

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



March 2025

Operation Benjamin by Davie Lou Solka



Operation Benjamin is an organization that is dedicated to identifying Jewish soldiers

who were buried under a cross at American military cemeteries all over the world. The identification of these soldiers ensures correct recognition of the soldier's identity, while giving comfort and closure to their loved ones. It also gives the millions of visitors to the American Military cemeteries here and abroad the ability to visually understand the Jewish sacrifice for democracy and freedom. Shalom Lamm, who now lives in Israel, is the founder and Chief Historian of Operation Benjamin.

The project is named for Private Benjamin Garadetsky, a Jewish soldier who was buried under a cross at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial. Private Garadetsky's case was the first to lead to a successful marker change. His grave was correctly marked with a Star of David in an emotional ceremony at Normandy in the summer



PFC Benjamin Garadetsky, namesake of Operation Benjamin, KIA, August 23, 1944, Normandy American Cemetery. Photo courtesy Operation Benjamin



The interment of 1LT Nathan Baskind, June 23, 2024, Normandy American Cemetery, France. Photo courtesy Operation Benjamin.

of 2018, with family members and other dignitaries in attendance.

Obtaining the change begins with the family contacting Operation Benjamin with their request. Mr. Lamm and his staff will then aid them through the process. They will prepare a dossier to present to the federal government with a cover letter to be signed by a family member. An iron-clad rule of the American Battle Monuments Commission requires both incontrovertible proof of the serviceman's religion and the family's support of a marker change. Mr. Lamm has a partnership with the American Battle Monu-

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Texas Jewish history, oral histories, and requests for assistance with research are welcome, as are photographs and historical documents.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

March 23, 2025, 3 pm CDT

Webinar with the Texas Jewish Historical Society and the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society – Between the Stone and the Flower: The Duality of the Conversos, a film and talk with filmmaker Genie Milgrom. Registrants will have a chance to view the film prior to March 23.

April 25-27, 2025

Annual Gathering in College Station

Message from the President

by Joan Linares



As we move into 2025 I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. TJHS has a busy few months ahead.

The Texas Jewish Historical Society hosted a table at Yom Limmud at Congregation Beth Yeshurun in Houston on Sunday, February 16, 2025. TJHS Membership co-chair, Barbara Green Stone and husband, Ed, along with Shana Bauman and me, monitored the TJHS table which displayed the *TJHS Magazine*, membership forms, Kessler donation forms, TJHS pens and notepads. We want to get the word out about our wonderful organization.

TJHS had members participating in panels at the Texas State Historical Association's annual conference in Houston on February 27-March 1, 2025. TJHS members, Hy Penn and Judy Myers, were part of a panel entitled *Learning About Houston Holocaust Survivors Through a Pho-*

tograph. Hollace Weiner moderated a panel which included Claudia Anderson, Melissa Cohen-Nickels, and Susan Novick, who spoke on *Little-Known Stories in Texas Jewish History*. It is important for us to be included in the TSHA conference so that our Jewish stories can be told.

On Sunday, March 23, 2025, the Texas Jewish Historical Society will join with the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society for a webinar featuring Genie Milgrom who made a documentary entitled *Between the Stone and the Flower: The Duality of the Conversos*. Registrants will have a chance to view the film prior to the Q and A on March 23.

We will be represented at the Real Places Conference on April 23-25, 2025, in Austin. Real Places is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission. Panelists Hollace Weiner, Claudia Anderson, and Melissa Cohen-Nickles will lead a session called *Little-Known Stories in Texas Jewish History Using Archival Connections*. Thanks to our participating members for sharing our stories to a broader audience.


Our Annual Gathering is set for April 25-27, 2025, in College Station. Our dynamic Meeting Committee is working hard to plan an educational, informative, and fun weekend for our group.

I encourage you to visit our web-

site at txjhs.org. There is a plethora of great information including all of The TJHS Magazines, grant recipients, directory for members, burial information, resources, and much more. You may log in to update your profile and check your dues status. If you need help logging in please contact Sheldon Lippman at webmaster2@txjhs.org. Thanks to our webmasters, John Campbell and Sheldon Lippman, for all that they do to manage the website.

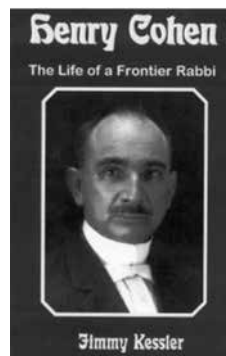
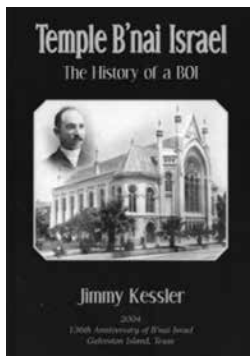
We welcome Jeff Levine as a Co-chair for the Membership Committee with Barbara Green Stone. We thank Jane Manaster for serving as Chair of Grants Committee for many years and we welcome John Campbell to that role. Glad to have Jane continue with the Grants Committee as a member. I appreciate all of the Officers and Committee Chairs and members who keep our organization going.

