

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



December 2025

The President Sends the National Guard

by Larry Holtzman, Director, Hebrew Cemetery of Brownsville, Texas

The President of the United States used his power to activate the New York National Guard. He ordered a mobilization to help local officials in another state combat crimes that included murders and thievery.

Including troops from other states, a total of nearly 20,000 troops were sent to the Rio Grande Valley. They were stationed from McAllen to Brownsville. The President was Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, and the year was 1916. The minority Republicans in Congress protested.

The main reason for activating the soldiers was the report that Pancho Villa, the Mexican revolutionary, planned to attack South Texas. Villa was being pursued in Mexico by US troops commanded by General John "Black Jack" Pershing after Pancho Villa led an incursion into New Mexico.

The other reasons troops were sent to the Valley included the following:

- The Plan de San Diego: Authorities had discovered a revolutionary manifesto calling for those of Mexican descent to take up arms, murder "all gringos," and reclaim Texas. This was, in part, a reaction to the notoriously undisciplined trigger-happy Texas Rangers.
- Bandits: Bandits rode their horses from Mexico to rob and kill people in South Texas. Sheriffs of the Valley were unsuccessful in stopping these attacks.
- German Sabotage: German operatives were secretly supplying weapons to the bandits and encouraging



U.S. troops marching on Elizabeth St., Brownsville, Tx, 1916. Note three story Bollack Building.

them to attack the U.S. Germany's goal was to create enough turmoil on the border to distract the United States and prevent it from entering World War I, which had been raging in Europe for two years.

Most of the troops sent to South Texas were from the New York National Guard and the New York 7th Regiment. Their officers assembled them in tent bivouacs from McAllen to San Benito. In Brownsville, the troops occupied the barracks at Fort Brown.

There were approximately four hundred Jewish soldiers in the ranks from New York and other states. Many were young men who were seeking a better life after growing up in the crowded tenements of New York City.

Brownsville's small Jewish population welcomed the Jewish soldiers. There was no synagogue at the time

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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

December 7, 2025

Film, *Remember My Soul*, showing and discussion with Jillian Glantz. To view film prior to showing, you must register on TJHS website for a link to the film. txjhs.org.

January 16-18, 2026

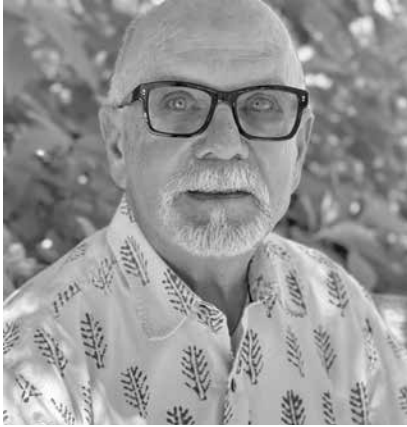
Winter Board Meeting in Corpus Christi

April 24-25, 2026

Annual Gathering, Houston

Message from the President

by Sheldon Lippman



Attending the Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS) Annual Conference was inspiring. In mid-October, I and other TJHS members listened as young and more-seasoned scholars presented their research on Jewish history and its impact on Southern Jewish life. There was heavy focus on New Orleans where the 49th SJHS Annual Conference was held with shared hosting over three days at Temple Sinai and Touro Synagogue, both congregations with their own rich and colorful history in New Orleans and the South. This was my third time to attend a SJHS Conference; these were in Charleston (University of Charleston, 2022) and Houston (Rice University, 2023).

Why was the conference inspiring to me? There were over 24 presenters from almost as many universities across the country. The breadth of study of Jewish life was staggering—one rabbi's response to Hurricane Katrina, how a Jewish music

lover brought American jazz to Israel, views of wide-ranging Holocaust memorials across the South, spotlight on women's Zionism in the Gulf South, Ottoman Sephardi views of the South, how a son of Russian immigrants transformed from an Israeli Air Force officer to the Jewish Queen of Gay Mardi Gras in New Orleans. There were several sessions about Jews and the Confederacy: Was the Confederate War good for Jews? Did Jews fight in the Civil War? (Short answer to the latter question: Yes).

What excites me about hearing from these scholars is that TJHS has the means to help those who are delving into new or expanding areas of Texas Jewish history. Both the TJHS Grants Program and the Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund can further the research of students, authors, filmmakers, photographers who are finding nuances and new links to the Jewish experience in Texas.

Through its Grants Program, the Texas Jewish Historical Society helps further the research of a university student, aids the travel of a photographer to capture oft-unseen beauty of temples and synagogues, provides seed money for an author and filmmaker that enables them to raise more cash for finishing their book or movie. Just recently in a talk to the TJHS Board, Dr. Bryan E. Stone, history professor at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, recalled how early TJHS

support made it possible to illustrate his first book and that work led to a second book and ultimately a career writing about and teaching Texas Jewish history.

The Kessler Fund made its first award to DreamBigBooks, which is a teaching aid for young people. At this writing, the Fund has a proposal to support a student who is doing research at Rice University's Joan and Stanford Alexander South Texas Jewish Archives for a book on the Houston Jewish community and another to explore the experiences of Polish Jews who were forced into exile during the 1968 "anti-Zionist" campaign and resettled in Texas and the American West. I am excited to see the scope of new proposals that bring new meaning to the TJHS mission "to collect, preserve, publish, and disseminate materials having reference to the settlement and history of Jews in Texas and their participation in its social, economic, religious, political, professional, and cultural growth." That is a tall order, and the field is wide open for new paths to explore.

TJHS today is supporting the research and projects of many young and not-so-young scholars and practitioners who will eventually present their work at a SJHS Conference, sharing the rich, diverse Texas Jewish experience. The 50th SJHS Conference will be held next year (date to be determined) in Atlanta, Georgia. I plan to attend. 

Does TJHS Have Your Current Email Address?

Does TJHS Membership have your current email address? You can check your Member Profile on the Members-only Dashboard for your current mailing and email addresses. Go to Website-Registered Members Login on TJHS Website. If you cannot remember your password or have other questions, send an email query to admin@txjhs.org



President sends the National Guard, continued from page 1

in the Rio Grande Valley, so the soldiers were invited to services that were held in homes. Sadly, the Jewish troops were often not given leave to go pray.

With the approach of the High Holidays beginning with Rosh Hashanah on September 27, 1916, the plight of the Jewish soldiers stationed in the Rio Grande Valley was heard by Rabbi Isaac Landman from the Central Conference of American Rabbis in Philadelphia. He came to Brownsville and met with Jewish citizens of Brownsville. Representatives from the Young Men's Hebrew Association (YMHA) headquartered in New York City organized a chapter in the Valley. Jewish citizens in Brownsville along with the YMHA established a reading and recreation room in downtown Brownsville open to all soldiers. The San Antonio YMHA sent reading materials, and the Houston YMHA sent a secretary for the room. The amenities included magazines, books, a piano, other musical instruments, games, tobacco and cigarettes.

Rabbi Landman called on General James Parker at Fort Brown and arranged forty-eight hour passes for the Jewish soldiers who wished to attend the High Holiday services.

Rosh Hashanah services were held at Hinkley Hall which was next to Hinkley Mortuary in downtown

Brownsville. Rabbi Landman was ordered to Mexico to hold services for the Jewish soldiers in General Pershing's camp, so Dr. Leopold Meyer of Galveston officiated in Brownsville as rabbi to usher in the year 5677. Over three hundred Jewish soldiers from posts around the valley attended as well as local Jewish residents. Army cots were set up in the YMHA quarters to accommodate the visiting men.

Dr. Meyer also officiated as rabbi for Yom Kipper services on Friday evening of October 6, 1916, and all-day Saturday, October 7. On Saturday evening the YMHA and Brownsville Jewish citizens hosted a banquet at a fine restaurant called the Manhattan Café, 1105 E. Elizabeth St, Brownsville. Chef Nick Hiotis prepared suitable food for the Break Fast.

