at services and often invit-



ed one of them to join him on the Bima to participate.

In fact, Sam had changed the service to include more Hebrew because Jewish soldiers from New York and elsewhere expressed their desire for a more traditional service. The soldiers had delivered to lay-rabbi Sam Perl a gift of a Rabbi's tallit and kippah that Jewish Chaplain Louis Barish ac-

quired for him from the National Jewish Welfare Board.

As Sam Perl entered the Passover building in Harlingen, Chaplain Barish greeted him warmly and invited Sam to join the head table with the other officials. On the long table was matzah and Passover Haggadahs that were provided in Passover Kits to the armed forces by the National Jewish Welfare Board now known as the JWB Jewish Chaplains Council.

Jews from all over the Rio Grande Valley attended. The Passover Seder was sponsored by the Valley B'nai B'rith patriotic organization for Americans of the Jewish faith. Jewish soldiers came from nearby Moore Field. Once all

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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Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents.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](mailto:editor@txjhs.org) or by mail to Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, Texas. Be sure to include your name and contact information.

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

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## Save the Date

**April 14-16, 2023**

Hybrid TJHS Board Meeting and 44th  
Annual Gathering, Austin

**October 20-23, 2023**

Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual  
Conference at Rice University, in Houston.

**October 25 - November 1, 2023**

TJHS Mission trip to Jewish Cuba. Contact Vickie Vogel for  
info.

**The deadline for the May 2023  
TJHS Magazine is Friday, April 7.**

# Message from the President

by Sheldon Lippman



TJHS has started 2023 with real *momentum*.

I acknowledge the bold step of the Board of Trustees one year ago when it approved expenses for a new website in the 2022 Budget. With this funding, TJHS was able to launch the improved and dynamic [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org) in December 2022. Scroll through its pages. Share this site with family and friends.

Within minutes of the new TJHS Website going live, members were able for the first time to renew their memberships online with credit cards. Within days, more than 100 members renewed online. Of course, many members continue to mail in checks, which are equally welcomed. All registrations are entered into a new online administrative database.

I have appointed two new Mem-

bership Co-chairs who are eager to boost the *momentum* by growing TJHS Membership, reaching out to communities across Texas and as well as Texans living outside the State.

The TJHS Grants Program has greatly added to the *momentum*. In 2022, TJHS awarded grants to 6 outstanding, diverse projects for a total of \$26,900. The new TJHS Website has a complete list of past Grant recipients from the earliest grantee in 1996 to the recent six in 2022.


Over 26 years of grant giving, TJHS has awarded close to a quarter of a million dollars to a remarkable breadth of funded projects: graduate student studies, documentary filmmakers, authors, architectural preservationists and historians, cookbook writers, Yiddish translators, gravestone markers, photography documentation and exhibitions, oral histories, preservation of temple artifacts and archives, Texas Jewish history talks, cemetery consecration and preservation, and moving an unattended synagogue from Brenham, Texas to a new location and new religious life in Austin, Texas,... and more.

Each project in its unique way contributes to the ongoing mission of TJHS: collecting, sharing, publishing, and archiving Texas Jewish heritage. Every time a grantee successfully

completes a project, TJHS and each of its members share in that success. And these projects reach a broader audience that learns more about the supportive work of TJHS.


The TJHS Board of Trustees took another bold action at the January 2023 Board Meeting by approving an annual minimum threshold for the Grants Program that will secure funding for future projects. This budgetary act promises that the Grants Program begun decades ago will not falter in the years ahead. And donations made in memory or in honor of family and friends will also be directed for use by the Grants Program.

Looking forward to April 14-16, 2023, the TJHS Meetings Committee is planning the first in-person Annual Gathering since meeting in Houston in 2019. On the schedule of speakers are four past TJHS grant recipients and a panel of students from the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. This diverse program will be held at the Briscoe Center for American History, the Archives of the TJHS Collection. (Registration forms will be emailed to all Members.)

These remarkable achievements in the new year help ensure the continued *momentum* for the Texas Jewish Historical Society into the future. 

## Speaker's Bureau by Jan Siegel Hart

The Speaker's Bureau of the Texas Jewish Historical Society functioned through Zoom during the Covid shutdown. Recently we have been meeting in person and have scheduled a speaker in Conroe in the near future. Our speakers are available to speak either on Zoom or in person.

We hope that our members will keep the Speaker's Bureau in mind when communicating with their congregations and organizations. Our speakers are available to speak on a number of subjects, including historical Jewish people and places, how to do oral histories, and facts about the Texas Jewish Historical Society and what we do. 

**For membership forms that can be printed for personal use, events, or programs, go to our website [www.txjhs.org](http://www.txjhs.org). Credit card use is available for renewals or new memberships.**

## Passover at Harlingen, continued from page 1

were seated, Chaplain Barish made opening remarks and asked everyone to stand in prayer for the Jews of Europe. Reports were heard of mass killings of Jews. The horrible truth would come out the next month in April, 1945, when the concentration camps of Bergen-Belson and Dachau were liberated revealing what became known as the Holocaust.

Lay-rabbi Sam Perl was introduced by Chaplain Barish. Sam asked that special prayers be offered for the family of Oscar and Laura Sommer whose son-in-law, Bernard Whitman, was held in a German prisoner-of-war camp. Their youngest son, Sidney, was in the Navy. Their son Marcel (Buddy) Sommer was in the Army Air Force and had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Their son David was also in the Army Air Force. Another son-in-law, Alex Gershowitz, was in the Coast Guard. Fortunately, Bernard Whitman was freed the following year from the POW camp and came home to Brownsville to his wife, Mildred. He met his daughter, Marcy, for the first time.


Sam Perl also mentioned Morris and Yetta Edelstein. Their sons Ruben and Eli were in the Army in Europe, and their son Ben was in the Navy.

The Passover service began. Soon the servers surprised everyone with matzah ball soup that was prepared by the mess hall sergeant using a recipe provided with the Haggadahs. It was pronounced surprisingly good.

As tradition dictates, the Seder ended with everyone saying, "Next year in Jerusalem." Comments were made about the news that Zionist Jews settling in Palestine were trying to re-establish Israel.

