

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



May, 2023

TJHS Holds First In-Person Annual Gathering Since 2019

The Texas Jewish Historical Society held its first in-person Annual Gathering in Austin, Texas since 2019. Because of COVID, the 2020 Annual Gathering that was to be held in San Antonio was cancelled and was held on Zoom. The 2021 and 2022 Annual Gatherings were also held on Zoom. Members were happy to be together again in Austin at the AT&T Conference Center Hotel and greeted each with hugs and exclamations of “Look at you!” There were a few new heads of grey hair!

Shabbat dinner and services were held at Congregation Agudas Achim, with many Austinites also in attendance. Saturday began with breakfast hosted by the Lippman Family in honor of their broth-



Officers: Ben Rosenberg, Treasurer; John Campbell, Recording Secretary; Joan Linares, President; Susan Novick, 1st Vice-President; Vickie Vogel, Parliamentarian



Annual Gathering Attendees

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Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents.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

July 15-16, 2023

Summer Board Meeting, San Antonio

October 20-23, 2023

TJHS Fall Board Meeting and Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual Meeting at Rice University, in Houston

October 25 - November 1, 2023

TJHS Mission trip to Jewish Cuba. Registration deadline is June 15, 2023

**The deadline for the August 2023
TJHS Magazine is Friday, July 14.**

Message from the Outgoing President

by Sheldon Lippman



Two years ago, I presented to the Board of Trustees *Challenges Ahead for TJHS* with a focus on achieving greater outreach, efficiency, and sustainability:

Outreach means making sure that TJHS continues to attract new members, enhance its programs to interest younger generations to join, and engage current members who want to participate more actively. *Efficiency* means improving the procedures for TJHS activities and administration. *Sustainability* in this context means making sure that TJHS has operating systems in place that ensure smooth and effective transfers of administration to succeeding slates of officers and boards.

I am happy and proud to say that these challenges have been achieved.

The Board of Trustees took decisive action when approving the 2022 TJHS Budget. This budget provided for a new, upgraded TJHS website launched in December 2022. The Website provides a sleek, contemporary image to its visitors. It is full of content that helps familiarize new users to TJHS history and programs.

Membership registrations are

being made online with credit cards and continue by mail-in forms with checks. The significance is that whether paid by credit card or check, all memberships are entered into a new web-based membership database. Donations can be also made online. Applications for TJHS grants and nominations for the TJHS Outstanding Recognition Award can also be completed online.

The Database is in a password-protected shared online Google Workspace. Having a central, accessible workspace helps assure continuity in administering TJHS operations, while continuing the spirit of volunteerism and camaraderie among members.

Work continues populating the Google Workspace with important TJHS documents, including contracts, financial records, past minutes, and other files. Put simply, this space is the TJHS file drawers. For the first time, all significant documentation pertaining to TJHS will be accessible from one location, secured by password protection. This virtual office will be the go-to spot when seeking important TJHS documents.

Outreach has been my mantra for the past two years. This can be achieved as easily as inviting family and friends to discover the website. Membership in TJHS does not just mean paying annual dues and receiving *The TJHS Magazine*. Those dues signify that person is *an advocate for Texas Jewish history*. An advocate of Texas Jewish history does not have to be Jewish but cares enough to help support TJHS in its outreach, now more than ever.

Texas saw a record number of antisemitic incidents in 2022. Sadly, Texas is “ranked fifth in the country for this type of hate, according to an audit by the Anti-Defamation League.

The spike in incidents comes as the FBI and human rights groups warn about rising numbers of hate crimes in the U.S.—and amid concerns that some public officials and social media influencers are fueling the problem by normalizing incendiary rhetoric.”

With our new *TJHS Website*, with our *Speakers Bureau*, with our *Historic Cemeteries Designation*, with our *Jewish History Writing Awards* to high school juniors and seniors, with our *Texas Burial Database*, with our *TJHS-grant-supported* documentary films, books, and restoration projects, with our quarterly *TJHS Magazine* now numbering close to 175 issues, and more ... TJHS, advocates of Texas Jewish history, strive to document centuries-old Jewish contributions to the State. And with these actions, large or small, we refute the propaganda of the antisemitic ranters who say Jews don't belong in Texas. And we are saying to them...

Partner, we are here. Get over it!



Welcome New Members!

Anthony & Cynthia Bearden
Weatherford, Texas

Alan & Lisa Kravitz
Plano, Texas

Alyssa Linares
Baytown, Texas

David Moore & Judy Mataya
Vancouver, Washington

Amanda Temes
New York, New York

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

Message from the Incoming President

by Joan Linares



I am very honored to serve as the next president of the Texas Jewish Historical Society. Sheldon has definitely set the bar high and will be a tough act to follow. He has done an outstanding job as president and has brought the society into the 21st century with technological advances. Sheldon and John have updated our website to allow for online membership, meeting registration, donations, and a host of other online capabilities. I am so grateful that these advancements were made during Sheldon's tenure. He has so many ideas to advance TJHS and we have talked at length about that. We will work together to reach any unfinished goals of his term that would be beneficial to the organization. Much thanks to Sheldon for all the countless hours he spent in support of the society.

I want to congratulate all the newly installed officers and trustees. Many are returning Board members who continue to serve the Society. I look forward to working with everyone. I also want to thank the committee chairpersons who keep our group going. I would like the chairpersons

to continue in their posts to maintain continuity. I will be working closely with Jennifer Lava who is our Executive Assistant. If any TJHS member would like to serve on certain committees in the future, please let me know. Always feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions. I welcome all input.