On March 1, 1917, President Wilson made public the contents of the Zimmerman Telegram, an intercepted telegram from Germany to its ambassador in Mexico City. The telegram proposed a military alliance between Germany and Mexico to help Mexico recover territory lost after the Mexican-American War. Germany would supply armament and expertise. Germany wanted to keep the US Army distracted so that the US would not enter the war in Europe.

President Wilson, because of the

telegram and the destruction of US ships by German U-Boats, soon declared war on Germany.

The troops stationed in the Rio Grande Valley were sent back to their home bases to be deployed to Europe to fight the Germans in WWI.

Interesting note: More soldiers from New York served in WWI than any other state. Of the 4.8 million Americans who served, approximately 250,000 were of the Jewish faith—a rate higher than their proportion of the general U.S. population at that time.

Leaders of Brownsville Jewish citizens who joined others in the effort were Benjamin and Pauline Bollack, who built the first department store in Brownsville in 1911, businessman Adolph Bollack, and banker Adolf Ashheim. All are buried in the Hebrew Cemetery of Brownsville.

Bibliography:

Articles from *Brownsville Herald* newspapers of 1916.

Articles from the *Oklasodak* newspapers of 1916 published by soldiers in San Benito, Texas.

Book: *Boom and Bust, The Historical Cycles of Matamoros & Brownsville*, Kearney and Knopp.

Book: *Wild Horse Dessert, The Heritage of South Texas*, Brian Robertson.

Archives of the Hebrew Cemetery, Brownsville, Texas. 

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*. 

Members Only

On the members-only Dashboard you can:

- View and search the ***TJHS Members Directory***
- View and edit ***My Member Profile*** - check your contact details as it appears in the directory.
- View ***My Membership Details*** - see your history of renewal payments
- ***Renew your membership*** 

Memories of Working for K. Wolens

by Marvin Hecker

Editor's Note – In response to the article on K. Wolens in our September 2025 issue, Marvin Hecker provided his experiences growing up in the K. Wolens world.

K. Wolens ad from The Bryan Daily Eagle, Bryan-College Station, 1962

K. Wolens ad from Kilgore New Herald, 1954.

My father, Sid Hecker, was a store manager for K. Wolens from the mid-1950s until he retired in the 1970s. I believe he worked for them twenty-six years. We lived in Corsicana while he trained, then moved to Hillsboro and Cleburne until he became the manager of the store in

Gladewater. When my brother and I ended up in Houston, he transferred to the store in Sugar Land, and that is where he was working when he retired.

Dad had grown up in the clothing business, starting with his dad's store in Oklahoma City, then S&Q Cloth-

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K. Wolens ad from Gladewater Daily Mirror, June, 1950

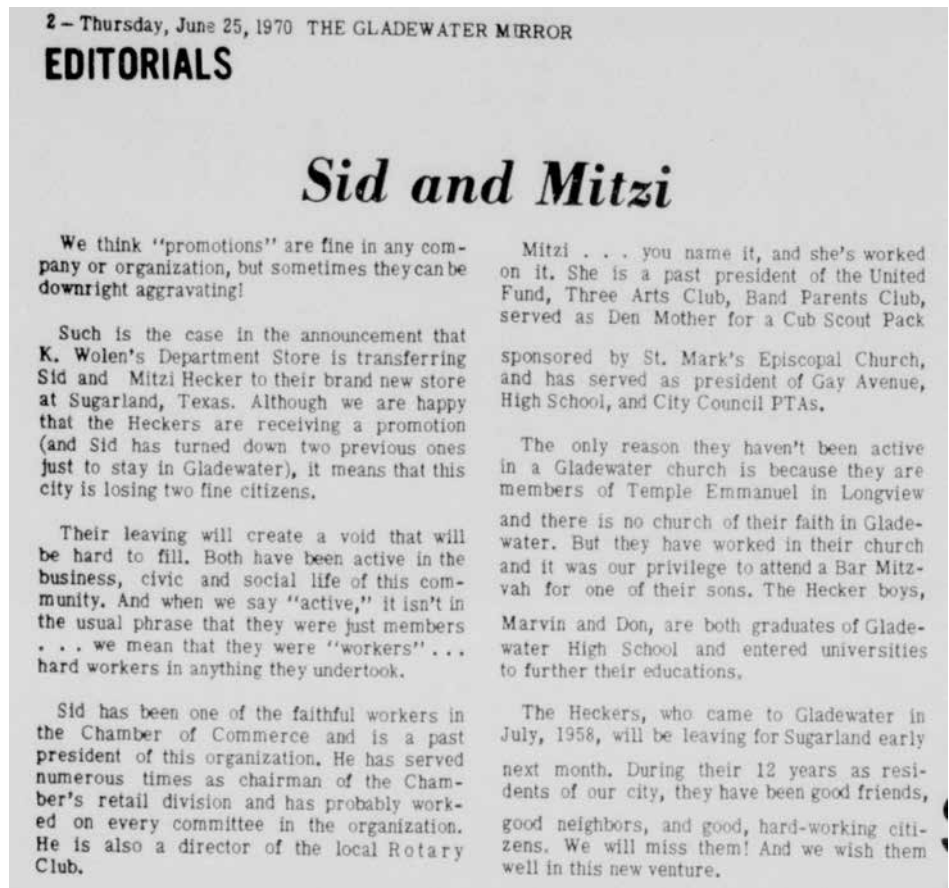
K. Wolens ad from Mexia Daily News, 1960

ier's (The Hub) in Wichita Falls. He knew so much about the industry that the K. Wolens management allowed him to attend the Men's Show at the Merchandise Mart in Dallas and purchase better quality items than K. Wolens usually carried. Some of the lines were Arrow Shirts, Campus Sportswear, and Stetson and Resistol Hats.

My mom, my brother, and I worked in the Gladewater store. One of my jobs was to "cancel" the books of Gold Stamps when they were redeemed for merchandise. In the basement of the store was a giant hole-punch machine with multiple punch spikes that punched a hole through each of the stamps on every page.

The Wolens family sponsored other Jewish immigrants to come to America and work as buyers and other management positions in the company.

Mr. Louis Wolens was running the company during that time. He liked to show up at his stores unannounced to check on the managers. One Christmas, he showed up in Gladewater and told my dad he wanted to purchase some merchandise to give to a family. He wrote a personal check for the merchandise. Two days later he called my dad and asked if he had cashed the check. My dad told him he had deposited it in the bank along with the daily deposit. Mr. Wo-



Editorial from Gladewater Daily Mirror, June 25, 1970

lens asked him if he had looked at the check to be sure it was okay. Dad told him he did not inspect the check because it had come from him. Turns out, Mr. Wolens had signed the check "Santa Claus" to see if Dad would catch it. Evidently the bank did not care because it did not bounce!

When the big box retailers started coming to small towns, they changed the stores to "K's Thrift Centers" and changed all the prices from ending in "99" or "59" (like \$3.99) to "96" and "57" to sound like a discount store. Not sure if that was before or after K. Wolens was sold. 🇺🇸

My Grandmother's Ring

by Laurie Bricker

"Our home survived, and more importantly we survived. I could not possibly imagine then that one hundred years later, I would be considered the last survivor of the 1900 Storm." These words from my grandmother appear in the book that I wrote, *My Grandmother's Ring, A Memoir of*

Lorraine Rey Isaacs Hofeller.

My grandmother, Lorraine Rey Isaacs Hofeller—my Meme—a second generation "BOI," (Born on the Island) lived with her parents, Belle and Ben Isaacs, and brother Mortimer on 2012 Broadway, in Galveston.

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The Ring.

My Grandmother's Ring, continued from page 6

Lorraine's grandparents, Meyer and Henrietta Schram, from Alsace Lorraine, also lived in Galveston, and all three generations are buried in the Jewish section of the Hebrew Benevolent Society cemetery on Broadway. Rabbi Henry Cohen and his wife, "Miss Mollie" were their neighbors and frequent dinner guests at each other's homes. My great-grandparents were active members of B'nai Israel, where Meyer Schram was among the early members, listed on the "first pew list" and along with many members of the family, served on the board.