A Yizkor (memorial) service was held that evening at the Post Chapel No. 1, in which tribute was paid to men and women of all nations and creeds who laid down their lives in the war. Sam Perl asked that the name of Lewis Albert Stein be recited in the Yizkor service. Pfc. Stein was killed in action in France the previous month shot by a German sniper. Twenty-year old Lewis, a former Sunday School teacher at Temple Beth-El, was the only son of Jacob and Mae Rose Stein of Brownsville. Jacob Stein was the owner of the *Brownsville Herald* newspaper. Mae Rose Stein donated money in her will to Temple Beth-El for a religious school in honor of Lewis Albert Stein. This was accomplished when our Temple building was constructed in 1989.

The war in Europe ended two months later in May, 1945. An atomic bomb destroyed Hiroshima, Japan on August 8, 1945. Soon, Nagasaki was also bombed. This led to the Japanese signing the surrender document on September 2, 1945. The invasion of Japan was avoided, saving many American and Japanese lives. Chaplain Louis Baris continued his military service on behalf of Jewish soldiers, earning awards in Korea. Buried in the Hebrew Cemetery of Brownsville are Oscar, Laura, Sidney, David, and Marcel Sommer. Also, Bernard Whitman, Alex Gershowitz, and Morris, Yetta, Ruben, Eli, and Ben Edelstein.

*Personal note of Larry Holtzman:* I assume that my parents, Ely and Anne Holtzman, attended this Seder in Harlingen. If so, four-year-old Larry was also there hoping to see airplanes. My dad was probably driving an old Packard sedan that he purchased for salvage at his junk yard. One of my first memories in life was seeing the street below my mother's feet passing by quickly. When I was older, I told my dad of my memory. He said that the old Packard was rusted and had no floorboard. My Mother clutched me tightly on her lap so I would not fall through the floor. 

## TJHS Awards Two Grants

*The Texas Jewish Historical Society awarded two grants in December, 2022, via electronic voting of the board.*

**Barbara Rosenthal** was awarded \$10,000 for the first of three phases to the documentary, "Grit and Grace: How Six Jewish Women Transformed Texas." "Grit and Grace" will be a

feature-length documentary exploring Jewish Texas history through the stories of six women whose contributions and achievements had a lasting impact on the Lone Star State. Other funding is being sought and TJHS will receive recognition in the screen credits.

**Emily Williams**, a Master of Fine

Arts candidate at Louisiana State University was awarded \$4,400 to "explore both the historical and contemporary Jewish experience, particularly that of race, in the Deep South through photography and oral history." TJHS funding will allow her to travel in Texas, conducting interviews, and defray the cost of proper recording equipment and photo supplies.



# Proposed Slate

## Officers, 2023-2024

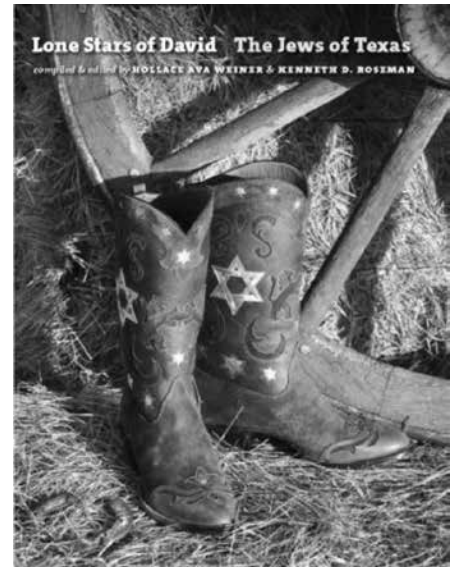
President	Joan Linares, Baytown
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2nd Vice-President	Jules Frapart, Brownsville
3rd Vice-President	Cynthia Wolf, Beaumont
Recording Secretary	John Campbell, Austin
Corresponding Secretary	Amy Milstein, Frisco
Treasurer	Ben Rosenberg, Sugar Land
Historian/Archivist	Sally Drayer, Dallas
Parliamentarian	Vickie Vogel, Austin


## Board of Trustees, 2023-2025

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Cindy Lindauer, Austin  
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Ruth Nathan, Houston  
Eric H. Nelson, Houston  
Alan Selzer, Houston  
Laurie Selzer, Houston  
Barbara Green Stone, Dallas  
Betty Weiner, Houston  
Gary Whitfield, Fort Worth

# Hollace Ava Weiner Speaks to California Congregation

Hollace Ava Weiner was invited to speak at Temple Beth David, Westminster, California by the Temple Beth David Foundation. Her subject was "A Special Chapter in Jewish American History The Jews of Texas," with her book, *Lone Stars of David*, as a resource. Hollace



said that there were one hundred people in attendance with many of them having ties to Texas. Although the book is out of print, the group was able to purchase two copies from eBay and both sold immediately. The brunch menu included peach cobbler and sweet potato pie. Now Californians know there are Jews in Texas! 


## 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. 



Row 1 – Marc Wormser, John Campbell, Sally Drayer, Janice Gerber, Vickie & David Vogel  
 Row 2 – Sharon & Sonny Gerber, Sheldon Lippman, Joan Linares, Jan & Charles Hart, Barbara Green Stone  
 Row 3 – Anita Feigenbaum, Lonnie Schooler, Hollace Weiner, Jeff Josephs, Jules Frapart  
 Row 4 – Jennifer Lava, Marilyn Lippman, Joyce Davidoff, Barbara & Ben Rosenberg, Susan Goodman Novick  
 Row 5 – Amy Milstein, Kathy Kravitz, Paula Stein, Rusty Milstein, James Bernick  
 Row 6 – Davie Lou Solka, Susan & Bob Lewis, Lyndia Furgatch  
 Not pictured: Elaine Albin, Michael Furgatch, Jane Manaster, Mitzi Milstein, Hy Penn, Phyllis Turkel, Joyce Wormser.


