

The Texas Jewish Historical Society Magazine



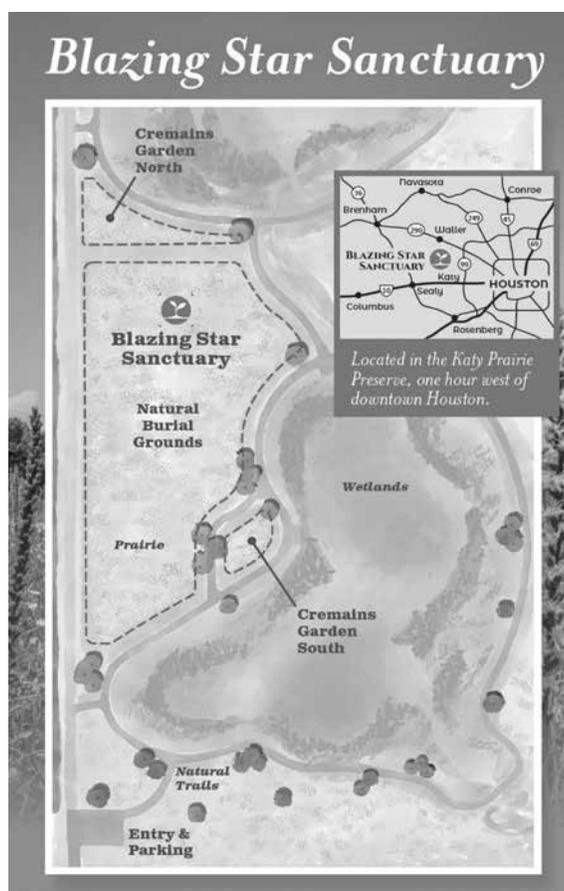
February 2026

Blazing Star Sanctuary First Conservation Cemetery in Texas

by Kathy Kravitz

I was notified recently by our past president, Davie Lou Solka, of a new cemetery (one year old) in Texas that will be of interest to our nature-loving community. Located within the Blazing Star Prairie in Waller County, the 7.5-acre Blazing Star Sanctuary is Texas's first certified conservation cemetery, dedicated to providing natural burial grounds while restoring and preserving the natural environment. Being a conservation cemetery puts Blazing Star in the highest tier of 'green' cemeteries because burials are not only eco-friendly, but they are also within permanently protected surroundings.

On December 7, 2025, six rows of the Blazing Star Sanctuary were consecrated as a Jewish cemetery section, in a ceremony led by Rabbi Deborah Schloss of The Woodland's Shaarey Tzedek Synagogue. The Jewish section (comprising rows V, W, X, Y, Z & AA) is identified at the beginning of each row by 24" x 24" flat cement markers engraved with a Star of David. Smaller in-ground metal markers with Stars of David designate individual burial sites. To date, no burial within the Jewish section has yet taken place, although Jewish plots have been purchased. On the northwest and southeast peripheries of the sanctuary are separate areas designated for cremation burials – the North and South Gardens. An interactive



preserve map and perpetual memorial pages on the Sanctuary's website help visitors find their loved one's grave site, read their obituaries and submit memories and/or photos. Bethany Foshee, the Stewardship and Outreach Director for the Sanctuary, was delighted to learn of TJHS's efforts in listing Jewish burials in Texas, and will be working with our Burial Committee.

In the town of Brookshire, about an hour west of downtown Houston, lie the Blazing Star Sanctuary and the 68-acre Blazing Star Prairie, a conservation area within the larger Katy Prairie Preserve, which has been designated by National Audubon as a Globally Important Bird Area. Each entity plays a part in returning the area to a native prairie ecosystem, by providing habitat

for resident and migratory birds, pollinators and other wildlife that depend upon the prairie, by restoring degraded pasture, by enhancing wetlands and by reestablishing native grasses, trees and wildflowers (such as the eponymous Blazing Star, *Liatris* spp).

For more information visit coastalprairieconservancy.org/blazingstar or naturesburial.org/the-sanctuary.

Bethany Foshee may be reached at bfoshee@coastalprairieconservancy.org. 