When the 1900 "Blow" hit the island on September 8, 1900, Meme's family huddled together in the dining room, with her father pacing the floor while holding a hatchet in his hand in case he had to chop a hole in the floor to keep the house from floating off of its foundation. Fortunately, the only real damage was that the transom above the front door blew in, and he nailed up a board over the opening. The next day, they went by dray to Dickinson and then on to Houston. Her father stayed behind in case of



Belle Schram Isaacs, Galveston, early 1900s.

"looters!"

My grandmother was never to forget her fright. Her memories of the "blow" and every storm to follow stayed with her all of the days of her life.

My grandmother's first cousin, Adrian Levy and she walked to the Rosenberg school with her father every day, and both graduated from Ball High School in 1913. Lorraine ran for president of her senior class in 1912, eight years before Women's Suffrage, and beat four boys! I have her dance cards that were all "penciled in" and full.

In 1918, Lorraine went to Fort Worth, Texas, with her parents to visit Mortimer, and she met a young soldier named Sigmar Kaiser Hofeller. A native of Buffalo, New York, Sigmar was to take over his father's business,

Crescent City Concrete, named after Sigmar's mother who was born in New Orleans. Telegrams flourished, and Sigmar's visits to Galveston became more frequent. In late 1918, Sigmar mailed "The Ring" – her engagement ring, and in January 1919, they were married at the Galvez by Rabbi Cohen.

Cousin Adrian Levy was elected Galveston's Mayor in 1935. Cousin Ruth Levy Kepner became the first female to be elected to City Council in 1961.

After moving to Buffalo for a few years, and having two daughters, the family decided that the winters were too extreme, so Lorraine and Sigmar returned to "her Galveston," and lived there for eight years. They moved "up" to Houston where my mother,

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*Benjamin Isaacs,
Galveston, early 1900s.*

Elaine and my aunt Marion grew up. They joined Temple Beth Israel, where Lorraine taught Sunday school for forty years! Former students will remember her sandbox decorated with Egyptians, Jews, nomads, and camels all dressed up, and even an oasis which each Sunday, a student was selected to fill it with water.

Both my mother and father Elaine and Harry Kuper, and my aunt and uncle, Marion and Elia Levi, were married at the Galvez by Rabbi Henry Cohen and were active members of Beth Israel, as are we.

My grandfather sold insurance, while also becoming a professional magician! Blackstone and Houdini were frequent visitors in their home. My birthday parties were the hit of Houston, as I had rabbits, doves and snakes appear and disappear with Sigmar the Magician's magic shows. When he died at sixty-five years of age, he had a magicians' funeral with the breaking of the wand and special prayers from the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

We were all so lucky to have our Meme watch her grandchildren grow up and attend her grandchildren's



Lorraine & Sigmar Hofeller on Galveston Beach, 1918.

special events, including some Bar Mitzvah/Bat Mitzvah and all their weddings. She even knew and loved with special quality time her six great-grandchildren until they were in their twenties.

My grandmother had amazing expressions: She would call a lot of commotion "garruda." If an event were far away, she would say, "The Messiah could come by then!" And she was always proud when she would say, "I still have all my marbles!"

My Meme died at 106 ½, having lived a full and vibrant life through three centuries, countless wars, the moon landing, 9/11, and so many other significant events.

We visit the cemetery on Broadway to remember Meme, Gompy (Sigmar), her parents Belle and Ben Isaacs, her grandparents Henrietta and Meyer Schram, as well as dear aunts and uncles. I smile as I watch Meme's great-grandchildren, and their spouses and Meme's great-great-grand-

children walk slowly through the cemetery as I am the one to now tell the stories of the past to them. They take in the tales as I speak, and I ask them to always remember. As seasons change, I particularly love the tall wildflowers that spring up throughout the cemetery. Small yellow blossoms bend in the soft Galveston breeze.

We remember so that, as the Jewish saying goes, "their memory will always be for a blessing...."

...And now...

It is my role to stew over the weather, particularly the storms in the Gulf. I watch every weather app vigilantly and am now the weather watchdog of the family.

I wear the ring with so much pride. I look at my hand and see her hand. I wear the ring for every special occasion, and certainly whenever I attend religious services. I think of her as I pray that my children and grandchildren will remember me as I remember my Meme. Meme taught us all to remember.

And whenever she did wish to recall a memory, her eyes would sparkle as she thought and thought, and then she would begin with "I shall never forget" And no, Meme, nor shall we.

My Grandmother's Ring, A Memoir of Lorraine Rey Isaacs Hofeller is available on Amazon. 



Sigmar, The Magician



Key to the City of Galveston presented to Lorraine Hofeller.

Tumbleweed Smith aka Bob Lewis, has had a syndicated statewide radio show, *The Sound of Texas*, and newspaper columns, *Texas Stories*, in over twenty-five newspapers for the past fifty-plus years. His subjects are interesting people, places and events in the state of Texas. Many of his interviews have been with Jews and some TJHS members. He has agreed to share some of those interviews with The TJHS Magazine. We will begin with the following and have more in the future. Both of the following interviews were in *Texas Stories* – John Campbell in May 13, 2024; and Jeff Aresty in May 12, 2025.

John Campbell's Adventures Around the World

by Tumbleweed Smith aka Bob Lewis

John Campbell, TJHS Recording Secretary for the last few years, lives in Austin. He started his professional career on a high note. "My actual first job was in the Carter White House," he said. He went there after graduating from Tulane University with degrees in biology and sociology. A professor recommended him for a position researching global hunger and health. "And then there was the United Nations International Year of the Child in 1979," says John, "when I was asked to help create a presidential commission that reported on issues affecting American children."

"Most of my career choices were purposeful. My father asked me before he died to do things to make the world a better place. Those words set the course for my life. My father experienced some genuine horror. He was a prisoner of war for three years during World War II and entered Nagasaki just days after the bomb was dropped on that city."

John spent thirty years with the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. "I organized international scientific conferences on various topics in Istanbul, New Delhi, Tokyo and other interesting cities."

He met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan. "They were exceedingly genuine and wonderful people, and I had a good visit with them over tea. Months later I met them again at a conference in Tokyo. They were in a line greeting guests, and when the Empress saw me, she leaned over to me, took my hand, and said, 'Oh, Mr. Campbell, we're so happy to see you again. How was your trip to Kyoto?' Everybody just stared at me and wondered how I knew the Empress."

Once in Beijing he was offered a ride in a colleague's diplomatic car with a driver. The car had a special license plate. "Apparently the police could not stop the driver

American Idol Outside America

by Tumbleweed Smith aka Bob Lewis

Jeff Aresty moved from Boston to Waco in 2021. He says people in Boston and those in other parts of the world think of only two things when they think of Waco, Texas -- Fixer Upper and Branch Davidians.

"Unfortunately, that's not the view that people should have. The view of this city is just amazing once you live here for a couple of years and start looking around," he says.

Jeff has staged talent shows for young people all over the world. In Boston, he was an international business attorney and developed contacts all over the world.

"It turned out to be an opportunity to go to difficult places and create opportunities for young people. It turned out to be mostly art programs."

He did one in Haiti in conjunction with a group called the Turquoise Mountain Foundation from the British Isles. "In 2008, 2009, and 2010, we created an American Idol-like program online there. It was right after the earthquake, and we ran contests. We were able to recruit a lot of talented young people in Port-Au-Prince to show up for our contest. Local judges helped and I recruited a lot of young folks from Boston University to help. We had video equipment and recorded the top twenty people in the contest like *American Idol*. The local judges chose the top ten, and then we went to Facebook. My young team determined how to create the contest online using Facebook tools. Thousands of people voted, and a winner was selected. The winner was a young man named Juanito, who is now famous all over the east coast where Haitian immigrants live. We replicated that many times."

Jeff did art projects in Afghanistan where the U.S. Army gave him protection. "It was much more challenging there. We built incredible relationships, but it was more of a learning experience than anything else. Probably

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TJHS Speakers Around the State

by Jan Siegel Hart

TJHS has provided several programs around the state where they spoke on various topics, as well as speaking about the Texas Jewish Historical Society.