I am honored to carry on the legacy of my parents with TJHS. My father, Don Teter, served as president in 1993-1995. He was installed thirty years ago and I happen to be exactly the same age he was at that time. I guess it was *bashert*. My mother, Gertrude Moskowitz Teter, was also an active member of the organization helping to arrange out-of-town bus trips. Through TJHS my parents authored a book entitled *Texas Jewish Burials*. My mother also was a cousin to Rabbi Jimmy Kessler (of blessed memory) who founded TJHS over forty-four years ago. My aunt, Dolly Moskowitz Golden, of Austin is also a long-time member of TJHS. My husband, Ruben, and I have four children who are all members of the Society. Ruben and I are proud grandparents of nine grandchildren.

During my tenure, I would like to grow the organization, collaborate with other organizations, initiate a program to preserve historic synagogues, and encourage continued participation in our grant program.

In order to ensure that TJHS continues to grow and carry out its mission, we need to bring younger people into the organization. I encourage each of you to recruit your own children and grandchildren to join TJHS. They will receive the quarterly magazine and learn about the exciting TJHS happenings.


Another area we will continue to work on is collaborating with other similar organizations to share information. We have done this with the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, for example, and aim to have a joint meeting again in the future. We will be partnering with the Southern Jewish Historical Society in October for our Fall meeting.

In regard to creating a program to preserve historic synagogues, we will form a committee to identify small synagogues in Texas which would be good candidates for the National Register.

We will encourage participation in our grant program by continuing to include several of our grant recipients into our programming for our meetings. This will help our membership see the value in the grant process, and the final products of the grant recipients will also help to get our name out in the public. We were amazed with the recent presentations by grant recipients at our Annual Gathering in Austin.

Our summer board meeting will be in the realm of a retreat where we will share ideas for our future. The date of the meeting is July 15-16 in San Antonio. An informal dinner will be Saturday night with the meeting being held on Sunday. Please mark your calendars. Details will be sent out later.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society has had a tremendous impact on preserving the Texas Jewish experience and I want to do my part to see that we continue to do so. Let's work together to move TJHS in a positive direction carrying on the hopes and dreams of those who came before us.

Ldor vador. 

TJHS Journey to Cuba October 25 – November 1, 2023

Register by June 15!



Join your fellow members, family, and friends on this insightful trip of cultural discovery and humanitarian effort.

We will have experiences offered to few travelers to this tropical island nation!

You will make a difference in the lives of our Cuban brothers and sisters.

And you will experience Cuba - Cuban culture's vibrancy and vitality is alive.

Cuba is old, some of it is destroyed, and it feels as though time has stopped. But it is full of life from the aroma of cooking food, to the warmth of the people, to the rhythm in the way people move, to the sound of music in the air... and the crack of the bat!

Baseball is Cuba's passion and national sport - Your guide will make every effort to find a game and make it available to you.

Deposit and registration must be received by June 15.

Land Portion: Double occupancy per person: \$3,209; Single occupancy: \$3,549

Optional Group Air per person – Houston-Havana-Houston: \$565. Limited seats.

**For complete itinerary and registration forms please see
txjhs.org or email: worldpassage@gmail.com.**


TJHS Annual Gathering, continued from page 1

er and uncle, President Sheldon Lippman at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History on the UT campus. Programming began with a panel discussion, facilitated by Dr. Suzanne Sheriff, anthropologist and Schusterman Center faculty member. She introduced undergraduate and graduate students, Isabelle Headrick, Mia Hay, Elijah Kahlenberg, and Lila Katz who told the group of their journey to their various careers. After a boxed lunch break, the group heard from

TJHS grant recipients: Sam Gruber for his *Texas Synagogue* as presented in the exhibition, *Synagogues of the South*; Marlene Trestman, for her book, *Most Fortunate Unfortunates: New Orleans' Jewish Orphans Home*; and Marc Birnbaum for his film, *The Blue House*. Hollace Weiner, journalist and TJHS member, moderated the session.

Saturday evening was a dinner with entertainment, "A Texas-Jewish Audio Odyssey," provided by Tum-

bleweed Smith, aka Bob Lewis, TJHS Publicity Chairman.

The in-person and Zoom Annual Gathering was held Sunday morning with Sheldon Lippman presenting his outgoing President's message prior to the Installation of Officers and Trustees. Ruben Linares installed the Board Officers for 2023-2024 and Trustees for 2023-2025, and Joan Linares, the new President, presented her remarks. See list of new officers and trustees on page 23 of this issue. 

Notes from the Board Meeting, April 15, 2023

- Two grants were awarded. \$5,000 to Isaac Artenstein, Cinewest Productions, for a film, “People of the Crossing: the Jews of El Paso,” that will be presented on PBS in May, and \$1,000 to the Biblical Arts Museum in Dallas for plaques on the sculpture art of George Tobolowsky.
- The Board approved \$15,000 to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, payable over a three-year period, for digitizing and organizing our collection. \$5,000 has already been approved, so the additional \$10,000 will be added to that.
- A TJHS trip to Cuba is set for October 25-November 1, 2023. Deadline for registering is June 15, 2023.
- There are several speakers lined up to speak in the fall.
- The certificate for the Consecration of the Bonham Cemetery was shown and will be scanned for our records and sent to Bonham.
- The next Board Meeting will be in San Antonio July 15-16, 2023.



Above, left: Students at Saturday session: Isabelle Headrick; Lila Katz; Dr. Suzy Seriff, Moderator; Elijah Kahlenberg; Mia Hay.

Above, right: Marlene Trestman, Barbara & Ben Rosenberg.

Left: Mark Birnbaum, Sheldon Lippman, John Campbell

Below: TJHS members, Saturday session at Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.