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 4-7, 2026

Texas State Historical Association Annual Conference at Westin Irving DFW Hotel and Conference Center in Irving. Lynna Kay Shuffield Award winners presented on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

April 8-10, 2026

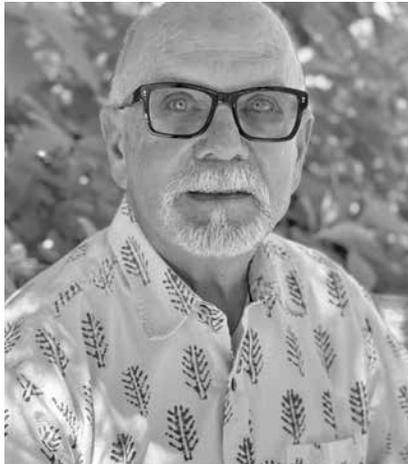
Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference at Renaissance Austin Hotel, in-person in Austin and virtually

April 24-26, 2026

Texas Jewish Historical Society Annual Gathering, Hampton Galleria, Houston

Message from the President

by Sheldon Lippman



The TJHS Board approved a Membership dues increase at its 2026 Winter Meeting in Corpus Christi. TJHS dues have not been changed since 1997 when they went from \$25 to \$36 for “Regular” dues (as they were called at the time.) In 2010 the fees were lowered from \$36 to \$35, which has been the going rate for Basic level membership since that decrease. The dues increase will go into effect in the next couple months so that the forms can be updated in print and on the Website.

The fee change for Basic membership dues has gone from \$35 to \$50. Along with the fee amounts are a change in the category names: Basic is now “Supporter”; Sponsor is now “Advocate” at \$100; Sustaining is now “Champion” at \$250; Benefactor is now “Friend” at \$500; and Student and Patron stay the same, at \$18 and \$1,000, respectively.

Members who join as a couple or partners will still pay the single rate. I am appreciative of the many couples and individuals who have joined and renewed over the years above the Basic level. The Membership Committee is working to send out reminder postcards to remind members when it’s time to pay their membership dues. As with most organizations, there is an attrition rate with deaths

of long-time paying members. TJHS is lucky to continue to attract new members, but the numbers could be greater.

TJHS depends on its membership fees for operating costs for publications, the website, supplies, and its programs. And while the costs of operations have risen over the past thirty years, TJHS income from membership dues has fluctuated at current dollar valuations since 1997. For instance, the costs of the *TJHS Magazine* cover paper, ink, postage and lay-out person four issues a year. The Grants Program, which was just starting in 1997, has grown in popularity, and has awarded over seventy grants in thirty years, but needs the financial strength to continue supporting the scholarship and creative work of its recipients. The popular TJHS Website did not exist in 1997 and yet today requires maintenance and development of online registration forms and other technical support.

Of course, the expense of running TJHS does not include the countless hours of volunteer work by its members. Davie Lou Solka has been at the helm of the quarterly *TJHS Magazine* for thirty years. Vickie Vogel creates an index of searchable names available for each TJHS Magazine archived on the TJHS Website. Sally Drayer collects archival material upon call and delivers it to the Briscoe Center Archives in Austin. Rusty Milstein and Kathy Kravitz keep the Texas Jewish Burial Database up to date daily. And the Website content is maintained by two co-webmasters. These volunteers and the many committee chairs and officers over the years, too many to mention, keep the TJHS engines moving without financial compensation.

“It takes a village” but also takes good old-fashioned cash. I know

each TJHS Member finds great value in the Texas Jewish Historical Society. Continued Membership is vital to TJHS!

Thank you for renewing your TJHS Membership – every year! 🇺🇸

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!

Melanie & Michael Cox
Dripping Springs, Texas

Rabbi David Lipper
Houston, Texas

Benjamin Luckens
Austin, Texas

Josh Merwin
Houston, Texas

Pam & Robert Penn
Bellaire, Texas

Daniel & Dr. Ximena Valdes Sessler
Houston, Texas

Barry Silverberg
Austin, Texas

Cynthia & Barry Weinberger
Bellaire, Texas

Arrena Sue Williams
Corpus Christi, Texas

From the Board Meeting

Corpus Christi, January 18, 2026

- The 2026 Budget was approved.
- The Membership Committee recommended changes in membership levels and names. \$18 – Student; \$50 – Supporter; \$100 – Advocate; \$250- Champion; \$500 – Friend; \$1,000 – Patron. All were approved.

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Photographers are Sally Drayer, Lynda Furgatch, Marilyn Lippman, Davie Lou Solka, Michael Solka, and Vickie Vogel.



Panel on "Merge of Temple Beth El and B'nai Israel Synagogue – Davie Lou Solka, Gary Blum, Bryan Stone.



Flight Deck of the Lexington- Shana & Ed Bauman, Marilyn Lippman, Mary Ann O'Loughlin, Denise & John Havenar, Joan & Ruben Linares.



Marilyn Lippman, Anita Feigenbaum, Lynda Furgatch, Meeting Co-Chairs



Dinner Group on the USS Lexington



USS Lexington welcomes TJHS.



Temple Beth El on Craig Street.



New Bridge, Corpus Christi opened September, 2025.