On August 18, 2025, Barbara Rosenberg spoke on “Jewish History of Ft. Bend County” to Congregation Beth El in Missouri City. The TJHS Photo Exhibit was on display for the presentation.

October 5, 2025, found Marc Wormser speaking to the HAZAK group of Congregation Beth Shalom, Houston, on TJHS and genealogical research, which also included the Photo Exhibit.

Jan Siegel Hart told the Jewish residents at Overture Arboretum in Austin about the work of the Texas Jewish Historical Society on October 10, 2025.

Nelson Chafetz was very busy with two presentations at the Stake Temple Family History Seminar, “Loom of Legacy” in San Antonio on October 11, 2025. Nelson also spoke to the Sun City Havurah in Georgetown on October 19, 2025, explaining how he had researched his family history and helped those who were interested in doing their own research. He also provided links to some of the places he used. In addition, he gave a brief history of TJHS, including the grants awarded and where our monies are distributed.

The *TJHS Magazine* and brochures were distributed at all the presentations, with a great deal of interest shown in the *Magazines*. 🇺🇸



Nelson Chafetz speaking to Sun City Havurah in Georgetown.

John Campbell, continued from page 9

for any infraction with this plate. The young driver floored the gas and drove me through the streets of Beijing. When we got to Tiananmen Square, he barreled around the barricades and drove around in circles while Cher’s ‘Do You Believe in Love’ blasted with the windows down. The driver thought he was entertaining this American passenger. I’ll never forget that night.”

John is a certified world traveler. Once he was detained at the Frankfurt airport when the agents looked at his passport and discovered he had been to several countries in a short amount of time. “A young officer gave me a body search. About an hour later they released me after being convinced I was not a terrorist.”

John has had an incredible life and met some significant people. In 2000 he helped create an organization of world leaders to address global science and technology issues. He says it would be hard to do that today in this political climate. 🇺🇸

American Idol, continued from page 9

the image that stays with me more than anything else is a grand piano in the middle of rubble in a torn-up field and a young man playing Mozart as I am walking by. It’s very difficult for me to think about that these days. Youth all over the world just keep their hope alive anyway possible.

In working with youth, it’s always about finding the right relationships. Sometimes you can do it through the public setting but often, it’s through the private settings. There are a lot of private programs working with young people. We would be in these places a couple of weeks at most, so we had to move quickly.”

Jeff is working with a program at Baylor University called the Innovation Collaborative, which is a three-story building. He and others want to fill it with innovative types of businesses. “I would love to see a digital story-telling business there working with the Taylor Museum, the City of Waco and the county.” 🇺🇸

From the Zoom Board Meeting

October 12, 2025

There was no financial statement presented because all of the numbers needed from the Houston Community Foundation were not in.

A \$1500 grant was awarded to John F. Ladd from Fort Worth for a historical marker on the Naylor/Moses House in Fort Worth. There is \$2500 budgeted left to spend on Grants this fiscal year.

The Speaker's Bureau has been busy with six presentations by TJHS members this quarter. See article on page 7 of this issue.

On December 7, 2025, TJHS will sponsor a webinar on the movie, *Remember My Soul*, with grant recipient Jillian Glanz at 3:00 p.m. Those who register will have an opportunity to view the movie prior to the Q&A. You must register to attend the webinar and see the movie. Information will be sent to the membership on how and when to register.

The Winter Board Meeting will be January 16-18, 2026, in Corpus Christi.

The Annual Gathering will be April 24-26, 2026, in Houston.

The Membership Committee reported that reminder postcards are now sent when it is time for dues renewal. This reminder has been well accepted since everyone is on their own renewal date, rather than the calendar year.

There were 117 additions made to the burial base this quarter. 🇺🇸

Contributions

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

Gift Membership to Erin Solka by
Davie Lou Solka

Grit and Grace Film Premieres at Buda Arts Festival

by Jan Siegel Hart

On October 18, 2025, the film, "Grit and Grace: How Jewish Women Built A Better Texas" premiered in Buda, Texas, as part of the Buda Arts Festival. Producer Barbara Rosenthal introduced the film and conducted a Q&A immediately following the movie. A grant recipient of TJHS, the film documents five Texas women who throughout their lives made a difference in their communities. These Jewish women were drawn to Tikun Olam – to repair the world, as our Jewish tradition dictates. These women are Dr. Ray K. Daily, Frances Kallison, Olga Kohlberg, Fania F. Kruger, and Gussie Oscar.

Jan Siegel Hart represented the Texas Jewish Historical Society. Two family members of women featured were Evan Ray Daily – grandson of Dr. Ray K. Daily, and "Kal" Kallison, grandnephew of Frances Kallison. The film will be shown at the Annual Gathering of TJHS in Houston in April and will be available to be shown to other audiences as well. 🇺🇸



Jan Hart & Kal Kallison.



Sign at premiere.



Jeff Gross, Rosenthal granddaughter, and Barbara Rosenthal.

From Generation to Generation: A Yom Kippur Homecoming at Temple Israel

by Marilyn Lippman

Yom Kippur, 2025, Temple Israel in Schulenburg welcomed a very special guest: Jonathan Fink of San Antonio. His visit carried deep meaning, marking a return to the small but historic temple his father once served more than six decades ago.

In the fall of 1960, Jonathan's father, Arnold Fink, was a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. Like many years before and after, Temple Israel had arranged for a student rabbi from Hebrew Union College to lead the congregation during the High Holy Days. That year, Arnold Fink traveled to Schulenburg to conduct services and remained in town for the ten days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Sixty-five years later, Jonathan stood in the same sanctuary, worshiping with the community at Kol Nidre Services while wearing his father's rainbow tallit—a cherished family keepsake.

Arnold Fink was the eleventh generation of rabbis in his family, whose lineage began in Lithuania. His father, Rabbi Joseph L Fink (Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo, New York) was elected President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) in 1952, and for years he was a well-known host of a popular radio show called the Humanitarian Hour. After graduating from Hebrew Union College, Rabbi Arnold Fink served congregations in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Alexandria, Virginia, for thirty-three years until his retirement. When he passed away in 2005, more than 1,000 people attended his funeral—a testament to his remarkable rabbinic career. Schulenburg was a small but meaningful part of that legacy, a story his family always remembered fondly.

Jonathan shared that his father



Rabbi Arnold Fink

often spoke warmly of his time in Schulenburg, yet he had never visited himself—until this year, when he made the time to honor that connection. He recounted several stories his father had told: how he traveled by bus from Houston to Schulenburg; how Mexican food (enchiladas) was served for Yom

Kippur Break the Fast; how a congregant took him to a local farm to demonstrate how to candle eggs, which was a big thing as he was an east-coast city boy.

Jonathan added that he hopes to return to Temple Israel again—next time

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Fink, continued from page 12

with his wife and his brother, Rabbi Dan Fink, who represents the twelfth generation of rabbis in the family. Dan recently retired after serving for thirty years as Rabbi at Congregation Ahavath Beth Israel in Boise, Idaho, the oldest synagogue in continuous use west of the Mississippi.

Jonathan also expressed his family's deep appreciation to the Schulenburg community, sharing these reflections:

"As my brother Dan has often said, those student congregations played a major role in the development of young rabbis. Schulenburg, along with my father's other student pulpits—Huntington, West Virginia; Cairo, Illinois; and Steubenville, Ohio—were the sparks that set off the flame of a storied rabbinical career. After his ordination, he served as Assistant Rabbi at Keneseth Israel in Philadelphia under Rabbi Bertram Korn for seven years, and then as Senior Rabbi of Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia, from 1969 to 2002. Much like his father, Rabbi Joseph L. Fink of Temple Beth Zion in Buffalo, and his grandfather, Mendel Finkelstein of Beth Jacob in Dayton, my father was beloved by his congregants. He was a champion of civil rights and progressive causes and worked tirelessly to foster interfaith dialogue. He was the most positive person I have ever known, always seeing the glass as half-full, even in difficult times. His congregation called him the 'Rainbow Rabbi' because he loved rainbows and lived his life overflowing with hope for humanity. He stood on the bimah at Temple Israel so many years ago, and I was deeply honored to stand in his footsteps this Yom Kippur. I am grateful to your community—and to your parents and others—who welcomed my father to Texas in a different time and age,



Joel Plagge, Jonathan Fink wearing his father's "Rainbow Tallis", Michael Peck, Rabbi Jordan Parr---Schulenburg Temple Israel Yom Kippur, 2025.

even if it was for only two brief, but meaningful weeks."