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

- The 2023 Budget was approved.
- The new website is up and running with members having the ability to renew memberships, make donations, update their contact information and more to come.
- It was announced that Marc Wormser, Membership Chair has resigned. He was thanked by Sheldon Lippman for all his years of keeping the Membership database up to date. The database is now online, and Joyce Davidoff and Barbara Green Stone have been appointed as Co-chairs of the Membership Committee.
- Rusty Milstein, Cemetery Database Chair, announced that he is continuing to update the listings and thanked everyone for their help in sending him information. Kathy Kravitz continues to update information on the website with photos and missing information. The new website will have all burial information for people to check out.
- Two Grants were approved by the Board via electronic voting in December. Barbara Rosenthal was awarded \$10,000 for the first of


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

three phases to the documentary, “Grit and Grace: How Six Jewish Women transformed Texas.” “Grit and Grace” will be a feature-length documentary exploring Jewish Texas history through the stories of six women whose contributions and achievements had a lasting impact on the Lone Star State. The first phase includes establishing an LLC and Agreement and facilitating the professional filming of interviews in San Antonio and Fort Worth and preliminary editing. Ms. Rosenthal is seeking additional funding from other sources, and TJHS will receive recognition in the screen credits.

- The second grant was awarded to Emily Williams, a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Louisiana State University. She received \$4,400 for her work “to explore both the historical and contemporary Jewish experience, particularly that of race, in the Deep South through photography and oral history.” This is an ongoing project that focuses primarily on small towns in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and the Florida panhandle. TJHS funding will allow travel in Texas to conduct interviews, defray the cost of proper recording equipment and photo supplies.
- The Grants program will have an annual minimum amount to be used for awarded Grants. Memorial donations and those made in honor of individuals will be added to this amount instead of the General Fund.
- Sally Drayer, Meeting Chair, said that 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 four new members since January 1, 2023, and a total of 479 member units. Since the website now allows members to renew online, more than one hundred members have already renewed. All memberships are entered into a new online administrative database.
- Vickie Vogel, Travel Chair, announced that there will be a trip to the Mediterranean area focusing on Jewish sights April 23 – May 8, 2023. Contact her if you are interested. 

## Correction for Photo in Last Issue


On page 13 in the November, 2022, issue of The TJHS Magazine is a photo showing the Michelson family from Gonzales. Lawrence Michelson was identified as Lawrence Lissner. We apologize to his family for this error. 

## Contributions


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

<b>In Honor of</b>	<b>From</b>
Ruth Nathan	Gary & Rachelle B. Okowita
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Arthur Gurwitz	Marilyn Jorrie Hollace & Dr. Bruce Weiner
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Dr. Neil Gurwitz	Marilyn Jorrie Hollace & Dr. Bruce Weiner
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Rabbi Jimmy Kessler	Marilyn Jorrie Hollace & Dr. Bruce Weiner Vickie & David Vogel
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Shirley & Sonny Landsberg	Joshua Reiss
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Harry Pullen	Marilyn Jorrie
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Jack Solka	Marilyn Jorrie Hollace & Dr. Bruce Weiner Saranne & Livingston Kosberg
<b>In Memory of</b>	<b>From</b>
Helen Wilk	Marilyn Jorrie Hollace & Dr. Bruce Weiner

## 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*. 

## 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. 



## FROM THE TJHS ARCHIVES

# Dean Daniel Sternberg: A Lucky Disposition

by Vickie Vogel

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**This column is based on information available in the TJHS 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 the TJHS archives to be as complete and accurate as possible.**

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Daniel Arie<sup>1</sup> Sternberg was born in Lemberg, Austria-Hungary<sup>2</sup> in 1913. His father, Philipp,<sup>3</sup> served in the Austrian army in Leipnik before the family moved to Czernowitz, where Philipp was editor of a Yiddish newspaper. Daniel's mother, Eva Makovska, studied psychology at the University of Brussels and also did translations from Russian to German. Philipp had a doctorate in jurisprudence from the University of Vienna, but he did not practice law until the family moved to Vienna around 1918.

Daniel's first language was Yiddish, but he knew German and some Polish. His governess taught him French, and he learned English later. His family life was filled with music, as Philipp played violin. Daniel began the study of piano in 1918 at age five and the cello at age 13 as a student of noted composer Karl Weigl.<sup>4</sup> His father took him to concerts. He asked his father, "What is the man



*Courtesy of Geoff Hunt, Audio and Visual Curator,  
The Texas Collection, Baylor University*

doing who is standing there waving his hands?" Philipp answered that he watched over all the players and pointed at anyone who made a mistake. Daniel couldn't figure out how there were so many mistakes, because he was pointing all the time. This was Daniel's introduction to his life-long love of conducting.

As soon as the Sternbergs moved to Vienna, Philipp, recognizing Daniel's musical talent, found a piano teacher for him. The teacher complained he didn't practice enough. He was more interested in music itself than the piano and enjoyed arranging music. He had no desire to be a concert pianist. He studied cello for about five years, and studied theo-

ry and composition, working with a master composer.

Daniel started school in the third grade, getting credit for his home tutoring. His parents wanted him to be an educated, socially-conscious person. They did not expect he would be a musician, but he realized in his early teens that music would be part of his life. His father wanted him to be able to make a living, so insisted he study law while attending the music academy. He could always practice law with his father, so Daniel studied law at the University of Vienna and conducting at the Vienna National Academy of Music (Vienna Conservatory) where he graduated top of his class. He was focused on music and

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*Felicitas Gobenu Sternberg, From The Portal to Texas History*

received a degree in music theory.

In his teens, Daniel organized a chamber music group and coached them; they performed for their parents. A conductor is mainly a teacher, he felt, up until the lights go down and he briefly becomes a performer. Students wrote and performed cabaret for an audience of 80 to 100. Daniel occasionally played piano, but usually just did the music writing.

They would do the same program for a couple of weeks, then do another, perhaps somewhere else. No one was paid; they just did it for fun. The audience paid a small admission to cover their expenses. The facilities sold a lot of beer, so they were supportive. Philipp saw every show, which included political satire. When the political situation became too serious, the cabarets fell apart.

Daniel did not learn much Hebrew growing up. He and his brother, Eli,<sup>5</sup> were brought up with a consciousness of their Jewish heritage and they observed the holidays at home, attending High Holy Day services at a synagogue. All official documents asked for your religious identification and you paid a tax to your community, not a particular synagogue.