I urge you to share the great work of the Texas Jewish Historical Society with family and friends and encourage people to join us. You may gift a membership to someone. Seek young people as we need them to ensure that our organization will continue and the stories will be preserved.

TJHS continues to seek donations for the Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund. Donations are accepted online at txjhs.org or checks may be mailed to: TJHS, P O Box 10193, Austin, Texas 78766. 

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler's Books

Books by Rabbi Jimmy Kessler are available for free download at www.jimmykessler.com Hard copies of his memoir are also available for \$10.



From the Zoom Board Meeting Jan. 26, 2025

- John Campbell is the Chair of the Grants Committee.
- The Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund now has \$188,000. A concerted effort will be made to reach the goal of \$250,000.
- The Membership Committee is now co-chaired by Barbara Green Stone and Jeff Levine.
- There are 313 known Jewish burial sites in Texas. 260 burials were added to the list this quarter. 600 new or updated names were found due to the efforts of Luke Carp of Houston. Luke's Eagle project is discussed elsewhere in this issue.
- The Board voted to cover the cost of a Historic Texas Cemetery Medallion when the Texas Historical Cemetery Marker for the Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville is approved.
- The Annual Gathering will be held in College Station, TX April 25-27, 2025 at the Hyatt Place. 🇺🇸



Some of the Board Members attending the Board Meeting

Top Row – John Campbell, Sheldon Lippman, Sally Drayer, Jeff Levine Barbara Green Stone
 2nd Row – Michael & Lynda Furgatch, Hollace Weiner, Joan Linares, Shana Bauman, Marilyn Lippman
 3rd Row – David Vogel, Anita Feigenbaum, Marc & Joyce Wormser, Scott Langston, Susan & Bob Lewis
 4th Row – Davie Lou Solka, Kathy Kravitz, Jane Manaster, Barbara & Ben Rosenberg
 5th Row – Jules Frapart, Nelson Chafetz, Gary Whitfield Sonny Gerber, Eric H. Nelson

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. Please put "email change" in the subject line and with your name in the text of your message, send it today! 🇺🇸



The Headstone Replacement of 1LT Robert S. Fink, Manila American Cemetery, Philippines, February 12, 2020. Photo courtesy Operation Benjamin.

ments Commission and the German War Graves Commission (Volksbund). The American Battle Monuments Commission is the government agency that serves as the guardian of America’s commemorative ceremonies and memorials. They work together to obtain necessary petitions and to ensure that the request is expedited. The families stay in constant contact with Operation Benjamin throughout. Final determinations are made by the American Battle Monuments Commission in Washington, DC. There is no charge of any sort to the families.

Mr. Lamm also works with the National Jewish War Veterans in obtaining the Star of David. If you have a Jewish family member who served and died during World War II, and they were buried in an American military cemetery marked with a cross, you can contact Operation Benjamin at www.operationbenjamin.org/the-process for information.

Information for this article was obtained from the Operation Benjamin website and a webinar by Jewish War Veterans on February 13, 2025. 🇺🇸

Welcome New Members!

- Ellan Burke**
Waco, Texas
- Barbara Cohen Golub**
Houston, Texas
- Paty Haessly**
Belton, Texas
- Nicole Hardesty**
Jones Creek, Texas
- Norma & Jon Hyman**
Houston, Texas
- Elyse & Lewis Kalmans**
Bellaire, Texas
- Harriett Katzett**
Houston, Texas
- Marc Kleinman**
Dallas, Texas
- Tabitha & Stan Lenox**
Houston, Texas
- Barbara & Robert Levy**
Houston, Texas
- Susan Monty & Jim Goldman**
Sugar Land, Texas
- Roslyn Hoffman Pittsford**
Houston, Texas
- Joan Sanger**
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada
- Beth Schneider**
Houston, Texas
- Jack Schlossberg**
Houston, Texas
- Janna Shadowitz & Justin Newhart**
Fort Worth, Texas
- Melanie Snyder**
Vienna, Virginia

In Memoriam



Philip James Albin, TJHS Member, died January 5, 2025, in Houston. He is survived by his children and step-children, Eugene (Elizabeth) Albin, Elizabeth (Julio) Meza, Meryl Kline Fine, Michael (Michelle Miller) Kline, David (Lori) Kline, and twelve grandchildren and spouses.

May his memory be a blessing.

TJHS on Facebook

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



Hallettsville Cemetery Requests Texas Historical Cemetery Marker

by Marilyn Lippman


Efforts are underway to secure a Texas Historical Cemetery Marker for the Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville, recognizing its historical significance in Lavaca County. The application will be submitted to the Texas Historical Commission, marking an important step in preserving the rich heritage of Jewish communities in the region. The open enrollment period for submitting applications in 2025 ends in May, with the approval process taking up to eighteen months.

The Lavaca County Historical

Commission has committed to funding the cost of the marker, ensuring that this important piece of history is formally recognized and honored. Additionally, during the recent Texas Jewish Historical Society Winter Board Meeting, members voted to cover the cost of a Historic Texas Cemetery Medallion that will accompany the marker.

The Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville serves as a lasting testament to the early Jewish settlers who contributed to the development of the area. By obtaining an official

historical designation, this project will help educate future generations about the cemetery's historical and cultural importance.

The Texas Historical Marker Program is a vital initiative that recognizes significant sites across the state, helping to preserve Texas' diverse history. The recognition of the Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville highlights the ongoing efforts to document and commemorate the contributions of Jewish communities throughout Texas. 

Are you benefiting from the Members-Only Dashboard on the TJHS Website?

Whether you renew your TJHS membership by writing a check or using a credit card online, if you are in the TJHS Membership Database, you can access the **Members-Only Dashboard**.

Easy access: Click on **Website-Registered Members Login** on the home page at www.txjhs.org

- In the sign-in box, enter **Email and Password**
- Forgot or never had a password? Email webmaster@txjhs.org

What will you find on the Members-Only Dashboard?

View and search the **TJHS Members Directory**

- View and edit **My Member Profile** - Check your name/contact as is appears in the TJHS Directory
- View **My Membership Details** - See your history of renewal payments and next due date
- **Renew My Membership** - click to pull up renewal form for credit card use. Check writers will find a printable form under Membership on the Home Page.

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund Contributions

The following donations have been received in the Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund:

Silver

Marsha & Lonnie Schooler

Sapphire

In memory of Jimmy Kessler
Barbara & Dominick Sasser
Marsha & Lonnie Schooler

Ruby

In honor of Shelley Kessler
Lynn Gorden & Hy Penn Charitable Fund of the
Houston Jewish Community
In memory of Jimmy Kessler
Shelley Kessler

Diamond

In memory of Lawrence J. Abzug
Dr. Robert Abzug
In memory of Jimmy Kessler
Shana & Ed Bauman
In honor of Sheldon Lippman and John Campbell
Janice Goldblum
Julie & Red Goldstein
Florence & Stanley (z"l) Hersh Philanthropic Fund with
the Dallas Jewish Community Fund
Melvin Maltz
In honor of the good work that TJHS does
Karol & Daniel Musher Fund of the Houston Jewish
Community Fund
In support of TJHS
Susan & Max Reichenthal
Patricia & David Rubenstein
In gratitude for TJHS naming graves in Agudas Achim
Cemetery
Lee & Dan Schwimmer Donor Advised Fund
in honor of Shannon Dougherty & Dr. Bryan Stone
Barbara & Edward Stone

Contributions

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

Gift membership to Marc Kleinman
Barbara & Ben Rosenberg

Proposed Slate

Officers, 2025-2026

President	Sheldon Lippman, Austin
1st Vice President	Jules Frapart, Austin
2nd Vice-President	Jeff Levine, Cedar Park
3rd Vice-President	Scott Langston, Weatherford
Recording Secretary	John Campbell, Austin
Corresponding Secretary	Susan Novick, El Paso
Treasurer	Ben Rosenberg, Sugar Land
Historian/Archivist	Sally Drayer, Dallas
Parliamentarian	Vickie Vogel, Austin

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Nelson Chafetz, Austin
Kathy Hart, Silver Spring, Maryland
Paul Keeper, Austin
Kathy Kravitz, Austin
Robert Markman, Houston
Amy Milstein, Frisco
Susan Novick, El Paso
Barbara Green Stone, Dallas
Emily Williams, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Save Postage:

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

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 realize that our beautiful Texas history is much more than those stories. Contact editor@txjhs.org if you will include your family's history in *The TJHS Magazine*.

Emily Williams Received Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award

The Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award was presented to Emily Williams by Hollace Weiner, Texas Jewish Historical Society Board Member, at the Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting in Houston in March. Emily is a recipient of a TJHS grant for her photography work of Jewish Synagogues and oral histories across the southern United States.


The award is presented annually by the Texas Jewish Historical Society, in conjunction with the Texas State Historical Association to a graduate student or lay historian who

has created a work in Texas Jewish History. This work can include published books, chapters in published books, articles published in scholarly journals, and post-graduate theses or dissertations. These works will have been created in the previous three years.

The award is presented in memory of TJHS member, Lynna Kay Shuffield, a lay historian who appreciated the work and passion it takes to preserve Texas history.

Additional submission details are available on the Texas State Historical Association website at tshaonline.org



Hollace Weiner presents Shuffield Memorial Award to Emily Williams. 

Texas State Historical Association Annual Meeting by Sheldon Lippman

The Texas State Historical Association held its Annual Meeting in Houston February 28 – March 1, 2025. Several members of The Texas Jewish Historical Society were in attendance and participated in the program.

TJHS Board Member Hy Penn and TJHS Member Judy Myers were two of four speakers who addressed “Learning About Houston Holocaust Survivors Through a Photograph.”

They spoke from the perspective of children of survivors. The two oth-



Left to Right, clockwise: Ruben Linares, Hollace Weiner, Hy Penn, Melissa Cohen-Nickels, Lynn Gordon, Joan Linares, Sheldon Lippmann, Susan Novick, John Campbell.



