



# TJHS 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering

April 12-14, 2024

Hilton Richardson Dallas • 701 E. Campbell Road • Richardson, Texas 75081

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

With Presentations and Presenters

### Friday, April 12, 2024

- 3:00 – 5:00 PM** Welcome Table Open, Hilton Richardson Dallas  
**5:30 PM** Meet in hotel lobby to carpool to Congregation Beth Torah  
**6:00 PM** Dinner at Congregation Beth Torah, 720 W. Lookout Drive, Richardson, Texas  
**7:30 – 9:00 PM** Shabbat Services at Congregation Beth Torah followed by Oneg  
**9:00 PM** Carpool returns to Hilton Richardson Dallas

### Saturday, April 13, 2024

All Saturday presentation sessions, lunch, and dinner held at the Hilton Richardson Dallas. Free parking

- 8:30 – 9:30 AM** Registration, Hilton Richardson Dallas.  
**9:45 – 10:00 AM** Gathering Welcome – **Joan Linares**, President, TJHS.  
**10:00 – 11:00 AM** *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future: Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, University of Texas at Dallas* – **Debbie Pfister**, Research Assistant Professor, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, University of Texas at Dallas.  
■ *BREAK (15 minutes)*  
**11:15 – 12:15 PM** *Researching Military and War Veterans* – **Marshall Coleman**, Researcher and Graduate Student, University of Texas at Dallas.  
■ *BOX LUNCH FOR ATTENDEES (1.5 hours)*  
**1:30 – 2:00 PM** *Supporting Veterans and Families in Time of War and Peace* – **Jo Reingold**, Senior Vice President and incoming President of the National Jewish War Veterans of the USA Auxiliary, and Board Member of Dallas Jewish Historical Society.  
**2:00 – 2:45 PM** *Survivor and Liberator Collections at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum* – **Felicia Williamson**, Director of Library and Archives, Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.  
■ *BREAK (15 minutes)*  
**3:00 – 3:45 PM** *The Kokotek Sisters: Forgotten Fort Worth Photos Lead to their Holocaust Story* – **Hollace Ava Weiner**, Author, Historian of Texas Jewry, Director of the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, Columnist with Fort Worth Star-Telegram, TJHS Board Member.  
■ *BREAK (15 minutes)*  
**4:00 – 4:45 PM** *Holocaust Survivor Stories: The Amazing Journey of Linda and Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer from Eastern Europe to Texas* – **Hy Penn**, Docent and Board Member, Holocaust Museum Houston; Board Member, The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston; TJHS Board Member  
**4:45 – 5:00 PM** Closing Remarks  
■ *FREE TIME (1.5 hours)*  
**6:30 - 9:30 PM** Dinner at Hilton Richardson Dallas – After dinner entertainment: *History of Jewish Magicians and Magic Show by the Great Hydini* presented by Hy Penn!

### Sunday, April 14, 2024

- 9:00 – 9:30 AM** *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future* – **Nils Roemer**, Director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at University of Texas at Dallas  
**9:30 - 11:00 AM** Annual Gathering Meeting and Installation of Officers and Board Members

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## Presentations and Speakers

***Teaching the Past, Changing the Future – Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, University of Texas at Dallas.*** [Debbie Pfister is a Research Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Dallas.]

- ❖ Debbie will share the history of the Ackerman Center, studies offered, projects and research underway, and teaching strategies to address human rights and antisemitism.

***Researching Military and War Veterans.*** [Marshall Coleman, USMC (Ret), is a researcher and graduate student at the University of Texas at Dallas. His field is World War II and the Holocaust with a special emphasis on liberation and Jewish veterans.]

- ❖ Marshall is working on the movement of the U.S. Army in Southern Bavaria, Nazi death camp evacuations, and the role of the Armored Cavalry at the end of World War II. In this presentation he will examine several photos from a liberator's photobook that highlights not only the survivor's experience but also illustrates the role of Jewish serviceman during the war.

***Supporting Veterans and Families in Time of War and Peace.*** [Jo Reingold is Senior Vice President and incoming President of the National Jewish War Veterans of the USA Auxiliary, and Board Member of Dallas Jewish Historical Society.]

- ❖ Jo addresses the history of the JWV and current activities.

***Survivor and Liberator Collections at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.***

[Felicia Williamson is the Director of Library and Archives, Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.]

- ❖ Felicia discusses significant collections of North Texas Holocaust survivors and liberators, including unique post-war justice collections and rare artifacts only found in the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum archives.

***The Kokotek Sisters: Forgotten Fort Worth Photos Lead to their Holocaust Story.*** [Hollace Ava Weiner is an author, historian of Texas Jewry, director of the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, a monthly columnist with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and TJHS Board Member.]

- ❖ News photographers were at Fort Worth's T&P station in September 1942, the day the Kokotek sisters, Elsa and Inge, stepped off the train and into the waiting arms of their wealthy aunt and uncle, who had escaped Nazi Germany several years before. Media coverage predicted the Kokotek sisters would live happily ever after. But within a year, a social worker removed them from Fort Worth and from there the trail turned cold. Hollace was tasked with piecing together their story for a display at the T&P train station.

***Holocaust Survivor Stories: The Amazing Journey of Linda and Morris I. Penn and Riva Kremer from Eastern Europe to Texas.*** [Hy Penn, M.D., is a Docent and Board Member at the Holocaust Museum Houston, Board Member of The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston, and TJHS Board Member.]

- ❖ Hy weaves a remarkable tale of survival and hope as he takes us on the journey of his parents and maternal grandmother from eastern Europe to Texas. His mother Linda, and grandmother Riva, survived 9 different camps, including Majdanek, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, and Theresienstadt. His father Morris was hidden by Christian farmers near his home in Lithuania.