"It was a powerful reminder of *L'dor Vador*—from generation to generation," said Marilyn Lippman, Temple Israel Board Member and Treasurer. "Jonathan, who was honoring his father, and me remembering my own mother, Sarah, who for many years was lovingly called the 'Shamos' of the Temple brought back many memories. She organized and led the congregation and also served as our musical soloist. With the current Temple Israel President Becky Berger recovering from surgery this year and unable to participate, I found myself stepping into some of my mother's roles."

The evening's prayers and music—especially pianist Joel Plagg's rendition of *L'dor Vador* beautifully underscored the theme of continuity and connection. In that moment of reflection, Yom Kippur became more than a day of prayer—it was a shared reminder of family, faith, and the ties that continue from generation to generation.

A Brief History of Temple Israel of Schulenburg: established in

1951, it is one of Texas' enduring small-town Jewish congregations. For decades, it has served as a spiritual home for Jewish families in surrounding rural communities, preserving the customs, prayers, and values that bind generations together. Though its membership has always been small, Temple Israel's sense of history runs deep. Today, the congregation includes thirty-four member families, with only two residing in Schulenburg itself. Yet the Temple continues to draw a devoted circle of descendants and friends who feel a strong connection. Each year, families return for the High Holy Days to honor their roots and renew their ties to Jewish life in rural Texas—a cherished tradition that keeps the spirit of Temple Israel alive. This year's Yom Kippur gathering—with Jonathan Fink's visit and the echoes of his father's presence from 1960—stands as a vivid reminder of that legacy: a testament to faith, family, and the enduring strength of *L'dor Vador*—from generation to generation.

Marilyn Lippman is a TJHS Board Member and on the Meeting Committee. 

Meet Your Board

Paula Stein was born and raised in Schulenburg, TX. She and Rick Stein have been married for forty-nine years, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Paula's interests include travelling and her family's genealogy. She has traced her father's family's arrival to Texas around 1860, and her mother's side to New York City and Philadelphia in 1770.



Hollace Ava Weiner joined TJHS in 1996 while researching her first book, *Jewish Stars in Texas*, which focuses on legendary Lone Star rabbis. Since then, she has written and edited four books on Texas Jewish history, including the anthology *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, which was published by TJHS with Brandeis University Press in 2007. She writes a monthly column for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and is the director for the Fort Worth Jewish Archives. Hollace serve on the editorial board of *Western States Jewish History*.



Davie Lou Solka, is a grandchild of Russian immigrants who were part of the Galveston movement. She was President of TJHS 2017-2019. She and her husband, Jack, z"l moved to Austin in 2007 from Corpus Christi. Davie Lou was involved in the community in Corpus Christi and was elected President of several Jewish organizations, PTAs, service clubs, and the first woman president of Temple Beth El. After her children left home, she began and taught a Jewish Holiday Program called L'dor Vador in the JCC Pre-school. She retired from teaching after fourteen years just before



moving to Austin. She was involved in activities in Austin pre-COVID and is a born and bred Texan. She graduated from the University of Texas before you had to add Austin. She loves keeping up with her children, grandchildren, and right now, three great-grandchildren. Davie Lou is editor of *The TJHS Magazine* and the liaison for the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

Lynda F. Furgatch was raised in Abilene and now lives in Brownsville. While in high school, 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 commercials 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 one of the Chairs for the Meeting Committee.



Michael Furgatch was born and raised in Texas. He has lived in Beaumont, Dallas, Austin, and now Brownsville for over fifty-two years. He is married to Lynda (also a TJHS Board Member), and they have two children and three grandchildren. Michael and Lynda were married in 1973, when he graduated from UT/Austin. They moved to Brownsville where he began working in the ship dismantling and recycling industry, which is his occupation today. He enjoys working with non-profit and service organizations, and has been involved with the Temple Beth El Board of Directors in Brownsville for almost thirty years. Michael serves on the Grants Committee.



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Joyce Wormser, Pearland, was born in Corpus Christi and is married to Marc, TJHS Past President (2012-2014). They have two sons and four grandchildren. She worked as Employee Relations Officer for one thousand employees at the Corpus Christi State school. In 2010 she and Marc moved to Pearland to be closer to their sons and their families. Joyce served as Recording Secretary for three years (2017-2020.)



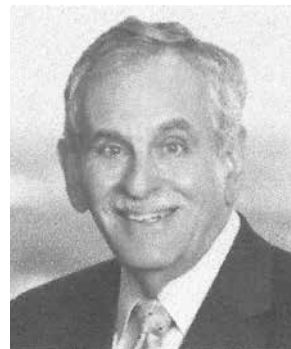
Joan Teter Linares is a retired elementary teacher who taught for thirty-two years at Harlem Elementary School in Baytown, Texas. Joan grew up in Baytown and learned about Texas Jewish Historical Society from her parents, Don, who is a past President, and Gertrude Teter. She is President of Congregation K'Nesseth Israel in Baytown and treasurer of the Baytown Chapter of Hadasah. She and her husband, Ruben, have three daughters, one son, and nine grandchildren. Joan is immediate Past President of TJHS.



Lila Katz, from Tyler, graduated from the University of Texas/Austin with a double major in Jewish Studies and Humanities with a focus on Jewish storytelling in the arts. She is currently attending rabbinical school in Jerusalem. Lila is interested in Jewish Storytelling, Jewish Arts, Novel & Playwriting, Producing, and Musical Theatre.



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



Mazel Tov

Hy Penn & Lynn Gordon who participated in the Ride for The Living in Krakow, Poland, June 25-20, 2025. The Ride traces the path survivors took after liberation eighty years ago. In honor of his grandmother and mother, Hy had their camp numbers on the back of his shirt.

Davie Lou, Michael, and Liz Solka, on the birth of their great-granddaughter and granddaughter, Kalaya Belle Solka, in Flemington, New Jersey. Kalaya's parents are Brian and Amanda Solka.

Davie Lou, Steven, and Andrea Solka, on the birth of their great-grandson and Son, Noah Jacob Solka, in McKinney, Texas. Noah's parents are Matthew and Yana Solka.

In Memoriam



LEON B. TOUBIN, Brenham/Houston, TJHS member, died August 15, 2025, in Houston, Texas. He is survived by his children, Jeffrey (Fran Miller), Robin (Brad) Stein, and Andrew (Rachel

Swartz); six grandchildren; brother, Jim Toubin; and nieces, and cousins.

May his memory be a blessing.

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund Contributions

Diamond

In Honor of Paulie Gaido by Shelley Kessler
In Honor of Bob Lewis/Tumbleweed Smith on his induction into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in the Broadcast Museum in Kilgore, Texas by Barbara & Ben Rosenberg
In Support of TJHS by Joyce & Herschel Sheiness