While at the Academy, Daniel met his future wife in 1933. A friend buttonholed him one day and asked if he had a black suit. Her cousin, an actress and modern dancer, was preparing a dance recital and needed an accompanist. Daniel wasn't really interested, but agreed to meet her. She "descended on me with this powerful, aggressive exposition of what she was about," he recalled. She wouldn't take no for an answer - her whole future was at stake. He met with Romanian-born Felicitas (she had changed her name) Gobenu (b. 1907) two or three times a week from January to April. Daniel was swept off his feet by the weight of her personality.<sup>6</sup> They became engaged.<sup>7</sup>

At the University of Vienna, there was an annual Beat Up the Jews Day, dating back to before World War I. This did not happen in the Academy, so Daniel did not experience this violence. He graduated at the top of his conducting class. The other seven students received positions before graduation. Daniel did not, and knew no place would hire him. He was certified to teach music, but he didn't want to do that. He enrolled in a three-year graduate program for conductors which had stringent entrance requirements.

Daniel knew there was no job for him in Austria. His teacher put him in touch with Russians who were recruiting Europeans and Americans.

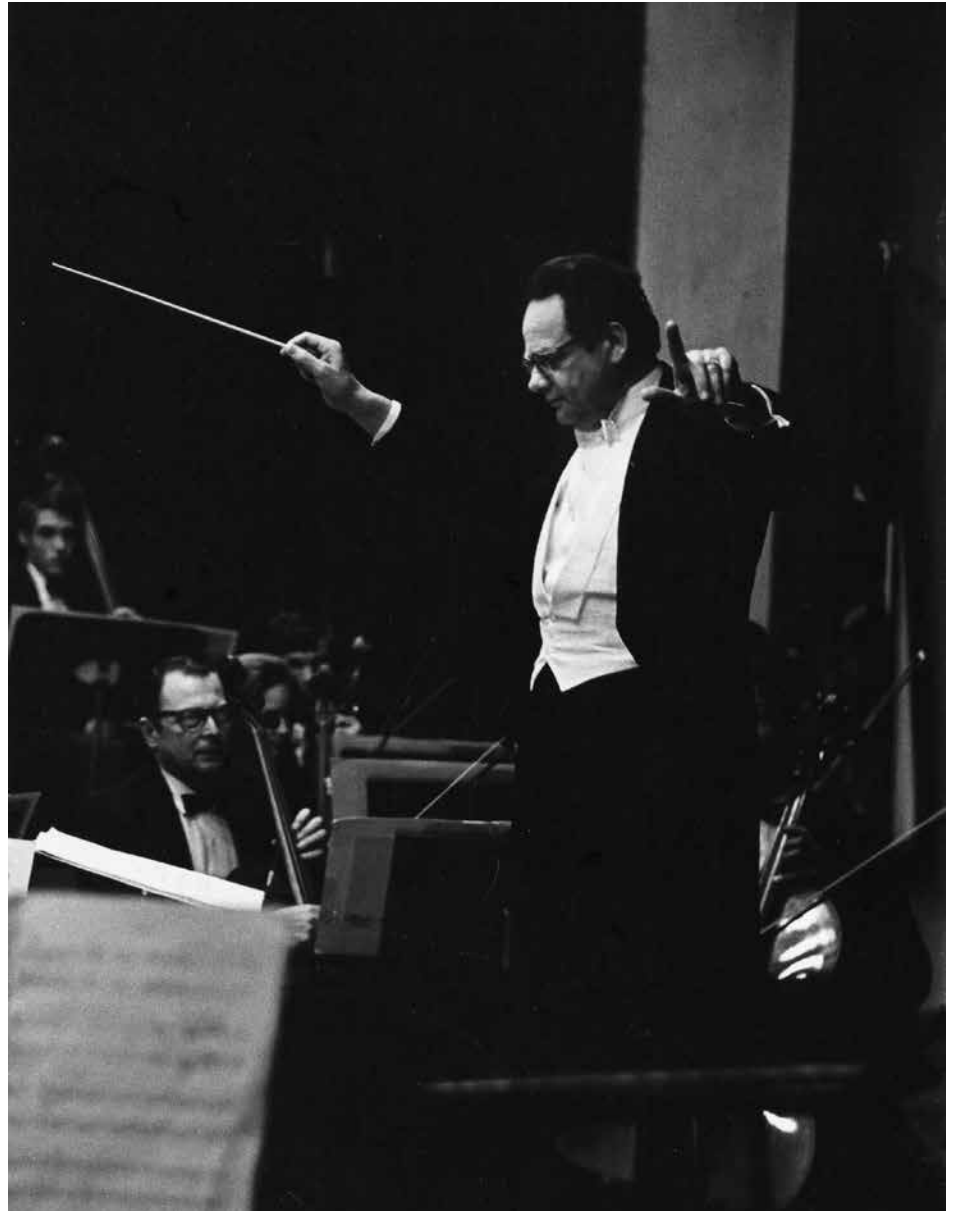
**continued on page 10**

He had not yet graduated, but he booked a tour with InTourist in 1935 in order to get to Leningrad, which Philipp paid for. Daniel became an assistant, occasionally playing piano, and doing odd jobs for the conductor Fritz Stiedry<sup>8</sup> who had been chief conductor of Berlin State Opera. After a few weeks, Daniel was offered the position of Assistant Director of the Leningrad Philharmonic and the Leningrad Grand Opera. It paid little, but it was a foot in the door. He studied Russian and became fluent.

In Leningrad, all the musicians lived at the Hotel Europa across from the Philharmonic. Stiedry and his wife treated Sternberg as a son and he loved him as a second father. Stiedry arranged for Daniel to audition to be conductor in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. He was invited to take the position of music director of the Tiflis<sup>9</sup> State Symphony Orchestra and conducting teacher at the Tiflis State Conservatory of Music, which he gladly accepted. Housing was provided, and though the salary was low, it was ten times the average salary in Moscow, because Sternberg was a foreign guest.