Melissa Cohen-Nickels, Hollace Weiner, Susan Novick, Claudia Anderson.

er speakers, Bill Orlin and Ruth Krell Steinfeld of Houston, who were children in Nazi Germany, recalled their harrowing escape and ultimate arrival in Texas.

TJHS Board Member Hollace Weiner moderated a panel that ad-

ressed “Little Known Stories in Texas Jewish History Using Archival Connections.” The speakers included Melissa Cohen-Nickels, Curator of the Joan and Stanford Alexander South Texas Jewish Archives at

[continued on page 9](#)

America's #1 Baseball Fan


by Tumbleweed Smith

Ben Campbell of Palestine is a baseball fan. But there was a gentleman in his town who was a legendary baseball fan. Since Ben is a historian, he looked into this man. His name was Hyman Pearlstone and owned a wholesale grocery business in Palestine. He was a successful businessman and a civic leader. Somehow, he was able to convince the Saint Louis Browns, An American League baseball team to hold spring practice in Palestine in 1916 and 1917.

Historical Association, continued from page 8

Rice University. In an archive search, she found a rich history of Adele Heyman, a leader in the Houston Jewish community. Claudia Wilson Anderson, LBJ Library Archivist, spoke of the National Refugee Service that brought Holocaust refugees to Texas. TJHS Vice President, Susan Novick, gave a personal perspective from her family archives that spanned several generations in El Paso, Texas.

At the Women in Texas History Award Luncheon, the TSHA recognized contributions of women in Texas history with a number of awards, including the Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award, which went to Emily Williams, past recipient of a TJHS grant for her photography work of Jewish synagogues and oral histories across the southern United States. See the article on page 8.

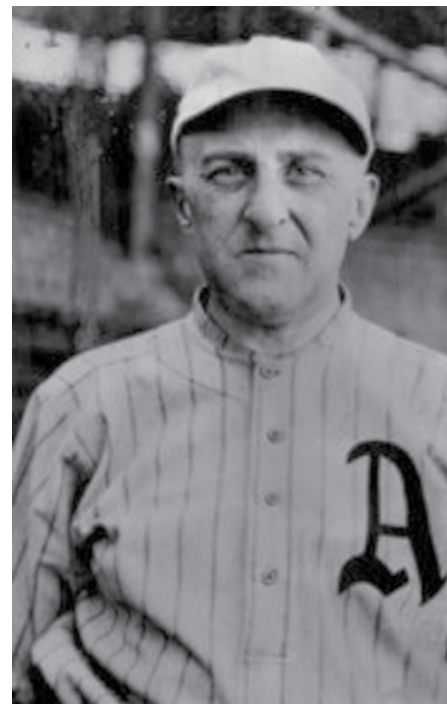
TJHS members John Campbell, Joan Linares, Ruben Linares, and Sheldon Lippman also attended the Meeting. 

The players arrived by train and carried their own equipment and luggage to the Redlands Hotel that was near the railroad tracks. They walked to the ball field that was a mile and a quarter away from the hotel. After practice they walked back.

Mr. Pearlstone and his wife, Mabel, loved to travel. In October 1905, they were in New Orleans staying at the Roosevelt Hotel. It just so happened that the Philadelphia Athletics baseball team was staying there, too. Hyman became acquainted with several of the players and one of them invited him to come to Marlin the following year to watch spring training. He went and spent a week with the team. He met the team owner, Mr. Cornelius McGillicutty (otherwise known as Connie Mack). The two men hit it off beautifully and became close friends. Mr. Mack invited Mr. Pearlstone to spend his vacation in Philadelphia during baseball season. He could sit in the dugout with the team and travel with the players. Mr. Pearlstone did just that for a solid month. He sat with the team every year for forty-five years.

Connie Mack had given Hyman a Philadelphia Athletics uniform complete with cap, jersey, pants, shoes, even a glove. Mr. Pearlstone wore that uniform on his train trips to Philadelphia. Once during a slump, the catcher tossed his glove to Mr. Pearlstone and asked him to warm up a pitcher in the bullpen. That seemed to turn things around for the team and Mr. Pearlstone continued to warm up pitchers.


Players considered him good luck. Between 1910 and 1931, the Athletics were in seven World Series and won five of them. During every World Series game for forty-five years, the Pearlstones were guests



Hyman Pearlstone in Philadelphia Athletics Uniform in the 1920's

of Connie Mack, whether the team was playing or not. During off season Connie Mack went to Palestine and stayed with the Pearlstones for a month at a time. Some players even went to Palestine, opened businesses and lived out their lives there. Occasionally players would ask Mr. Pearlstone about stock to buy.

One of those players was Ty Cobb, whose home was in Georgia. After he retired, a reporter asked him how he was going to make a living since he had spent his enormous salary every year. He told them, "I got some advice to invest in a start-up company in Atlanta called Coca Cola, and that advice has made me a millionaire. I'll be able to live comfortably without my salary."