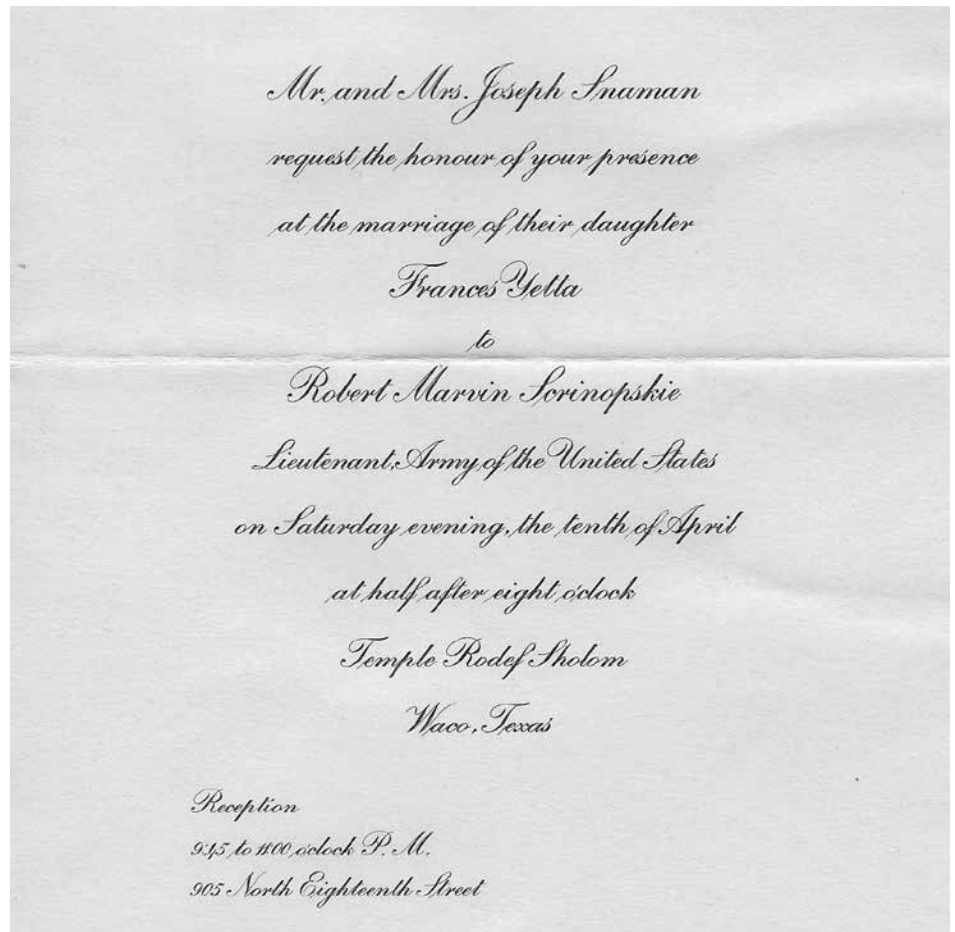
A World War II Texas Love Story

By Gregg Philipson

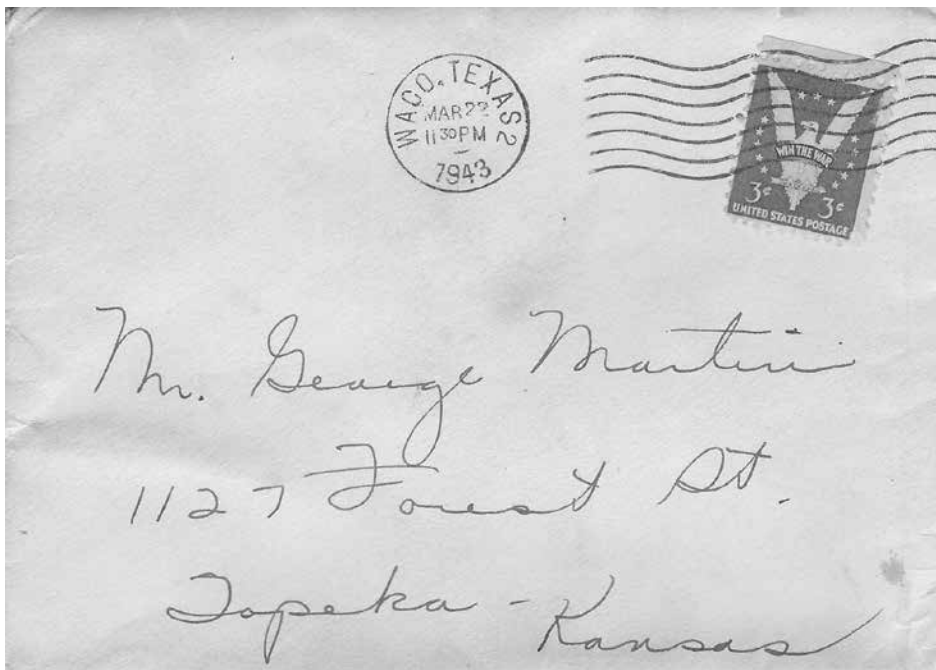
During WWII over a half million Americans of the Jewish faith served in the U.S. Armed Forces. They served worldwide in all branches of the U.S. military. Our Jewish service members were awarded over 50,000 medals for heroism and wounds received in combat. Others like my father Bernard Philipson (z"l) helped liberate concentration camps. During this horrific time in Jewish history there were some moments of joy, happiness and a brief period of peace. This wedding invitation from my Jewish War Veterans collection provides a bit of insight into one of those times.

This is an original invitation announcing the wedding of United States Army Lieutenant, Robert Marvin Scrinopskie from Topeka, Kansas to Frances Snaman of Waco, Texas. The ceremony took place at Temple Rodef Shalom in Waco on April 10, 1943.

The original mailing envelope is postmarked March 22, 1943 at Waco, Texas and was sent to a George Miller of Topeka, Kansas (hometown of the groom) during the height of WWII.



Above: Scrinopskie Wedding invitation.
Below: Envelope from Scrinopskie Wedding invitation.



The envelope is franked with a 1942 U.S. V for Victory Win the War \$.03 stamp. For you stamp collectors out there the stamp is Scott U.S. #905.

Frances Yetta Snaman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Snaman, was born in Waco, Texas on November 25, 1917. She was twenty-six years old in 1943. She passed away on February 6, 1989 at 71 years of age. Frances is interred at the Hebrew Rest Cemetery in Waco, Texas.

Robert Marvin Scrinopskie was born April 15, 1919 in Topeka, Kansas, the son of Myer J. Scrinopskie and Donna E. Seff Scrinopskie. Robert passed away October 28, 2007 in Topeka. 

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Ephraim Frisch: San Antonio's Firebrand Rabbi

by Vickie Vogel

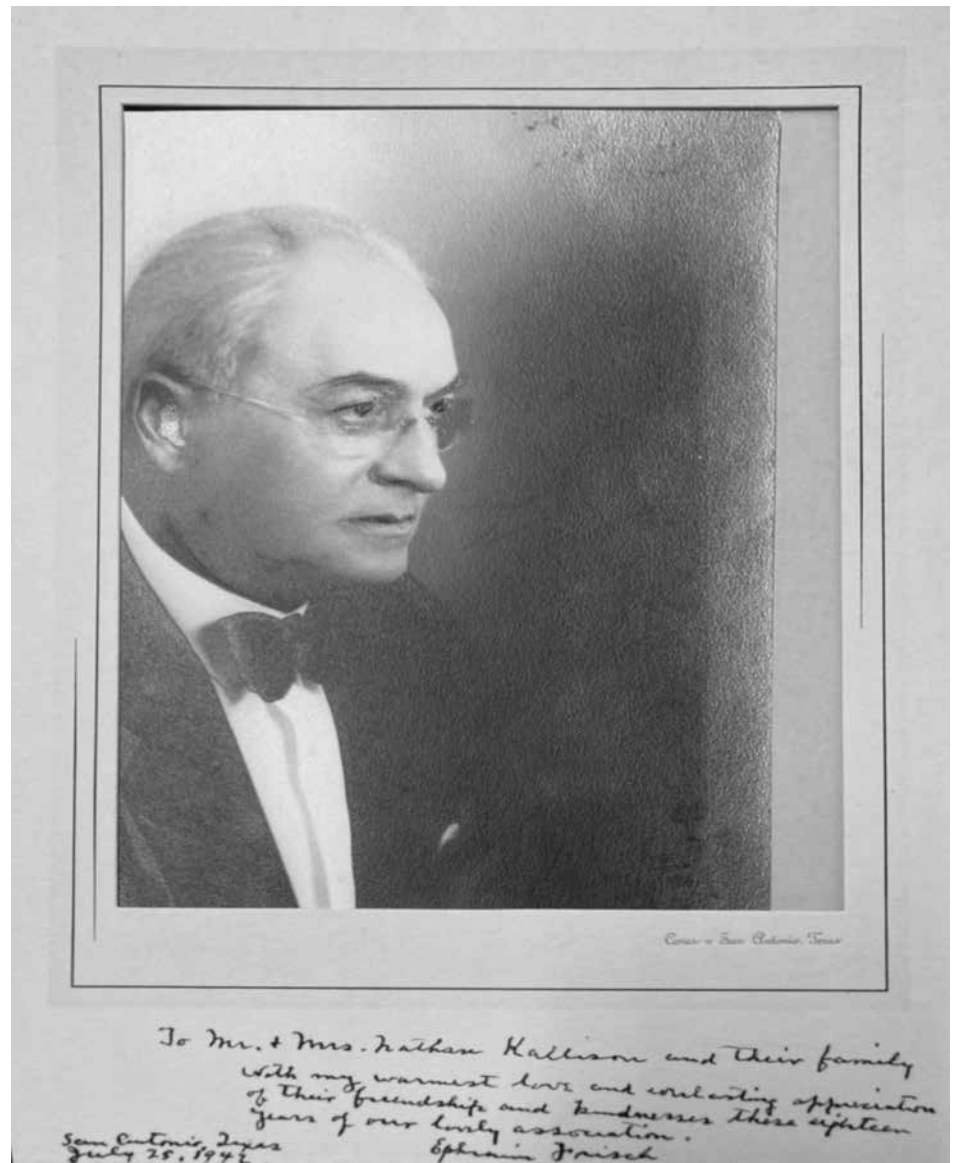
This column is based on information available in the TJHS archives, supplemented by some online research. If you have corrections or additions to this information, please submit them in writing to the TJHS editor at editor@txjhs.org. We want the TJHS archives to be as complete and accurate as possible.