Notes from the Annual Gathering, April 16, 2023

Texas Jewish Historical Society Officers for 2022-2023 and Board of Trustees for 2022-2024 were elected by electronic voting by the membership. Officers are President, Joan Linares, Baytown; 1st Vice-President, Susan Novick, El Paso; 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; and Parliamentarian, Vickie Vogel, Austin. Board of Trustees elected for 2023-25 were Nelson Chafetz, Austin; Joyce Davidoff, El Paso; Martin Frost, Alexandria, VA; Janice Gerber, Houston; Dolly Golden, Austin; Kathy Kravitz, Austin; Scott Langston, Weatherford; Bob Lewis, Big Spring; Cindy Lindauer, Austin;

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

President Sheldon I. Lippman presented a “State of the Society” report. He said that the three challenges he presented to the Board at the beginning of his Presidency have been achieved. See his remarks on page 3 of this issue. 



*Upper Left:
Standing: Alan, Bruce, Kathy Kravitz; Phyllis Berman; Davie Lou Solka.
Sitting: Lisa Kravitz; Charles, Jan Hart.*



*Right:
Tumbleweed Smith, aka Bob Lewis Saturday night speaker.*



*Lower Left:
David and Susan Novick; Karen Segal.*



Don Carleton, Executive Director, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History



Staff at Briscoe – Ashley Carr, Carol Meade, Lisa Avra

Galveston's Congregation Beth Jacob is Alive and Well

A Letter to the Editor of the *Jewish Herald Voice* stating that Galveston's Congregation Beth Jacob was alive and well was noted recently. The letter was from Peggy Green and said that the Congregation's building had sustained quite a bit of damage when Hurricane Ike devastated Galveston Island in 2008, with most of the members taking up residence in Houston and other areas off the Island, some never returning. The rabbi at the time, Rabbi Todd Doctor, along with director Kathleen Sukiennik, took charge and began repairing the damage that was done. With the help of many volunteers, and conducting services in the courtyard, Rabbi Doctor kept Beth Jacob going. Now, fifteen years later, the congregation is, as stated earlier, alive and well.

They recently hosted a group of students and teachers from The Emery/Weiner School in Houston for a tour of the building and learned how the congregation began its historic presence in Galveston. The students were given a tour of the building by Max Sukiennik, with explanations of how the old and new buildings were constructed. Many students commented that their grandparents were at one time members of the Galveston community. They said the trip to the synagogue was the highlight of their visit to the Island. 🇺🇸



Congregation Beth Jacob, Galveston

For membership forms that can be printed for personal use, events, or programs, go to our website www.txjhs.org. Credit card use is available for renewals or new memberships.

In Memoriam

ROBERTA (BOBBIE) BERGER, Dallas/Atlanta,



GA, past TJHS Board Member, died in Atlanta January 31, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Murry; her children, Karyn Berger (Karen Humphrey), Allan Berger (Carita Bachman), Heide six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

May her memory be a blessing.

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 or Jan Hart at jshauthor@sbcglobal.net

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. 🇺🇸

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 if you will include your family's history in *The TJHS Magazine*.

Hebrew Order of David Galil's Gravestone Project

In April, 2021, the Texas Jewish Historical Society awarded a grant to the Hebrew Order of David-Galil in support of their Gravestone Project. The Gravestone Project is an ongoing project that places permanent markers on Jewish graves that do not have one in cemeteries in Houston.

On March 12, 2023, twelve markers were unveiled at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery. There will be additional markers placed on graves in the future. Rabbi Steve Morgan from Congregation Beth Yeshurun conducted the service, with several TJHS members in attendance. 🇺🇸



Joan Katz, Rabbi Steve Morgan, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Phyllis Turkel



Above: Hebrew Order of David marker. Right: TJHS Members – Rabbi Steve Morgan, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, Joan Katz, Ben & Barbara Rosenberg, Phyllis Turkel, Louis Katz.

Save Postage:

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



Does TJHS Have Your Current Email Address?

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

be electronically sending as much mail as possible, so don't be left out or behind—send your current information today! Please put “email change” in the subject line and with your name in the text of your message, send it today to admin@txjhs.org! 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.

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.*

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.

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

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

Please detail the timeline of your project.

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

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

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Ruby Kless Sondock - Texas Legal Legend

by Vickie Vogel

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. We want the TJHS archives to be as complete and accurate as possible.



Ruby Kless Sondock. Courtesy Kate Roden, Rare Books Library, Tarlton Law Library. Photographer unidentified.

When I graduated from the University of Houston with a double major in French and Political Science, I went to the career placement center, expecting to be told the US Foreign Service was in my future. Instead, she said “Hmmm, I don’t have anything for a bilingual secretary right now.” Did she think I spent four years in college to become a better secretary? So it resonated with me when I read Ruby Kless Sondock went to the University of Houston School of Law so she could become “the best legal secretary in town.”¹ We both became attorneys, and she became the first woman on the Texas Supreme Court.

The path that took her there started in Odessa, Ukraine when Herman Louis “Lou” Kless (1896-1998) left at the age of 12 (although his papers said 18) for the Goldene Medina with money sewn inside his clothes by his mother. From New York, he traveled to Beaumont where he had an uncle. The next stop was Houston, where he became a tool engineer. Ruby’s ma-

ternal Grandfather Juran entered Texas with the Galveston Movement, and her grandmother and children, including daughter Celia, joined him from Bessarabia. Celia was born in Austria in 1899. The Jurans settled in Houston as well. Lou and Celia married, and had three daughters: Florence (1921), Ruby (1926) and, later, Jackie (1938).²

Florence and Ruby were talented youngsters, singing as “The Kless Sisters” on the radio, and dancing professionally in variety shows around Houston at the Majestic, Loew’s, and the Rice Hotel. They even performed in a show starring famed dancer Ann Miller.