In 1909 the New York World Telegram recognized Mr. Pearlstone as America's #1 Baseball Fan. He died in 1966. 

Father and Son Mitzvah Enhances TJHS Burial Database for Houston National Cemetery

by Kathy Kravitz

In the Carp family of Pearland, Texas, performing mitzvahs is often a family affair. For years, Josh and Susan Carp have been leaders and active participants in Pearland's scouting community, along with their twin children, Luke and Lily. They regularly perform acts of service, one of which is honoring deceased veterans by cleaning gravestones and placing flags and wreaths at their gravesites for holidays such as Veteran's Day and July 4th.

As a member of Scout Troop 404 of Pearland, Luke Carp earned his Eagle badge in June of 2022, with a project to give back to a program that his family had benefited from. In May of 2020, Josh learned that he had leukemia. Through a bone marrow donation to him from a blood-matching program (Be The Match® - now nmdpSM), Josh's leukemia is now in remission. The family's experiences with this organization prompted Luke to partner with it for his Eagle project. He taught a class of students from San Jacinto Community College how to run stem cell donation booths. They then set up booths in several local campuses where they handed out hundreds of registration kits. These kits give people an opportunity to sign up as potential donors and send in DNA samples, which could lead to many more lives being saved.

Luke and his father were subsequently discussing their desire to do another father/son mitzvah to give back to their community. As it happened, Luke's grandfather, Retired Colonel Matthew Carp, a member of Jewish War Veterans Post 753, San Antonio, had learned that Herschel Sheiness (also a member of JWV Post 753 and a member of TJHS) was looking for volunteers to walk



Luke Carp presenting a mentoring pin to his grandfather, Retired Colonel Matthew Carp at Luke's Eagle Ceremony, with cousins Bobby and Clayton Carter in background.

the Houston National Cemetery and photograph headstones with Jewish markings. Colonel Carp floated the idea to Josh and Luke. Because of their previous scout service in this cemetery, they already knew what a beautiful place it is, so the cemetery project seemed like an ideal mitzvah to perform. Soon, Luke and Josh began the process of walking across more than 200 acres of burial sites (the developed half of the cemetery), looking at each of the 120,000+ gravestones, and taking photos of the more than 600 Jewish gravestones they found. Using a printed map of the cemetery, they selected an area of focus for each of the thirteen separate visits. Working as a team, each of them walked along one side or the other of the gravestones. When they found Jewish symbols, they would

stop and compose what became crisp, clear and beautiful photos. At the end of each visit, they colored the map to show which area they had completed and then emailed the digital photos to Herschel.

Once a set of photos was received, Herschel and I made comparisons of the gravestone names to the names in TJHS's burial database, to names in the Find A Grave website (www.findagrave.com) and to Herschel's existing database of Jewish veterans buried here. We also conducted online research on the names with missing data. This work produced over 200 new names for the TJHS database in addition to corrected or supplemental data for 250 existing names. Similarly, on Find A Grave, we added memorials and missing information,

continued on page 11

The L. E. Frank Family of Jacksonville, Texas

by Goldalie Frank Balsam, edited by Jan Siegel Hart

Editor's Note: Charles, z"l, and Jan Hart lived in Jacksonville, Texas in 1972, when Jacksonville was celebrating their Centennial year. This article appeared in a publication, Jacksonville, The story of a Dynamic Community 1872-1972, and the Harts participated in the centennial activities. Jan edited the article with additions from Goldalie's obituary and other places, filling in blanks.

Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Frank (Lewis and Tillie) came to Jacksonville, Texas in 1895 with two young daughters, Rachel and Pauline. Later came Saide in 1896, Joseph in 1901, and Goldalie in 1908. There was a great celebration when Joseph was born. They were married in 1891, and first lived in Tyler, where Louis, along with his cousin, L.I. Frank, established a store under the name "Frank and Frank." The Frank cousins were among the founders of the Reform Jewish Tem-

ple in Tyler.

The first Frank store in Jacksonville was located at the end of the block on Commerce Street near Bolton Street. After 1900, a former saloon at corner of Main Street and Commerce Street was rented from Fred Haberle, and became headquarters for a growing retail trade.

The family lived on Nueces, and then on Ragsdale across the street from Dr. J.N. Bone and next to Mayor M.L. Earle.

The L.E. Frank store expanded to include adjoining stores which Fred Haberle purchased to rent to Louis. The semi-annual sales were big in those days with country folk traveling from miles around. The Frank store was proud of its fine reputation, not only with customers, but in the big city wholesale market. Many famous brands were offered first in Jacksonville at the L.E. Frank store.


There are many stories of the old mercantile days when credit was extended on a yearly basis "when the crops come in." Some years, there were droughts, hail storms, and little money. There was a farmer who had an unpaid account running over two years. Mr. Frank saw him coming out of a store loaded with packages. Questioned as to why he now traded with J.L. Brown, the man said, "Mr. Frank, I didn't know you sold for cash!"