On June 29, 1937, the San Antonio Police Department conducted an ax-wielding raid on the headquarters of the Workers' Alliance, smashing everything within reach and polarizing factions in the community. The American Civil Liberties Union investigated the police raid, which was conducted without search or arrest warrants, breaking up a meeting in progress. The Alliance had been protesting the 700,000 job cuts from the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

Liberal social activist Rabbi Ephraim Frisch of Temple Beth-El was traveling in Mexico. His response didn't come until July in a letter printed in the *San Antonio Light*. The newspaper edited down the essay, so Frisch had 800 full-version copies (printed at his own expense) mailed to leading citizens, Jewish and non-Jewish. This created wide-spread unease among many of his congregants.

Despite the state of the world in 1937 and the growing concern about fascism and antisemitism, American Jews were sensitive to charges of Communism and democratic so-

cialism. Frisch was not immune to these concerns. Indeed, when he received a request from socialist presidential candidate Norman Thomas in 1936, asking for the establishment



Rabbi Ephraim Frisch in the TJHS Collection, Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Box 2.325/OD12. Inscription reads: "To Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Kallison and their family with my warmest love and everlasting appreciation of their friendship and kindnesses these eighteen years of our lovely association. Ephraim Frisch. San Antonio, Texas, July 25, 1942."

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of a Jewish Bureau for the Socialist Party, Frisch had replied that the Jews had enough trouble from antisemites based on political associations and he did not want to be exposed to new charges.

“He supported labor interests, advocated for the poor, defended freedom of speech even for Communists, championed the teaching of Darwinism in public schools, eschewed the notion of a Christian America, reviled the profit motive, and played a particularly dramatic role in the standoff between conservatives and liberals at a time when religious and political ideologies were becoming polarized and unforgiving... Frisch’s role as a supporter of liberal causes and social justice was an integral part of his self-perception as a rabbi. Early on, and throughout his career, Frisch spoke and wrote forcefully about philanthropy and social action,” wrote Professor Karl Preuss.¹ Frisch openly supported Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal from the pulpit.² He was sensitive to the needs of San Antonio’s large and impoverished Mexican community that lived in a slum on the West Side, one of the worst in the United States.

The Beth-El board and many members of the San Antonio Reform community were assimilated, successful businessmen who wanted to be part of the establishment and work their way up the social ladder. Even congregants who agreed with the rabbi’s positions were reluctant to offer public support. They were comfortable within the broader community.

Beth-El treasurer, banker and civic leader Jesse D. Oppenheimer told Frisch to stop mailing out the tract about the Workers’ Alliance raid and confine himself to religious duties. Frisch responded, “I am willing to pay whatever my ideals will cost.”

Another angry congregant was

board member Nat Goldsmith, wholesale grocer. Julian Morgenstern, president of Hebrew Union College, wrote a kinder letter, suggesting the tract had been unnecessarily tactless. The acquittal of the Workers’ Alliance leaders did not mollify Frisch’s critics. In years to come, Frisch said the police raid was the issue that led most directly to his retirement, and contributed to his ill health and disillusionment as a rabbi.

The next year, during a pecan sheller strike, Frisch was especially vocal about how the pecan shellers were treated, touching a raw nerve since members of the congregation were the owners and bosses. Former Beth-El board member Julius Seligmann, Sr., who owned the country’s largest pecan shelling company,³ testified at a state hearing, “The Mexican Pecan Shellers eat a good many pecans, and five cents a day is enough to support them in addition to what they eat while they work.”⁴

Somewhat ironically, Frisch was a sharp critic of Communism after a visit to the Soviet Union, and his support for the Spanish Loyalists was not intended as support for Communists.

Who was this firebrand, and how did he come to be the Temple Beth-El rabbi? Ephraim Frisch was born October 1, 1880 in Shubocz, Klaipėda, Lithuania (an area under the repressive rule of the Tsar) to Rabbi David and Hannah Baskowitz Frisch, descending from seventeen generations of rabbis. He immigrated to the United States in 1888 through the Great Lakes port of Duluth, Minnesota with his brother Sol to join their father who was working as a shochet and Hebrew teacher. His mother and sister Frieda followed.⁵ He grew up in Minneapolis where five more sisters were born: Sarah, Janet, Ruby, Florence, and Helen. Cousins and uncles were prominent in the Jewish Com-

munity.

Encouraged by his Orthodox rabbi father, Frisch accepted a scholarship to Reform’s Hebrew Union College, where he edited the college annual. His father had taken the pulpit in Union City, New Jersey where he died at the young age of 43. Frisch was ordained in 1904, and joined his first pulpit that year at Anshe Emeth in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. When his studies continued, he was Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Cincinnati and received a Ph.D. in Semitics from Columbia University.⁶

Frisch spoke out against the Arkansas governor for referring to Jesus in a Thanksgiving Day proclamation. He supported a Black minister who hosted biracial gatherings, founded Arkansas’ first county tuberculosis association, and organized help for Russian Jewish refugees. He delivered a paper to the Southern Rabbinical Association titled “Is the United States a Christian Nation? A Legal Study” which embroiled him in controversy. He denounced the poll tax, and ridiculed legislators who banned the teaching of evolution.⁷ He supported immigration, even by the less sophisticated shtetl folk fleeing eastern Europe, which was unpopular even with some Jews.⁸

In 1912, Frisch left Arkansas for Temple Israel in Far Rockaway, Queens, New York. He continued his social activism, and created a social service department, establishing a children’s haven for the temporary care of indigent youngsters.

Frisch founded the New Synagogue⁹ in Manhattan in 1915, stressing social action and flexible rituals. Meanwhile, he had fallen in love. Ruth Cohen was born in Galveston in 1890. Her birthday was the nation’s birthday, July 4. Her father was the famous Texas rabbi, Henry

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Cohen (1863-1934) and her mother was Mollie Levy Cohen (1862-1951). Ephraim and Ruth met at the University of Chicago while attending summer classes¹⁰ and married in 1916.¹¹ The wedding took place at the Gotham Hotel in New York City, with Rabbi Cohen officiating. A hundred and fifty guests attended, some of whom were from Galveston. One of Ephraim's sisters, Jeanette, served as maid of honor, and the bride's brother, Harry, was best man.

Ruth was a member of the Girls Musical Club and was an accomplished pianist and writer.¹² She became active in the Texas Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and gave a speech at their 1924 convention.¹³ Ruth became the rabbi's confidante, coworker, and dearest friend. She was involved with her husband's work, and was highly regarded by their congregations. They complemented each other: she was soft-spoken while he was brash.