Ruby graduated from San Jacinto High School and was accepted to Rice Institute. One day, a sorority member explained to her, “I hope you know

why we can’t pledge you.” Ruby was outraged, and told her mother that there was no way she could attend Rice after that. It was late to find another school, but the Dean of San Jacinto High was determined to see her in a good college, because Ruby worked in her office. She found Ruby three scholarship offers; Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri was accepted as the best option. Lou accompanied her on the train on her first out-of-state adventure, reassuring her that she “had a round-trip ticket” if she was unhappy there.³

After two years at Cottey College (Salutatorian, 1944), Ruby returned to Houston to marry her high school sweetheart, Melvin “Soupy” Sondock.⁴ No one called him Melvin. When he was a boy, he was called in to dinner with the words, “Soup’s on!” and that led to his nickname. Soupy, a native Houstonian, was born in 1923 to Joe and Mollie Sondock. For many years, Soupy was the proprietor of the Brook Mays Music Company and served on the boards of Temple Emanu El in Houston, as well as other businesses, banks, and charitable organizations. He was a fighter pilot in World War II, and an avid sportsman, enjoying fishing, golf, softball, bridge, boating and motorcycle riding.⁵

When a friend of Ruby’s was going through a divorce, it made Ruby think. If something happened to Soupy, she would need a way to support herself and their two young daughters. Having graduated cum laude with a B.S. from the University of Houston in 1959, she entered law school there when her second daughter entered kindergarten. She had no

continued on page 13



*Ruby Sondock standing next to her portrait.
Courtesy Rhamel Miranda, University of Houston Law Center.*

intention of going to work. Her husband didn't mind if she got an education, but feared if she was educated she would go to work.⁶ She didn't even study at home. She had to be a wife and mother first.⁷

Ruby Sondock was one of five women in her class. She passed the bar without taking a review course and was admitted to the bar a year before graduation. She graduated first in her class in 1962.⁸ Women had a near-zero chance of getting a job, or even an interview. The few who were hired were told they would never make partner.⁹ A fellow classmate phoned Ruby and said he had set up an appointment with the lawyer he worked for and insisted that she come.

Ruby went to the interview with attorney Fred Parks (1906-2001).¹⁰

He asked if she could work forty hours a week. She said no. Thirty hours? No. Twenty hours? She said she didn't know, because she had a family. Parks finally said if she made a visible contribution to the office, he didn't care when she came or went. Parks never took credit for what she did, which was unusual then, and now. Anything she did had her name on it. She credited Parks with teaching her everything she knew. He stressed that cases weren't won or lost in the courtroom, but in the office. Preparation was the key.

In her first year practicing law, she argued a case before the Texas Supreme Court. A bailiff once challenged her to show her bar card before being admitted to the court's area for attorneys. She asked why he didn't

ask the men for their cards. "Girls aren't lawyers," he replied.¹¹

After Sondock had practiced law for twelve years, Governor Preston Smith appointed her to Harris County Domestic Court No. 5 in 1973. This appointment was ideal for Judge Sondock, although it came as a surprise. She had never thought about being a judge, but it was a nine-to-five job, which is not the way of a private law practice. In 1975, she became the first woman elected to this court.¹²

In 1977, Governor Dolph Briscoe appointed Sondock to the newly-created 234th District Court, the first woman appointed as a district judge in Harris County. She had never met Governor Briscoe and had not pursued an appointment. She learned of it when a friend, who was a friend of First Lady Janie Briscoe, called and congratulated her.¹³

No woman had ever served full-time on the Texas Supreme Court, although in 1925, three women were appointed to hear a single case concerning the Woodmen of the World, an all-male club including three justices who were recused. In 1982, James Denton, who was serving on the Supreme Court and had won the primary for the fall election, died while playing golf. Republican Governor Bill Clements appointed Judge Sondock, a Democrat, to serve out the six months remaining in his term. She became the first woman and the first Jew to serve as a full-time justice on the Texas Supreme Court.¹⁴

Soupy Sondock had never gotten used to the idea of his wife working, but when the Governor's office had called to ask if she could be in Austin the next day and asked to speak to her husband, Soupy had answered, "We'll be there." He became supportive of her career when she was ap-

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Women of the Supreme Court. Standing: Justice Eva Guzman, Justice Deborah Hankinson, Justice Harriett O'Neill, Justice Debra Lerman. Sitting: Justice Rose Spector, Justice Ruby Kless Sondock, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Justice Barbara Culver Clack, Justice Priscella Owen. Photo courtesy Lowell Brown, communications Director State Bar of Texas & Executive Editor of Texas Bar Journal. Photo by Mark Matson/Texas Supreme Court Historical Society.

pointed to the Supreme Court.

It was the duty of the State Democratic Executive Committee to name a substitute candidate for the general election in November. They selected Judge William Wayne "Bill" Kilgarlin, who had narrowly lost the primary to Denton. Justice Sondock knew her husband could not stand a statewide race, and she didn't want to run for the post.

Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Joe Greenhill retired the same year with three years remaining in his term. Associate Justice Sondock declined the nomination to serve out his unexpired term. No one could under-

stand how she could turn down this opportunity, but she ran instead for reelection to her former district court seat in Harris County, which she won without opposition.¹⁵ She didn't miss the Austin court; she wanted to return to her old bench.