In July of 1936, Daniel and Felicitas celebrated a traditional Jewish wedding in Vienna. His parents opposed the marriage - a young artist setting out on a career should not be also taking care of a wife. They did not attend the wedding; their opposition offended his in-laws. As the youngest of eleven children, Felicitas' father was much older. Her mother was an invalid and could not attend the wedding. There were no plans for what Felicitas would do in Tbilisi. She was a dancer and gymnastics teacher, and gave a couple of dance recitals, but she knew little Russian and never really found her niche.

Daniel already had a visa for a



*Courtesy of Geoff Hunt, Audio and Visual Curator,  
The Texas Collection, Baylor University.*

contract to work, but Felicitas did not. He traveled to Tbilisi alone and requested her visa, which took a few weeks. They usually ate out, as Felicitas wasn't much of a cook. There were long lines to buy food, and you never knew what would be available. It was easier to eat out, but eventually they found a woman who cooked in her home and they ate there.

As part of his compensation, he

received two vacation trips a year to Moscow. They stayed with his aunt and uncle who lived there and had access to a car. They went to museums, theaters, Lenin's mausoleum, the army museum, and attended the May Day Parade in 1935. The first trip was by train, but for the second vacation, Daniel flew to Moscow. He opened the window and leaned out and his glasses blew off. He put on his

*continued on page 11*

spare pair, napped, awoke queasy and leaned out again and lost his spare pair! As soon as he landed, someone made a phone call to an oculist and he got new glasses in two hours. An ordinary citizen would have had to wait four weeks.

By 1937, one of his orchestra members might disappear from time to time. No one made eye contact or said anything about it. Sternberg knew to leave it alone. People were afraid to be seen with foreigners, so the Sternbergs were cautious and made few friends. Stalin's mother, who lived in Tbilisi, sometimes attended his performances. Sternberg was also a lector at the conservatory for music students.

His salary of 3,000 rubles was paid in cash, with no bill larger than 30. One could not take it out of the country; you had to spend it there.<sup>10</sup> When his contract was up at the end of the season, he was told he must become a Soviet citizen if he wanted to remain. Not wanting to give up his freedom of movement, he declined. A colleague had left the country and was not allowed back in, even though he had left his belongings behind. He asked Daniel to bring out his fur-lined coat with him. The Sternbergs each had a fur coat and the rule was you could only take out one unless it was noted on your passport when you entered. Daniel picked up his friend's coat and carried it across his arm at the border. His own coat was only fur-trimmed, and they let it pass. Felicitas had fur to make into a coat, and her own coat, and they would not let her take them both, despite her tears. They returned to Vienna with virtually nothing. When the friend thanked Daniel, he told him it cost his wife her coat. The friend went to the foreign ministry in Vienna who was able to get the coat out by diplomatic

pouch.<sup>11</sup>

Returning from Russia in late 1937, Sternberg started preparations to go to the United States. The Nazis were in Vienna by February, 1938. When the Nazis took over, intellectuals had to learn a trade. Many (including Daniel), turned to bookbinding. After completing a workshop to learn how to do that, he bound all of the magazines he had collected of his great influence, Karl Krauss. His thirty-six volumes of Krauss magazines were one of the few things he salvaged and got out of Austria.

By the fall of 1938, Sternberg had come to the attention of the Gestapo because he was Jewish and had been to Russia. He was ordered to report to headquarters after a search of his apartment turned up nothing. The Gestapo had raided offices like Philipp's to confiscate typewriters for their own offices. Daniel had to show the young clerk how to load the paper and use the typewriter. He was asked why he went to Russia and what were his political activities there. Daniel denied being a Communist. "Every Jew is a Communist!" the Gestapo clerk told him. Daniel said he had no time for politics because of his intense music preoccupations. The clerk seemed to believe him, but told him he must leave within forty-eight hours on pain of arrest and a concentration camp.<sup>12</sup>

Daniel's intense efforts to find a place to go led him in a roundabout way to Memel, the Lithuania spa; Riga, Latvia; Sweden; and at last to New York. Once he found the route, Felicitas followed him. They were in Riga for a year, working when they could, and enjoyed a wide circle of friends in the arts and politics, while waiting for visas. One morning the American Ambassador called him and said, "You're leaving today." Daniel asked if his number had come

up, and received no reply. They took the first plane to Stockholm. That night, the Russians moved into Riga and arrested everybody who had been to Russia and had left. The Ambassador must have known, and moved quickly to save them.

They arrived in the United States in 1939 and stayed in New York for a year (with the cousins who had sponsored them) where Daniel worked as a free-lance accompanist.<sup>13</sup> They moved to Dallas when Sternberg was named head of the piano department and conductor of chorus and opera at the Hockaday Institute of Music.<sup>14</sup>

In 1942, Sternberg found his permanent musical home with Baylor University as a part-time faculty member. The next year, he was named to the newly-created position of dean, where he remained for sixty years. He was one of the few Jewish instructors to earn full professorship at Baylor in that era. As Snyder Vogel wrote in Sternberg's obituary, "Maintaining his Jewish identity on the Baptist campus, he became a pillar of the Baylor community, receiving admiration from colleagues and students."<sup>15</sup>

Over the years, there was some pressure on Baylor President Abner V. McCall to "get rid of that Jew." McCall told them to "go fly a kite." Sternberg was criticized by a Dr. Ferguson, professor of religion, for presenting the opera *Pique Dame* with the theme of the evil, destructiveness of gambling addiction. Dr. Ferguson did not think Baylor boys should be made to play cards on stage. Sternberg discussed the issues with him.<sup>16</sup> Later, the St. Paul's Episcopal Church rector came to see Daniel and asked him to take their choir. "You know, gentlemen, that I'm a Jew," Sternberg pointed out. "So was Jesus Christ,"

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was the reply. He led the choir for twenty-seven years.