The Franks first left Jacksonville in 1920, and the store was taken over by Mrs. Frank's brother, Herman Mandelstam. However, in 1925, the Frank family returned, except for Rachel, who had married Sam Geduld, and Pauline, who had married Otto Paschkes. Mr. Frank died in 1930, and his funeral was attended by friends of all faiths. He was friends with all ministers, and they enjoyed discussing the Old Testament with him, a subject he knew well.

After L.E.'s death, the business was liquidated and Sadie, Joe, and Goldalie, along with Mrs. Frank, returned to New York City. Those were depression years, but gradually Joe found success and became President of an electronics manufacturing firm, a business he had learned when employed by his brother-in-law, Otto Paschkes. Rachel Frank Geduld died in 1943, leaving her daughter, Elaine (Irwin) Rosenberg, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Goldalie became successful as an artist in the advertising business and when she married Solomon Balsam in 1945, they founded Contempo Advertising Agency, which they continued to operate with the help of their New York staff.

Goldalie and Sol returned to Jacksonville in 1965 to establish East Texas Handbag Co., which employed up to seventy-five, seasonally. In 1966, Sadie and Joe Frank came back to Jacksonville. Sadie moved her antique shop to her home at 519 John Street. Joe retired in 1965, and passed away in July, 1969. Pauline Frank Paschkes, who had been widowed, returned in 1967, and lived at 607 Nacogdoches. Her children, Peggy Becker and Lora Green, and her grandchildren who lived in Los

Carp Bar Mitzvah, continued from page 10

as well as uploaded gravestone photos to the respective memorials. As a result, this work, along with the searching capabilities of each site, has enhanced these sites' usefulness to families seeking to find where their relatives are buried, see pictures of their gravestones, and possibly learn new facts about their families. Likewise, it added 40 new names and additional information to the Jewish War Veterans Project, whose goal is to record all Jewish Veterans' burials in Texas. And for that, TJHS and JWV are sincerely grateful to Luke and his family. 

continued on page 12

TJHS at Houston Yom Limmud, 2025

by Barbara Green Stone

On Sunday, February 16, 2025, the Texas Jewish Historical Society was an exhibitor at Yom Limmud, the Jewish day of learning in Houston. It was a full day of vibrant activity attended by enthusiastic learners. Joan Linares, Shana Bauman, Edward Stone and Barbara Stone spent the day speaking to numerous interested individuals, building awareness of TJHS and explaining what we do and why they might enjoy being part of it. TJHS members, Dena Marks and Dr. Alfred Kahn, were speakers.



Joan Linares, Shana Bauman, Barbara Green Stone answering questions about TJHS at Yom Limmud



Barbara & Edward Stone talking to a prospective member at Yom Limmud

The table presentation included copies of the *TJHS Magazine*, our colorful brochure, pens and note pads with our logo and web address. Also included was a colorful member photo, a flyer with our logo and taglines, and forms for Membership and the Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund. Texas, Israel, and USA flag displays decorated the table, along with chocolate kisses and mints, which were an effective “draw” to the our exhibit.

We were pleased to be successful in attracting new members. TJHS is an organization on the move! 🇺🇸

Frank Family, continued from page 11

Angeles and Boston, visited her here. She died at age eighty-seven from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. The friendly climate, as well as the natural beauty of Jacksonville created a wonderful atmosphere of welcome to the Frank family. Goldalie died in April, 1986. Her funeral was in Tyler, with Rabbi Eugene Levy officiating. She was buried in Pleasantville, NY.

Goldalie’s obituary in the Tyler newspaper noted that she was named to Who’s Who of American Women, Who’s Who in Finance and Industry, and Foremost

Women in Communications. She was an active member of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, serving as director and vice-president. She was a member of the executive committee and was elected Chairman of the Year in 1967 for her work in beautification projects. She served on the board which approved the formation of the Bee-Jays, a service club, and was instrumental in securing the land for Buckner Family Park. She was co-editor of the Jacksonville Centennial Book and was named Citizen of the Year for 1975 by the Jacksonville Chamber

of Commerce. Goldalie served as vice-chairman of the Medical Education Foundation of East Texas, was secretary-treasurer of Trees, Inc., and was named Woman of the Year by the Jacksonville Business and Professional Women’s Club for 1980-81. Her publications include a book, *Mother I’d Rather Buy It Myself*, and her articles were published in *Seventeen Magazine* and in many trade publications about advertising in various fields. Her husband, Sol, predeceased her in death. They had no children, but she was survived by two nieces, several great-nieces, and a great-nephew. 🇺🇸

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

John Rosenfield Goes to the Theater

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.

Max John Rosenfield Jr. (who went by John) was born in Dallas in 1900 to Max John (1859-1935) and Jenny Lind Kramer (1864-1948) Rosenfield.¹ He was of German heritage on both sides of the family. Jenny's parents were Morris (1838-1889) and Julia Weill (1839-1921) Kramer, both born in Germany (Wissig, Prussia). Julia's parents were Jacob (1811-1895) and Barbara Kahn (1813-1866) Weill. The Weill family at some point became established in Louisville, Kentucky where Jenny was born.