A 1988 *Houston Post* survey ranked Sondock first among Civil Court judges by a large margin. In 1989, she stepped down from the bench to join a New York law firm, Weil and Gottschalk, although she remained in Houston,¹⁶ and became a private mediator with them.¹⁷

The State Bar of Texas Litigation Section named Sondock a Texas

Legal Legend in 2015 and inducted her at the University of Houston Law Center. The purpose of the Texas Legal Legends project is to memorialize the stories of legendary lawyers who have practiced in Texas and use those stories to inspire others. Dean Leonard M. Baynes said, "Like so many other women trailblazers, Justice Sondock succeeded with grace, dignity, self-assurance and courage, not letting any obstacles or barriers stand in her way."¹⁸ A biennial lecture series was named in her honor: the Ruby Kless Sondock Lecture in Legal Ethics.


Her many awards include Honoree, Outstanding Houston Professional Woman by the Federation of Houston Professional Women; Outstanding Alumna, University of Houston; Woman of Achievement, B'nai B'rith Women of Houston; Outstanding Alumna, Cottey College; Woman of the Year, Beta Sigma Phi; Outstanding Women Lawyer in Harris County; Outstanding Alumna, University of Houston College of Law; and appointment, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women. The Houston Bar Association in 2019 established a Ruby Kless Sondock award to a woman lawyer or judge for exceptional achievement and leadership in the law.¹⁹

Ruby and Soupy Sondock were married for more than seventy years. They traveled the world, visiting every continent. They had two daughters: Marcia and Sandy, six grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter at the time of Soupy's death in 2014 at the age of 91.

Sondock was known for her unshakeable objectivity on the bench. Well-meaning colleagues thought they were complimenting her when they said "she thinks like a man."²⁰

continued on page 15

Endnotes

- ¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_Kless_Sondock; Unless otherwise stated, all information is from Box 3A168, Folder: Judges, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.
- ² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/44626106/herman-louis-kless> Herman Louis “Lou” Kless 1896-1998. Born Odessa, Ukraine. Died Houston age 102. Telephone conversation with Judge Ruby Sondock on February 14, 2023. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/43548410/celia-kless>. Celia died in 1982 at age 82. Celia and Lou are buried in Adeth Emet Cemetery in Houston. Florence married Dr. Milton Yellen, who was the first Jew accepted into a dental society. Florence was the first woman admitted to the society; she became president of the women’s section. After Milton’s death, Florence became Director of the Judaica Museum at Congregation Beth Yeshurun. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209203563/florence-yellen>. Telephone conversation with Judge Ruby Sondock on March 4, 2023.
- ³ Telephone conversation with Judge Ruby Sondock on February 14, 2023.
- ⁴ <https://web.archive.org/web/20080612053009/http://tarlton.law.utexas.edu/justices/spct/sondock.html>
- ⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/138618054/melvin-a-sondock>
- ⁶ www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRgILrQ1TRo; *Houston City Magazine*, undated, found in Box 3A168, Folder: Judges, op cit.
- ⁷ <https://www.litigationsection.com/DrawLegalLegendVideos.aspx?LegalLegendID=18>.
- ⁸ <https://www.law.uh.edu/news/fall2015/1104Sondock.asp>; *Houston City Magazine* op cit.
- ⁹ <https://www.litigationsection.com/DrawLegalLegendVideos.aspx?LegalLegendID=18>.
- ¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6470665/fred-parks>. Parks was a major benefactor of the South Texas College of Law, and was a friend of former President George H. W. Bush.
- ¹¹ www.law.uh.edu op cit; www.litigationsection.com op cit.
- ¹² Ruthe Weingarten, *Deep in the Heart, The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*, Eakin Press, 1990. p. 184.
- ¹³ Telephone conversation Judge Ruby Sondock op cit; Wikipedia op cit.
- ¹⁴ Weingarten, op cit.
- ¹⁵ *Houston City Magazine*, op cit; web.archive.org op cit.
- ¹⁶ Weingarten, op cit.
- ¹⁷ webarchive.org op cit; law.uh.edu op cit.
- ¹⁸ law.uh.edu op cit.
- ¹⁹ <https://www.hba.org/?pg=Awards>
- ²⁰ *Houston City Magazine*, op cit. 

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Sam Julius Rosenfield

by Phyllis Rosenfield Stoup

What an exciting headline that appeared in the daily newspaper! Samuel Julius Rosenfield was declared the winner of the most beautiful baby contest in Galveston, Texas! Sam, as he quickly became known, was born September 15, 1919, and came into this world eager to grow up and make it a better place. The contest picture shows Sam's big smile which reflected his warm personality at a very early age. This smile was seen by everyone he met throughout his lifetime.

Sam was the son of Helen Gittelsohn Rosenfield, twenty, of Snohomish, Washington, and Joseph Levy Rosenfield, twenty-three, of Galveston, Texas. The two met in Seattle, Washington while Joe was stationed in the army at Fort Worden. Both had infectious personalities and loved to dance. Soon after their courtship, Helen and Joe married, returned to Galveston, and bought a home at 1520 25th Street, which is now Rosenberg Avenue. The family grew to include Sam's sister, Lois Rosenfield Kaplan, and brother, Alfred Morton Rosenfield.

Joe's parents lived in Galveston, and his father, Samuel Julius Rosenfield, died in 1904 at an early age. His mother, Carrie Levy Rosenfield, later married Ben Sass, an entrepreneur who lived in the city. They owned a large two-story house with big trees and a beautiful wrap-around porch at 1925 L Street.