The British issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, expressing support for the creation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. Rabbi Frisch came down on the side of the opponents of such a move, believing that the United States should be the home for American Jews.¹⁴ He called Zionism "a menace" and said the creation of a Jewish state would be a mistake. It would undermine the patriotism of American Jews. After publishing his views in the *New York Times*, he was ridiculed by pro-Zionist rabbis. He wrote his father-in-law, Rabbi Cohen, that he "went through a terrible ordeal."¹⁵ Anti-Zionism thus became another source of controversy.

Ephraim and Ruth welcomed a baby in March 1918, their son David Henry, who was their only child. Their joy quickly turned to concern, as Ruth grew ill and listless and was

diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, a lymphatic cancer. After radiation treatment, it went into remission.¹⁶

An opening at Temple Beth-El in San Antonio was created when Rabbi Sidney Tedesche resigned in mid-1923. Here was a chance for Rabbi Cohen's daughter and grandson to be closer to their Texas family. Because of Frisch's strident style, Rabbi Cohen took charge of the campaign to get the pulpit for his son-in-law. Cohen advised him not to apply, but wait to be called. Knowing an audition might not go well, he suggested the temple president meet Frisch in a casual setting where the Frisch family was vacationing in Massachusetts. The idea of bringing members of the illustrious Henry Cohen's family, someone of a long line of respected rabbis, to San Antonio was appealing. The plan worked. Without a tryout, Rabbi Frisch got the job.

All went well for months. The school board endorsed compulsory Bible reading and Frisch wrote the editor that the best place for the Bible is in church, the religious school, and the home. It didn't change anything, but the rabbi stood up for his principles.

The following year, Rabbi Frisch gave a sermon on US policy in the Philippines, which he denounced as imperialistic. As Frisch told the story, a former temple president decried his use of the pulpit for "political propaganda." Frisch slammed his fist on the podium and said either his pulpit was free or he would not continue to serve as rabbi and asked for an immediate vote of confidence. The congregation applauded.

Ephraim and Ruth were popular in San Antonio, and worked together to bring culture and Jewish knowledge to the congregation, keeping the young people engaged beyond bar mitzvah and confirmation. 1924 is

when he received his PhD from Columbia. He taught part-time at San Antonio College and served on various community boards, as well as the Texas Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor. He was active in the ACLU and the Americans for Democratic Action. Frisch traveled throughout Mexico, the Middle East and Europe. Beth-El's membership grew.

The Frisch family got bad news in 1934. Ruth's cancer had returned after fifteen years. She went to the Cohen family home in Galveston and grew weaker. She died on August 6, age 44, and was buried in Galveston. Rabbi Cohen conducted the funeral service in the family home. Rabbi Frisch could find no consolation with the end of his eighteen-year marriage.

Without Ruth's influence, he became more combative, more strident. The Great Depression ruled the 1930s, contributing to dramatic social problems. Then came the 1937 raid of the Workers Alliance headquarters.

By 1938, Frisch was exhausted, and retreated to New York to be with relatives. An associate rabbi, David Jacobson, was hired at Beth-El, being told the senior rabbi was ill and might not return. He did return, but his confidence was undermined by Jacobson, who had married Helen Gugenheim, the daughter of a wealthy member of Beth-El. Although they shared the same politics and were both social activists, Jacobson was diplomatic, low key, and easier to get along with. Frisch mistrusted Jacobson's motives, and felt he was being pushed into retirement.

Jesse D. Oppenheimer, Nat Goldsmith, Morris Stern, Sylvan Lang, and other leaders at Beth-El wanted Frisch's removal. In 1942, the congregation voted on a settlement offer for his retirement. Frisch became executive director of a Central Confer-

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ence of American Rabbis post, but quit over administrative matters. Embittered, he spent his last years living alone in New York.

He began work on a study of references to Jews in Christian Sunday School textbooks to determine their effect on Christian-Jewish relations.¹⁷ Some years later, Jacobson invited Frisch to return to San Antonio to speak at the synagogue. Thereafter, the two men enjoyed a cordial relationship.¹⁸

Mollie Cohen died of carcinoma-tosis in 1951, age 89. Rabbi Henry Cohen died in 1952, also at 89. They were buried in Galveston. His son-in-law had nurtured a high regard for him, and had maintained close ties to the Cohen family in Galveston after Ruth's death. They shared similar social and religious beliefs.¹⁹

Ephraim Frisch died December 24, 1957 in Manhattan where he had lived for fifteen years, and was buried in New York. His sister Ruby Moses registered the death. He had never gotten over Ruth's untimely death.²⁰ He was survived by their son, Dr. David H. Frisch, Associate Professor of Nuclear Physics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; his five sisters; and David's two children.²¹ David was at MIT for forty years. His wife, Rose, was a professor at the Harvard University School of Public Health. Their son, Henry, was a physics professor at the University of Chicago, and their daughter, Ruth, was an artist in Providence, Rhode Island. David died of cancer in 1991 at age 73.²²

For a full version of Rabbi Frisch's life, consult Hollace Weiner's excellent chapter in *Jewish Stars in Texas: Rabbis and Their Work*. A second detailed source is Karl Preuss' article in *American Jewish History*, Vol 85, No. 3, September 1997, pp. 263-288. You can find it online at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23885565>.

Endnotes

- ¹ Karl Preuss, "Personality, Politics, and the Price of Justice: Ephraim Frisch, San Antonio's 'Radical' Rabbi, *American Jewish History*, Vol 85, No. 3, September 1997, pp. 263-288. Accessed at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23885565>
- ² Hollace Weiner, *Jewish Stars in Texas: Rabbis and Their Work*, Texas A & M University Press, 1999, p. 162.
- ³ For more on Seligmann, see Vickie Vogel, Philip Eldridge and Family, *TJHS Magazine*, March 2017, p. 16.
- ⁴ Preuss, op cit.
- ⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/166508783/ephraim-frisch>; Weiner, op cit, p. 165.
- ⁶ *New York Times* obituary, December 26, 1957.
- ⁷ <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/frisch-ephraim>;
- ⁸ Preuss, op cit.
- ⁹ The New Synagogue merged with Temple Beth-El and eventually Emanu-El, located at Fifth Avenue and Sixty-Fifth Street. *New York Times* obituary, ibid.
- ¹⁰ Weiner, op cit. p. 162.
- ¹¹ Encyclopedia op cit; Preuss, op cit.
- ¹² *Houston Post* (Houston, Harris Co., TX), Wed., 23 Aug 1916, p. 8, c. 3.
- ¹³ Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schechter, *Deep in the Heart: The Lives & Legends of Texas Jews*, Eakin Press: 1990. p. 124.
- ¹⁴ Preuss, op cit.
- ¹⁵ Weiner, op cit, p. 169.
- ¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁷ Weiner, op cit; encyclopedia op cit.; *New York Times* op cit.; <https://7079.sydneypus.com/archive/final/Theme.aspx?r=626944&f=FindingAids%2Fms0187.pdf&m=resource>; Preuss, op cit.
- ¹⁸ Preuss, op cit.
- ¹⁹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/59447031/mollie-cohen> ; Preuss, op cit.
- ²⁰ Weiner, op cit., pp. 160-181. The Philippine incident is from Ephraim Frisch, "The Work of

Justice Is Peace," *HUC Monthly*, November 1942, pp 6, 19-20. https://images.findagrave.com/photos/2016/186/166508783_1467764481.jpg

²¹ *New York Times*, op cit.

²² <https://www.nytimes.com/1991/05/25/obituaries/david-frisch-73-dies-a-physicist-at-m-i-t.html>

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.

Welcome New Members!

Ted Alpert
Naples, Florida

Benjamin Brown
Austin, Texas

Christy Cave
Corpus Christi, Texas

Helene Caudill
Austin, Texas

Lisa & Matt Levitt
Austin, Texas

Judy & Malvern Lusky
Sugar Land

Harriett Kirsh Pozen & Bobby Lopez
Austin, Texas

Daniel & Dr. Ximena Valdes Sessler
Houston, Texas

Erin Solka
Austin, Texas



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.

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