Max John Rosenfield Sr. was the son of Jonas (d. 1867) and Henrietta Goldberg (1825-1908) Rosenfield who were also born in Germany/Poland.² Jonas and "Jette" and their many children immigrated to the United States in 1865 or 1866 on the steamship Grimsby. The children ranged in age from nine months to twenty-three years. Jonas and Henrietta settled in Houston, and the next year yellow fever raged west of the city. Jonas succumbed in Alleyton

the year after the family arrived and was buried in Beth Israel Cemetery in Houston.³

Max and Jenny married and settled in Dallas. In 1886, Max built what has come to be known as The Blue House, one of the first houses in The Cedars neighborhood, originally a center of the city's German-Jewish

community.⁴ Max started at the bottom at Sanger Brothers Department Store and ended up as credit manager and on the Board of Directors. Jenny was interested in the arts and was a founding member of the Dallas Literary Circle and the Council of Jewish Women. She helped start the Free Kindergarten movement and was an



Portrait of John Rosenfield, Jr. Image available on the Internet and included in accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107. <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/rosenfield-john-jr> by Ronald L. Davis.

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advocate for child labor protection. Max served as president of Temple Emanu-El. They had three sons and a daughter. John was the youngest. As a boy, his neighbor Stanley Marcus was a playmate.

By the time of the 1920 census, Jenny's sister Pauline Kramer Cohn (1875-1955) lived with them, as did their widowed mother, Julia Weill Kramer. A young yardman and a 37-year-old widowed servant is also listed in the household census.

After attending Dallas public schools, John entered the University of Texas at Austin. He was just the right age for his studies to be interrupted by World War I. He registered for the draft, but never served.⁵ After the war, John finished his college studies at Columbia University in New York City. He began work for the *Evening Mail* as a movie reviewer, but Paramount snatched him up for their publicity department.

Rosenfield met and married Claire Burger in June, 1923 in Kings, New York.⁶ That year Paramount transferred him to Dallas. They later wanted him to return to New York, but Rosenfield said he'd rather stay in Dallas and work for the *Dallas Morning News* where he was able to get in on the ground floor when they asked him to develop an amusements section. From 1925 to 1957, he headed the department.

In 1924, John and Claire welcomed a son, John Max Rosenfield III. The names are confusing, because Max John Jr. used his middle name, and gave that name order to his son while designating him the Third. John and Claire had a second son, Peter, in 1931, but Peter died in 1939. John's mother Jenny died in 1948 in Dallas at the age of 84 and is buried at Emanu-El Cemetery.

As art critic for the *Dallas Morn-*

ing News, John Rosenfield became the leading cultural voice in the Southwest for several decades. He was nationally recognized in Newsweek profiles, and in *Look*, *Life*, *Harper's* and other leading publications of the time. Filmmakers once asked John for permission to use his name in a scene to lend it authenticity and credibility. *Time* magazine once wrote, "The fact is that culture in Dallas has blossomed like a rose on the dry plains of the Southwest, thanks largely to Rosenfield."⁷

An avid opera fan, John was often invited to appear on the Metropolitan Opera Quiz radio program in New York City. He felt the need to develop the art scene in Dallas, helping to revive the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in the mid-1920s. He participated in the selection of conductors from 1925-1958. He was a mentor to Margo Jones⁸ from the time she was a student until the establishment of the Margo Jones Theater, one of the most important regional theaters in the United States, in 1945. Because Rosenfield was influential with financial backers, he was also a leader in bringing Frank Lloyd Wright to Dallas to design the Dallas Theater Center.

John Rosenfield received many awards including the 1955 and 1960 honor award of the Southwest Theatre Conference, the 1956 Critics Award from the Screen Directors Guild, the 1960 Service to Music in Dallas Award from Sigma Alpha Iota, an honorary Doctor of Literature degree from Southwestern University in 1965, the 1966 annual cultural service award of the Big D Chapter of B'nai B'rith Women which named him "Mr. Show Business."

In 1957, he suffered a heart attack and gave up administrative duties, but continued to write his column, "The Passing Show," and movie reviews

until he retired in September, 1966. Two months later, he died at his home in Park Cities at age 66. The next year, the SMU School of the Arts established a scholarship in playwriting in his name. In 1968, Claire presented John's papers to the Dallas Public Library, focused on his time at the *Dallas Morning News*. It contains a box of photos, a third of which are of celebrities.

In the meantime, John and Claire's son John Max Rosenfield III, known as Jack, had made a name for himself in a successful academic career. Like his father, his studies at the University of Texas at Austin were interrupted by war. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in World War II and was stationed in the China-Burma-India theater, and in Korea and Japan during the Korean War. He developed an interest in Asian art. He earned a bachelor degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Thai language and Asian studies, a degree from SMU in studio art, a master's degree from the University of Iowa (funded by the GI Bill), and a doctorate in art history from Harvard in 1959, joining the faculty in 1965. For more than twenty-five years he was a professor and curator of Asian art, and a mentor to students who became the next generation of Asian art scholars and curators of collections in major museums. He chaired the Department of Fine Arts, and was a trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and a member of the board of directors of the Japan Society of New York. Internationally renowned, he received awards for distinguished contribution to the knowledge and understanding of Asian civilizations, including the Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese Government.