The Baylor Symphony Orchestra was created in 1939, but in 1950 Conductor Max Reiter retired and no future seasons were planned. In 1961, after a decade of no symphony performances, the Waco Chamber of Commerce met with Sternberg about reintroducing the symphony. The orchestra was back in business for a three-performance season in 1962, including a guest appearance from Texas pianist Van Cliburn, with Sternberg as music director and conductor. Sternberg provided a variety of music from classical to pops, with musical guests, and led the local debut of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*.<sup>17</sup>

With Felicitas serving as dramatic director and scenic designer, Sternberg created the opera department at Baylor, as well as the Oratorio Chorus, the Symphony Orchestra, and the graduate division. Felicitas did the set designs for *The Marriage of Figaro*, with Daniel as the musical director in the 1956 Baylor production.<sup>17</sup> He guest-conducted the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and was president of the southwest division of the Music Teachers National Association and the Texas Association of Music Schools. He was named the Ben H. Williams Distinguished Professor of Music, the School of Music's first endowed professorship. He carried a full teaching load, including a survey course called Masterpieces of Music, while also writing and publishing church music.

Sternberg was "the guiding spirit behind the development of the School of Music for almost forty years," recalled former Baylor President McCall.<sup>19</sup> Sternberg was described as a Renaissance man, a model to Baylor students of what a person with a liberal education should be. In an interview

in 1999, Sternberg said he felt he had been inordinately fortunate in having an opportunity to do what he did, and that people let him do it. He praised his successor at the Waco Symphony Orchestra, Stephen Heyde.<sup>20</sup>

In addition to being a gifted speaker and lecturer, Sternberg was an accomplished linguist and was fluent in several languages. This skill was put to good use in translating operas by Puccini (*Tosca*), Verdi (*Don Carlo*), Mussorgsky (*Boris Godunov*), Smetana (*The Bartered Bride*), and Tchaikovsky (*The Queen of Spades*).

Sternberg received many awards throughout his long career, including a prize for a film score in Austria, a vocal composition in a contest sponsored by the Texas Federation of Music Clubs, the Harold J. Norman Memorial Award from the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in a nationwide competition for an orchestra composition (composed for Baylor's centennial celebration in 1945), the Cultural Achievement Award from the West Texas Chamber of Commerce in 1980 for his promotion of the arts, and the Americanism Medal of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1969. This award is given to a naturalized citizen for distinguished contribution to American life. He also received the Piper Foundation Award, the Outstanding Creative Faculty Artist of the Year (1977), and was voted Professor of the Year by the Baylor student body in 1960. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree from Houston Baptist University in 1975. In 1990, he received a Retired Faculty Award.<sup>21</sup> In 2000, he was given the honor of serving as the Bearer of the Mace during the spring commencement ceremonies. In 2009, the International Percy Grainger Society awarded him posthumously its

50th and final Grainger Medallion.

Mandatory retirement caused Sternberg to leave his post in 1982, and he was named Dean Emeritus. He stayed active in retirement, in great demand as a speaker and lecturer. He conducted the season-opening Baylor Symphony Orchestra performance in 1999, having conducted the Waco Symphony Orchestra for twenty-five seasons.

Felicitas Sternberg died in 1996 in her late 80s and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco.<sup>22</sup> In 1997<sup>23</sup> Daniel married Mary Jane Aiken Stopschinski and became stepfather to her five children. She was born in 1930 in San Benito, Texas and studied music at Baylor, graduating in 1952 with a Bachelor of Music, adding a Masters of Music Education in 1954 before attending The Julliard School. She had married Heinz David "Hank" Stopschinski who immigrated in 1955 from Hanigsen, Germany where his family settled after fleeing the Russian army in 1945.<sup>24</sup>

They reared their five children in Houston where Mary Jane taught piano and harp. At some point, they divorced, but remained friends. She moved to Waco in 1995, married Sternberg, and became involved with the Waco Symphony.

Daniel Sternberg died August 26, 2000 at his Waco home. Rabbi Mordecai Podet officiated at his funeral service. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery next to Felicitas. He was praised for his lifetime of service and his legacy of progressive leadership. He was survived by Mary Jane, her five children, two grandchildren, and a multitude of former students.<sup>25</sup> The Faculty Senate passed a resolution honoring him for his contributions to the Baylor School of Music, to Baylor University, and to the Waco commu-

continued on page 13

nity. "His remarkable life embodies a series of triumphs over prejudice and adversity in one of the most calamitous decades in European history... (d)riven from his homeland, he found a home and family/community here at Baylor," wrote the Baylor News monthly newsletter. A scholarship was established by the School of Music.<sup>26</sup> The Waco Symphony Orchestra played a Mozart tribute in memoriam, a piece Sternberg had selected shortly before his death: Masonic Music of Mourning.<sup>27</sup>

Daniel Sternberg was a remarkable man of great musical talent, but also the talent of knowing how to plan and achieve his goals. His online oral history of some twenty hours with Baylor University is filled with fascinating stories, too many to include here, including how he made his way in the United States. He was flexible and knew how to land on his feet. He credited his "lucky disposition."<sup>28</sup>

In 2016, there was a sale of the Estate of Dean Daniel Sternberg in Waco. The house is described as an elegant mid-century home with top-of-the-line furnishings from 1940-1960, along with books in German and Russian.<sup>29</sup>

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Sternberg did not know how his middle name should be pronounced. <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/oral-memoirs-of-daniel-arie-sternberg-series-2-audio/1608336>
- <sup>2</sup> a/k/a Lviv, Ukraine, Lwow, Poland. [https://holocaust.projects.history.ucsb.edu/Resources/history\\_of\\_lviv.htm](https://holocaust.projects.history.ucsb.edu/Resources/history_of_lviv.htm)
- <sup>3</sup> Philipps' father had a lumber business in Kolomya, Germany where Philipp was born. When Father died, his mother ran the business until around 1930 when she sold it and moved to Vienna. The Sternberg family cele-

brated Shabbat in her home, although they were not religious themselves. She was later taken to Terezin and died there; other family members escaped.