In 1921, Ben Sass joined Aaron P. Levy in purchasing property at Tremont and the Strand. They also bought the Ben Blum Hardware Company and moved this business into the Strand location. After the death of Ben and Aaron, the building and business was purchased by Joseph Levy Rosenfield and other Levy fam-



The Rosenfield Childhood Home, Galveston 1922.

ily members. 2301 Strand has been designated as a historic location, with a marker from the Texas Historical Commission, #8246. It was built in 1871 and named the Thomas Jefferson Building

Sam's father attended Texas A&M College and majored in engineering. His mother was a homemaker specializing in baked goods. Her recipes have been passed down through five generations.

The Rosenfield family were members of Congregation B'nai Israel, led by Rabbi Henry Cohen. Sam was a good student in school and had a thirst for learning which he carried with him throughout his life. All of the Rosenfield children attended Religious School and had many friends in the community before graduating from Ball High School. Their favorite recreation was spending time at the beach with family and friends.

Sam left home at sixteen and went to Austin where he planned to attend the University of Texas. During his teenage years, Sam's father developed kidney disease, so Sam traveled between Austin and Galveston to help care for his father. Family funds were not abundant, so Sam helped pay for some of the medical bills. Knowing he would have to put himself through



Helen and Joe Rosenfield, 1940

college if he wanted a degree, he worked out a way to make this happen.

He and some friends opened a boarding house, and they learned to shop efficiently, cook meals, and clean the house between classes. He was able to make a profit and pay for his education for the next three years. At the same time, Sam became a founding member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. He was a busy guy, but still managed to keep up his grades.

One of Sam's prized possessions was a camera. He purchased it and wanted to return to Galveston to take family pictures that he could bring back to college. Dressed in a new suit, he arrived in Galveston with his new camera, and found that his brother, Alfred, had a new dog named Ranger. When Ranger saw Sam he jumped on him until he toppled over, and the camera fell to the ground

continued on page 17

and broke. Al began laughing, even though Sam was crushed. That's how the brothers rolled, one serious, and the other full of shenanigans.

During his third year of college, Sam met the love of his life, Annette Leff. After a date with Annette's sister, Etta, she introduced him to her sister, Annette, who was also attending UT after graduating from San Jacinto High School in Houston. Annette was born in Houston in 1923, and was a feisty youngster with a twinkle in her eye. As a middle child Annette was an eager learner and loved to go to school, especially to see her friends.

Sam and Annette were married on October 21, 1942, which happened to be the date of her parents' anniversary. The two couples shared many celebrations over the years. Etta married Theodore Naman, and they had three children: Susan Naman Garfinkel, Steve Naman, and Robert Naman. Their only brother, Bernard Leff, served in World War II. He married Selma Waldman, and they had four children: Gary Leff, Barry Leff, Debra Leff Wilson, and Gregg Leff.

Sam and Annette rented an apartment in Austin, and he began to work for Aaron Kruger at Kruger Jewelry Company on 8th and Congress. Annette would drive him to work and pick him up in the evening, since they only had one car. On February 22, 1944, their first child, Phyllis Elaine, was born. After her birth, Sam received news that his father was suffering from kidney disease, so he returned to Galveston and took his father to the Mayo Clinic by train. Soon after their return, Joe's condition worsened, and he died in March, 1945.

Sam continued to work for Kruger's, and in 1946, was asked to open



Sam and Sheila Rosenfield, 2004



Payless Shoe Store, 1959

a second store in Houston. They moved to Houston, and this proved to be a great opportunity for Sam. Rose and Ben Leff, Annette's parents, lived in Houston, and Sam's mother, Helen Rosenfield had moved to Houston from Galveston. Helen met Sam Maas, and they were married. They

loved going out to dinner and dancing, even driving to Galveston to Pier 21.

The family grew while Sam and Annette lived in Houston. Joseph Levy Rosenfield was born in 1947, and Sandra Kay Rosenfield in 1950.

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The siblings were three years apart and enjoyed going to school, playing with cousins who were close in ages, and attended many family events. They moved back to Austin when Sandy was six months old, and that would be home for Sam and Annette throughout their marriage.

Sam continued to work for Kruger's, and he became the top salesman for the Austin Senators baseball team. The players would come to the store and purchase engagements rings from him, and in return they would give him free tickets to the baseball games.

The company decided to advertise on television. The TV station was owned by Lyndon B. Johnson, and he and Sam became



Sam and Annette Rosenfield 1984

friends as Sam made his TV debut. Later, when LBJ became President of the United States, he and Sam kept in touch.

Sam and Annette became active in the Austin community. Both became advisors to their respective college affiliates, Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and Delta Phi Epsilon sorority. Annette served on the board at the School for the Blind; served as president of Congregation Beth Israel Sisterhood, and oversaw the construction of the new Temple kitchen. She loved playing Mah Jongg and bridge with her friends, and even traveled to Las Vegas with Sam or girlfriends to play.

Sam was also involved in many endeavors. He was an active member of Congregation

Beth Israel Brotherhood and served as President of the congregation. He and several of his friends helped the temple purchase the land on Shoal Creek for the current building, as well as overseeing much of the construction. He also served on the board of the Bank of Austin for many years.

In 1959, Sam's brother, Alfred, talked to his brothers-in-law about their successful shoe business, Volume Shoes, in Topeka, KS. Shaol and Lewis Pozez began Payless Shoes and built many stores around the country. Payless was one of the first shoe companies to offer the concept of self-service to acquire shoes for the entire family.

Sam and Alfred visited with the owners and decided they could be successful opening a self-service shoe



Al Rosenfield, Lois Rosenfield Kaplan, Sam Rosenfield, 1988

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business in Texas, which the Kansas group had not broached. They formed Rosenfield Brothers, and Payless Shoes began in Texas.

Alfred and Beverly Pozez Rosenfield lived in Dallas and decided to move their family to Austin. They had two children, Mark and Sheryl. Later, Gina and Jeffrey were born.