Married to Ella Ruth Hopper for

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Rosenfield, continued from page 14

over forty years, they had two children, Sarah Anne Rosenfield and Paul Thomas Rosenfield.⁹

Paul (1960-1994) attended Temple University in Philadelphia and graduated from the University of California at Santa Cruz. He worked for Charles Schwab & Co. as a budget analyst, and was last employed as Assistant Division Manager at the California Federal Bank in Emeryville. Paul was a road racing enthusiast and twice won a gold medal in the San Francisco Gay Olympics. He suffered an untimely death in his early thirties from complications of AIDS.¹⁰

Ella Ruth suffered from dementia until her death in 2011. John Max “Jack” Rosenfield III retired in 1991, but continued to write and lecture. His final publication was completed just before he died, and was published posthumously by Princeton University Press. He died of complications from a stroke at the age of 89 in December, 2013.¹¹

The Rosenfield family met with success in business, culture, history, and the arts.


Endnotes

- ¹ Unless otherwise stated, all information is from Box 3A 168, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection, folder Journalists, which contains a synopsis of his papers at the Dallas Public Library <https://dallaslibrary2.org/dallashistory/archives/06801.php>
- ² <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198602705/max-john-rosenfield>; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45378099/jennie_lend_rosenfield; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45345942/morris_kramer; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45345991/julia_kramer; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/95840332/barbara_weill; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/95840415/jacob_weill; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/45378513/henrietta_rosenfield; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/152130905/jonas_rosenfield
- ³ “Local Items,” *Brazos Signal*, Richmond, Texas, 28 September 1867, page [3], col. 1
- ⁴ Read about The Blue House in TJHS Magazine, May 2022, p. 12, by Mark Birnbaum who is making a documentary about it and to which TJHS has given financial support. Also see <https://candysdirt.com/2023/01/12/preservation-dallas-hosts-in-town-outing-at-the-famous-blue-house-in-the-cedars/>
- ⁵ https://www.ancestry.com/search/?name=Max+John_Rosenfield,+Jr.&birth=Dallas-Dallas-Texas&searchMode=simple&types=r. Kathy Kravitz, Hershel Sheiness and Gary Whitfield searched records for evidence of military service and found none.
- ⁶ <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LYH2-8P1/max-john-rosenfield-1900-1966>
- ⁷ MA68-1 John Rosenfield Collection, Dallas History and Ar-

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. 



chives Division, Dallas Public Library.

- ⁸ Nicknamed the “Texas Tornado,” Jones fought for regional theater productions when few existed outside New York City. Tennessee Williams described her as a combination of Joan of Arc, Gene Autry, and nitroglycerine. <https://www.humanitiestexas.org/programs/tx-originals/list/margo-jones>
- ⁹ *The Harvard Gazette*, April 5, 2017, “Memorial Minute - Faculty of Arts and Sciences” by Melissa McCormick, Eugene Wang, Yukio Lippit, accessed at <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/04/john-max-rosenfield-89/> and *The Cambridge Chronicle*, December 2013. Accessed at https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/142638572/john_max_rosenfield
- ¹⁰ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211738047/paul-rosenfield>
- ¹¹ *The Cambridge Chronicle*, op cit. 



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, 2025 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.*

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 or online, 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 or go to www.txjhs.org and click on "Apply for a Grant" at the top of the page.



Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund

Early in his rabbinical education and career, Rabbi Kessler lamented the absence of significant records of the Texas Jewish experience in local, state, and university libraries. His frustration turned to action when in 1980 in San Antonio he organized a meeting of like-minded Texans for what became the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

TJHS continues to expand and share the understanding of the Jewish presence in Texas through education and outreach.

The Kessler Fund is an inducement to share the incredible history of Jews in Texas with a broader community through an ever-expanding scope of projects such as invitations to renowned speakers to the TJHS Annual Gatherings, research grants to university students in Jewish studies, partnering with other organizations to expand educational programs for young people, piquing the interests of people from all religions to the richness of Texas Jewish history, and more. This Fund is a long-term commitment to the legacy of Jimmy Kessler for which \$250,000 has been set as a launch goal.

TJHS appreciates all donations, at any level, to honor the legacy of Jimmy Kessler. The Texas Jewish Historical Society, Inc., is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible within limits of the law.

Suggested donation levels:

\$25,000 or above	Platinum
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\$2,500 - 4,999	Sapphire
\$1,000 - 2,499	Ruby
\$18 - 999	Diamond

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Name of Donor(s): _____

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- I prefer that my donation remains Anonymous.

Mailing Address of Donor(s): *(All contact information is required)*

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Option to honor or memorialize family member or friend with your Kessler Fund donation:

In honor / In memory of (Name): _____

Mailing address to send acknowledgment: _____

Please send this completed donation form, along with your bank check, to: Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193 or go to www.txjhs.org and click on "Give to Kessler Fund"

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