- <sup>4</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all information is from Box 3A168, Folder: Musicians, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, or from oral histories conducted at Baylor University. <https://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=3729>
- <sup>5</sup> Eli, born in 1917 in Vienna, did not finish school because of the war. He emigrated to the United States and studied at the University of North Carolina, and finished his master's degree at MIT. <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/oral-memoirs-of-daniel-arie-sternberg-series-2-audio/1608336?item=1608339>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/oral-memoirs-of-daniel-arie-sternberg-series-2-audio/1608336?item=1608342>
- <sup>7</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108783019/felicitas-sternberg> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_Sternberg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Sternberg)
- <sup>8</sup> Stiedry was a Jew who had converted to Christianity. To the Nazis, he was a Jew, and he lost his position in Berlin. After Leningrad, Stiedry emigrated to the United States and became principal conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fritz\\_Stiedry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fritz_Stiedry)
- <sup>9</sup> In 1936, the official Russian name of the city was changed from Tiflis to Tbilisi. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_Tbilisi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Tbilisi)
- <sup>10</sup> <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/oral-memoirs-of-daniel-arie-sternberg-series-2-audio/1608336?item=1608363>
- <sup>11</sup> She still had the coat years later in Waco.

- <sup>12</sup> Philipp and Eva Sternberg were also told to exit the country and leave everything behind. They emigrated to Israel and then the United States.
- <sup>13</sup> <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph907542/>
- <sup>14</sup> Opened in 1938 on Hockaday's second campus on Greenville Avenue. It was a part of The Hockaday School until 1946. <https://www.hockaday.org/about/history>, wikipedia op. cit.
- <sup>15</sup> Obituary *Texas Jewish Post Dallas*, Snyder Vogel, September 14, 2000. [https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph754494/m1/18/?q=\(Daniel%20Sternberg\).%20Texas%20Jewish%20Post,%20Dallas,%20Vol.%2054,%20No.%2037,%20September%2014,%202000](https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph754494/m1/18/?q=(Daniel%20Sternberg).%20Texas%20Jewish%20Post,%20Dallas,%20Vol.%2054,%20No.%2037,%20September%2014,%202000)
- <sup>16</sup> <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/oral-memoirs-of-daniel-arie-sternberg-series-2-audio/1608336?item=1608401>
- <sup>17</sup> [https://m.facebook.com/wacohistory/photos/a.992067230836735/4533326406710782/?type=3&eid=ARBluBXLppURO\\_eU91y2pA-vBW7riZ\\_S6SJACkHbv7KwDvw8zxxyUUmhIImP7rQvU9GJut71ajZyo2\\_c](https://m.facebook.com/wacohistory/photos/a.992067230836735/4533326406710782/?type=3&eid=ARBluBXLppURO_eU91y2pA-vBW7riZ_S6SJACkHbv7KwDvw8zxxyUUmhIImP7rQvU9GJut71ajZyo2_c)
- <sup>18</sup> <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/baylor-lariat-waco-texas-vol.-57-no.-93-tuesday-april-10-1956/152806>
- <sup>19</sup> Box 3A168, op cit.
- <sup>20</sup> <https://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=3729>; Heyde retired in 2022 with the Waco Symphony alive and well. <https://www.wacosymphony.com/conductor.aspx>
- <sup>21</sup> <https://baylorlinefoundation.com/award-recipients/>
- <sup>22</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/108783019/felicitas-sternberg>
- <sup>23</sup> <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph754494/hits?q=Daniel%20Sternberg>
- <sup>24</sup> <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/houstonchronicle/>

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# 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.  
On the form below, please show how your project meets our mission.

## 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).*

# Meet Your Board

**Anita Feigenbaum** grew up in Bastrop, Texas, graduated from the University of Texas and received a Master Degree from Texas A&M University. She and her husband, Leslie, have been married thirty-nine years and have two children, Sarah and Ryan. They live in College Station, where Leslie is on the faculty at the University. Anita became involved in TJHS years ago with her parents, Betty and Dr. Neil Gurwitz, of blessed memory.



In her free time, she loves visiting with family, traveling, attending Aggie events, and entertaining her puppy, Bella. She has been involved in retail and property management.

**Phyllis Gerson Turkel** is proud to be a “BOI”—born on the island of Galveston, but has lived in Houston for many years. She has been in retail and has even sold mattresses over the internet! She is now a program director at a retirement community, and says this is the best job she has ever had! Phyllis is a walker and has walked half marathons and marathons. She walked Phoenix Rock and Roll with her daughter in January, 2018.



**Barbara Green Stone** is a fourth generation Texan, who was born in Dallas and grew up in Lafayette, Louisiana, and Dallas. She earned a B.S. in Medical Technology from the University of Texas/Austin, where she met her Houston-born husband, Edward. They have two sons and one granddaughter. Barbara is a longtime volunteer with Temple Emanu-El Women of Reform Judaism in Dallas. Her hobbies include photography, crocheting for donation, reading, travel, and genealogy (including prior to the internet). Her son, Dr. Bryan Stone is a past TJHS Board Member.



**David Beer**, TJHS Past President, was born and raised in Dallas. He worked in the restaurant business for eleven years, before joining the family real estate business. He is in his 38th year of representing buyers and seller in real estate in Dallas. David has two sons, Alex and Nate. Alex and his wife live in Kansas City and are teachers in the Kansas City Independent School District. Nate is the manager of The Taco Joint in Dallas.



**Eric H. Nelson** was born and raised in Corpus Christi. He currently lives in Houston. He attended the University of Texas/Austin for his undergraduate work, and law school at the University of Houston. He practices labor law. Eric and his wife, Carol, have two sons and five grandchildren.



**Lionel “Lonnie” Schooler** is one of the founding members of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. He served as President in 1984-1986, and has remained as the “official” legal counsel for the Society. He and his wife, Marsha, live in Houston.

**Laurie Pink Selzer** was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas. Her parents, Gladys and Louis Pink, were longtime members of TJHS. She graduated from the University of Texas/Austin, and has been married to Alan Selzer (also a TJHS Board Member) for forty-four years. They have three children and five grandchildren. Laurie is a senior marketing strategist for the Meredith Corporation (New York based) working remotely from home. Her career has encompassed journalism, marketing, public relations, business development, and fundraising.



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## Board, continued from page 16

Her maternal grandparents migrated to the United States through Galveston and her paternal grandparents settled in Wichita Falls during the oil rush.