Sam and Al had very different personalities. Al was much happier in sales, and Sam was more serious, detail oriented, and persistent in creating a business that was always in perfect order. Al became the buyer, attended shoe shows, and helped set up displays, while Sam handled all the accounting work, and managed their



Rose and Ben Leff, 1986

Grants Awarded at Austin Board Meeting

The TJHS board voted to award two grants at the board meeting in Austin, April 15, 2023. One went to Isaac Arstenstein, Cinewest Productions for a film, "People of the Crossing: the Jews of El Paso," which will be shown on PBS in May.

The second grant was awarded to the Biblical Museum of Dallas to make plaques for the sculptures of local sculptor, George Tobolsky. 

real estate investments. They worked together and opened forty-seven Payless Shoe Stores in the state. Some of the stores were in rented spaces, and some in locations purchased by the brothers.


When the winter holiday season came, Annette and Sam would buy gifts for all the store managers, and piled the family in the car to make rounds of all the stores to deliver the gifts.

They would travel to Waco, Temple, Corpus Christi, Victoria, San Angelo, Houston, San Antonio, Brownsville, Harlingen, and McAllen, getting to know and interact with all the store managers on a personal level.

Sam's sister and brother-in-law, Lois and Norman Kaplan moved to Austin with their three children, Joy, Marilyn, and Gary. Another daughter, Gigi, was born after the move. Sam



Sandra Cohen, Joe Rosenfield, Phyllis Stoup, 2018

and Al had purchased a delicatessen, The Blue Fox, and Lois and Norman ran the business. With all the siblings and cousins living in Austin, Helen, Sam's mother, moved to Austin when her second husband, Sam Maas, died. 

Committee Chairs and Project Managers 2023-2024

<i>Archivist (Elected)</i>	Sally Drayer
<i>Awards*</i>	Cynthia Wolf
<i>Cemetery</i>	Rusty Milstein
<i>Cemetery Research</i>	Kathy Kravitz
<i>Dolph Briscoe Center for American History</i>	Davie Lou Solka
<i>Finance/Treasurer (Elected)</i>	Ben Rosenberg
<i>Grants</i>	Jane Manaster
<i>Historical Texas Cemetery Designation</i>	Doug Braudaway
<i>Legal*</i>	Lonnie Schooler
<i>Meetings</i>	Lynda Furgatch
<i>Membership</i>	Barbara Green Stone, Joyce Davidoff
<i>Publicity/The TJHS Magazine</i>	Davie Lou Solka
<i>Publicity*</i>	Bob Lewis
<i>Speaker's Bureau</i>	Gayle Cannon & Jan Siegel Hart
<i>Texas History Day*</i>	Willie Braudaway
<i>Travel</i>	Vickie Vogel
<i>Photo Exhibit</i>	Dolly Golden
<i>Website/Technology*</i>	John Campbell
<hr/>	
*Project Managers	

Meet Your Board

Joan Teter Linares is a retired elementary teacher who taught for thirty-two years at Harlem Elementary School in Baytown Texas. Joan grew up in Baytown and learned about Texas Jewish Historical Society from her parents, Don, who is a past President, and Gertrude Teter. She is President of Congregation K'Nesseth Israel in Baytown and treasurer of the Baytown Chapter of Hadassah.



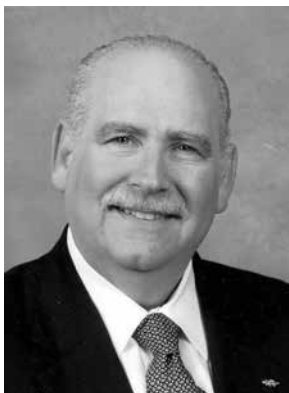
She and her husband, Ruben, have three daughters, one son, and nine grandchildren. Joan is serving as President of TJHS.

Susan Goodman Novick is a fourth-generation El Pasoan, and has written several books and articles about El Paso families. She holds a Master of Library Science degree from The Catholic University of America, a Master of Public Affairs degree from The University of Texas/Austin, and an A.B. in History from Smith College. She is a



Certified Archivist who works with individuals, organizations, and businesses to find, save, understand, and explain their history. She and her husband, David, are active members of Temple Mount Sinai in El Paso. Susan serves as 1st Vice President of TJHS.

Jules Dorfman Frapart, 2nd Vice President, was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and grew up in Brownsville surfing, playing music, and working in the family business. He attended the University of Texas/Austin, where he met and married his wife, Phyllis (Goldstein). They returned to Brownsville where they opened and ran a jewelry store and a children's clothing store for twenty years. He completed his Bachelor's



degree from University of Texas/Brownsville, and was the Textbook Manager for UT/Brownsville for fifteen years. Jules taught middle school for Brownsville ISD for five years and has sold insurance policies for New York Life

Insurance Company after completing his insurance certification. Jules has been active in the Jewish community of Brownsville, and is involved with the Masonic Fraternity. He was recently accepted to membership in the Sons of the Republic of Texas. He belongs to the Chais of Texas, a Jewish Motorcycle Alliance, Texas Club, and before COVID, he made several trips a year of three -four thousand miles on his motorcycle with a Masonic riding club. He and Phyllis have two daughters and four grandchildren. Jules is now retired and enjoying life.

John P. Campbell, Recording Secretary and Chair of the Website/Technology Committee, lives in Austin. He received a B.A. from Tulane University and a M.P.A from the LBJ School at UT-Austin. 1984-1986 he was on the staff of the Texas Select Committee on Higher Education. 1987-2004 he was a staff member of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. In 2005 he became the Executive Director of the Inter-Academy Council in



Amsterdam, Netherlands. He retired from this position in 2014.