**Vickie Vogel** lives in Austin and is a Past President of TJHS. She has visited all seven continents and all fifty states. She is a retired attorney who practiced primarily criminal law. Vickie is heavily involved in political activism. She enjoys travel, needlework, and reading, and chairs the TJHS Travel Committee.

**Barbara Rosenberg**, Past TJHS President, lives in Sugar Land, Texas, with her husband, Ben, TJHS Treasurer.



She is a native-born Texan who grew up in San Angelo; and is a first generation American. Her family owned the Hollywood Shoppe and Boston Store in San Angelo. She attended the University of Texas, Austin, and graduated at age twenty, when she married Ben. They moved to Houston and she attended University of Houston

graduate school for a Master's degree in Speech Pathology. She has worked in schools, hospitals, and has had a private practice. Barbara visits Jewish hospital patients as a volunteer of Houston's Jewish Chaplaincy; is a docent for the Fort Bend Museums; and is a former member of the Ft. Bend County Historical commission. Barbara enjoys flower arranging and gardening and is the coordinator of the Cinderella Project for the Sugar Land Garden Club.



**Joyce Wormser**, Pearland was born in Corpus Christi and is married to Marc, TJHS Membership Chairman. They have two sons and four grandchildren. She worked as Employee Relations Officer for one thousand employees at the Corpus Christi State school. In 2010 she and Marc moved to Pearland to be closer to

their sons and their families.

**Nelson Chafetz**, Austin, is a lifelong Texas resident, who was born in San Antonio. He attended the University of Texas/Austin, where he received a BSEE degree. He is married to another native-born Texan, Mitzi Chafetz. Nelson works for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is a competitive swimmer. He has two children, and one grandson. Nelson



is a thirty-three-year member of United States Masters Swimming Organization, and in his spare time, is a party barge captain.

**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."



**Davie Lou Solka** is a grandchild of Russian immigrants who were part of the Galveston movement. She was President of TJHS 2017-2019, and she and her husband, Jack, z"l (a past TJHS Board Member) moved to Austin fourteen years ago from Corpus Christi. Davie Lou was involved in the community in Corpus Christi and was elected President of several Jewish organizations, PTAs, service clubs, and the first woman president of Temple Beth El.



After her children left home, she began and taught a Jewish Holiday Program called L'dor Vador in the JCC Pre-school. She retired from teaching after fourteen years just before moving to Austin. She was involved in activities in Austin pre-COVID and is a born and bred Texan. She graduated from the University of Texas before you had to add Austin. Davie Lou is editor of *The TJHS Magazine*.

**Henry Greenberg** is from San Antonio, TX 



### Sternberg, continued from page 13

name/heinz-stopschinski-obi-  
tuary?id=23318384


<sup>25</sup> <https://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=3729>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.baylor.edu/bn/doc.php/173828.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> [https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph754494/m1/18/?q=\(Daniel%20Sternberg\)](https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph754494/m1/18/?q=(Daniel%20Sternberg)). *Texas Jewish Post*, Dallas, Vol. 54, No. 37, September 14, 2000.

<sup>28</sup> <https://digitalcollections-baylor.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/oral-memoirs-of-daniel-arie-sternberg-series-2-audio/1608336?item=1608380>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.estatesales.net/TX/Waco/76708/1162878>

*Notation: Felicitas Sternberg's collection of scenic designs for the operas performed at Baylor are housed in Temple, Texas at the Cultural Activities Center.* 

## Letters to the Editor

Dear TJHS,


I hope you're having a fantastic day. My name is Lily and my son, Isaac, is a Boy Scout. He is in the process of earning his Genealogy badge, and I wanted to reach out to you because the Texas Jewish Historical Society was really helpful!

Isaac is really enjoying the work that goes into this badge and is loving learning about his family tree. I've never really done much research on the family myself and I'm definitely taking an interest in this with him! He's actually doing a family tree school project right now, so everything lined up really well. The club leader always encourages us to find extra resources at home, so I'm so glad Isaac found something he's really interested in and excited about.

Thank you again for taking the time to put the site together. Isaac was adamant that we send you a warm thank you. He was also eager to share a cool resource all about genealogy and building a family tree: <https://www.aaatateofplay.com/genealogy-for-kids-building-a-family-tree/> Do you think this could be added to your resource page? He would love to show his troop leader, if so. We hope this can be helpful to others, and help him earn his badge AND get extra credit from his teacher.

Thanks a bunch for the help!

Lily S.

*(Editor's note: this site has been added to resources on our web site at Isaac's suggestion.)* 

## Welcome New Members!

**Naomi Estrada**

El Paso

**Dora & Israel Grinberg**

Houston

**David Hart**

LaCrosse, WI

**Phyllis & Sheldon Kaufman**

Houston

**Joanne (Stein) & John Letlow**

Austin

**Myron Lewis**


Houston

**Rabbi Andrew Klein & Adam Mastoon**

Barrington, RI

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

## TJHS Wants Your Galveston Movement Immigration Story

Between 1907 and 1914, European Jews began coming to the United States via Galveston, Texas. They were routed from locations along the East coast to relieve crowding in overpopulated cities to prevent a public wave of anti-Semitism, which could lead to immigration restrictions. This became known as the Galveston Movement or Galveston Plan. Ten thousand immigrants passed through the Port of Galveston with destinations going beyond Texas to Denver, St. Louis, Kansas City, and many other places in the mid-west. New York philanthropist, Jacob Schiff, one of the driving forces behind the movement, provided nearly \$500,000 (\$14.5 million in 2021) of his personal money for the project. Galveston's Rabbi Henry Cohen met almost every ship and immigrant upon their arrival. If your family came through Galveston during that time, please send your Galveston Movement story to [editor@txjhs.org](mailto:editor@txjhs.org). 



# TJHS Board of Trustees

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Barbara Rosenberg (Sugar Land)

Lionel Schooler (Houston)

Davie Lou Solka (Austin)

Vickie Vogel (Austin)

Marc 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 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

P. O. Box 10193

Austin, Texas 78766-0193

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

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



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  
☐ \$35 Basic Member      ☐ \$250 Sustaining Member  
☐ \$50 Supporting Member      ☐ \$500 Benefactor

Member #1 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #2 (optional for couple) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*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  
Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193*