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



Ben Rosenberg, Treasurer, was born and grew up in El Paso. He attended the University of Texas/Austin, and graduated with a BBA in Accounting in 1967. After graduation he moved to Houston and joined a CPA firm until his retirement in 2015. Ben is a Past Chairman of the Houston Jewish Commu-

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nity Foundation, and serves on the board of other charitable organizations based in Houston. He is married to Barbara, Past President of TJHS, and they enjoying travelling when they can.



Sally Drayer, Historian-Archivist, is from Dallas, and is a Past President of TJHS. She grew up in Alice, and has three children and one granddaughter. Sally is a substitute teacher in the Richardson Independent School District. She volunteers at the Dallas Museum of Art for the Arts and Letters Live Program, is on the board of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra Guild, and is a CASA advocate.

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 a member of the Texas delegation of the Democratic National Committee. She enjoys travel, needlework, and reading, and is Parliamentarian, as well as chair of the TJHS Travel Committee.

Scott Langston has taught at Texas Christian University for nearly twenty years, and is the Native American Nations and Communities Liaison and Instructor in Religion. He has worked extensively with Native American communities, as well as researching and publishing widely in the fields of Southern Jewish History and the reception history of the Bible. Scott is a past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society and the current



editor for the Primary Sources section of the journal, *Southern Jewish History*. While doing graduate work in the field of ancient Near Eastern Archaeology he travelled to Israel many times, including excavating four seasons at Tel Beth Shean and Tel Batash (Timnah.) He has received the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award from TCU, and the Plume Award from TCU's Native American and Indigenous Peo-

ples Initiative. Scott was born in Fort Worth, but grew up in Conroe, Texas. He is married with three children and one grandson, and currently lives in Weatherford, Texas.

Janice Gerber, lives in Houston and says “due to World War II, was born in Louisiana,” but considers herself a Tex-



an from birth. After World War II, her family moved back to Houston and she attended schools in Houston. At San Jacinto High School, she was on the rifle team as ROTC sponsor and won All City College competition. Janice attended Sophie Newcombe college, and after her marriage to David, Cornell University. They lived in Heidelberg, Germany, for two years while David served in the Army, and then

they moved back to Houston. Janice is active in Hadassah and other Jewish organizations. She has worked as a Jewish community professional and as a political fundraiser. She and David have three children, and ten grandchildren, ranging in age from ten to twenty-one.

Gary P. Whitfield, is from Fort Worth, and is a former coach and teacher. He retired from the Air Force Reserve where he was a small arms instructor. He is a former Data Collector (Field) RTI and is a past chairman of the Tarrant County Historical Society.



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



TOR). She is married to Michael Furgatch, who is also a TJHS Board Member, and they have two children and three grandchildren. Her many activities include Sisterhood President, member of Hadassah, President of Valley Baptist Auxiliary volunteers, and helps coordinate Temple Social activities. She lived in

Puerto Rico for eight months before the hurricane. Lynda has been a TV & Radio spokesperson and has been in com-

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Meet Your Board, continued from page 21

mercials since 1975. She has worked in Customer Service for Ford for twenty-three years and enjoys cooking, exercising and reading. Currently she helps produce and direct corporate videos and is semi-retired. Lynda is Chair of the Meetings Committee.

Marlene Eichelbaum is now retired after having served as a Paralegal/Office Manager in her husband, Mel's, law



practice for twenty-five years. Prior to that she taught middle school and high school math for eleven years. She is now involved with the National Council of Jewish Women, working with voter registration, cooking, baking, and of course, playing Mah Jongg. Marlene enjoys visiting old synagogues, and looks forward to the opportunity to do this with TJHS, and her husband, Mel, who is also a TJHS Board Member.

Mel Eichelbaum is a retired attorney who practiced law for over forty years. He is a published author, having published the book *The Legal Aid Lawyer*, in 2019. He enjoys speaking to law schools and civic groups about his book and the significant civil rights and poverty law reform cases in which he was engaged. These events are described in



his book. Mel is interested in history and photography. He is married to Marlene, also a TJHS board member.

Charles B. Hart, TJHS Past President, is from Temple, but was born and raised in Houston. Charles graduated from the University of Houston with a BS degree and American University with a MS degree. He served in the U.S. Army from 1958-1960 and 1961-1962. He

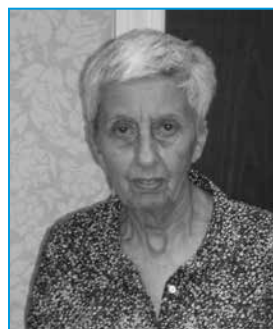


retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture after thirty-four years of civil service, and taught horseback riding at Jewish summer camps for over twenty-five years. He was an Eagle Scout and was a long-time member of the Hillel Board at Texas A&M University. He is married to TJHS member, Jan Siegel Hart, and they have three children and six grandchildren. He and Jan have been TJHS members for over thirty years.

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. Jan has served in many positions in the 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.



Jane Manaster lives in Dallas and was raised in England. She moved to Texas with her American husband, Guy. Jane has three children and six grandchildren. She has degrees in Psychology and Geography, and is the author of three natural history books. She is a former newspaper columnist and has written articles



on travel and Texas history. Jane is a charter member of TJHS, and is Chair of the Grants Committee. 🇺🇸

We Need Your Stories!

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



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The Texas Jewish Historical Society has three museum quality photo exhibits, with explanations depicting early Jewish life and contributions. The exhibits highlight the lives of Jews in Texas since the early part of the century.

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



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

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

Texas Jewish Historical Society

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