- The Annual Gathering will be in Houston April 24-26, 2026 at the Hampton, Galleria.
- Revised criteria for TJHS Award Recognition was presented and approved. (See form on page 25, and article on page 22.) It was announced that Davie Lou Solka will receive the Major Historic Award for 2026.
- A Grant was awarded in the amount of \$3500 to Seth Crosland for travel expenses for his Master's thesis focusing on the experiences of Polish Jews who resettled in Texas during the 1968 "anti-Zionist" campaign in Communist Poland.
- The annual Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award will be presented March 5, 2026, at the annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association in Irving, Texas. The recipients are Jillian Glantz and Barbara Rosenthal. (See article on page 10.)
- TJHS will be represented with panels presented by Melissa Cohen-Nickels on Memoir and Mem-

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Congregation Beth Israel welcomes TJHS.



Shabbat Dinner – Vickie Vogel, Sharon & Sonny Gerber, Leslie & Anita Feigenbaum, Sally Drayer



Confirmation Class, Temple Beth El, 1950 - John Leslie, Lois Bernstein Friedman, Sidney Sheinberg, Sharlene Goltzman Laser, Rabbi Sidney Wolf, Joan Bornstein, Jack Solka, Merry Lou Coin.



Hebrew Rest Cemetery with Liz Susser. Background – Christy Cave, Lynda Furgatch, Jeff Aresty.

ory in the Texas Jewish Community. The presentations will be for the Texas State Historical Association Annual Con-

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JCC Pre School Classroom Tour with Manuela Sela, Director and JCC members



JCC Pre School mural.

TJHS Board Meeting

Corpus Christi, January 18, 2026

by Marilyn Lippman

The Texas Jewish Historical Society's Winter Board Meeting in Corpus Christi, held January 16–18, 2026, was made especially meaningful through the generosity, planning, and enthusiasm of members of Congregation Beth Israel. Special recognition goes to Chris Adler, Dr. Gary Blum, Phyllis Roseman, and Sue Williams, whose leadership and dedication helped shape a memorable and engaging weekend for all who attended. Together, they planned an interesting and education-

al itinerary, arranged panel participants and knowledgeable cemetery history guides, and coordinated a beautiful Shabbat dinner and Oneg. Sue Williams, President of Congregation Beth Israel, was also instrumental in encouraging local congregants to participate in the weekend's activities,

Saturday morning featured tours of two historic Jewish cemeteries. At Hebrew Rest Cemetery, commentary was provided by Elizabeth Susser and David Loeb, who shared stories of early Jewish settlers and community leaders whose lives shaped the region. At Seaside Cemetery, Dr. Gary Blum offered insights into the history and significance of the site.

Following the cemetery tours, attendees gathered at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) for a welcome introduction by Norma Levens, JCC Executive Director. Manuela Sela, JCC Pre School Director, led tours of the JCC facility and classrooms, highlighting the center's role in providing an accelerated curriculum for children fifteen months through five years. While most of the pre-school students are not Jewish, she explained that all the children are introduced to Jewish traditions through the L'Dor VaDor Class and Friday Shabbats.

A highlight of the afternoon was a panel discussion examining the 2005 merger of Temple Beth El and B'nai Israel Synagogue into Congregation Beth Israel, a pivotal moment in the history of Jewish life in Corpus Christi and the Coastal Bend. Moderated by Dr. Bryan Stone, Ph.D. (American Studies), the panel featured Davie Lou Solka, representing Temple

Beth El, and Dr. Gary Blum, DDS, MS, representing B'nai Israel Synagogue. Drawing on firsthand experience and memory, the panelists explored the historical context, motivations, challenges, and long-term outcomes of the merger.

The discussion placed the merger within broader demographic and financial trends affecting small Jewish communities in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, including declining membership, aging populations, and rising operational costs. Panelists noted that although the two congregations had cooperated informally for decades, formal discussions intensified in the early 2000s as long-term sustainability became an urgent concern. Topics included denominational identity and religious practice, governance and dues structures, transparency and trust during negotiations, preservation of sacred artifacts and memorials, the management of Jewish cemeteries, and the emotional and symbolic significance of relocating Torah scrolls from the B'nai Israel building. Panelists spoke candidly about the compromises required to balance Reform and Traditional practices, including decisions related to worship space design, High Holy Day services, and the establishment of a kosher dairy kitchen. They also addressed the tensions that arose during the merger process. The discussion provided a valuable perspective on congregational mergers in smaller Jewish communities and the deeply personal experience of communal transformation.

Saturday evening brought a memorable off-site program aboard

From the Board Meeting, continued from page 6

ference March 4-7, 2026, at the Westin Irving DFW Hotel and Conference Center in Irving; and at the Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference April 8-10, 2026, virtually and in-person at the Renaissance Austin Hotel, in Austin. 



Women Who Served on the Lexington Exhibit with Vickie Vogel.

[continued on page 8](#)

TJHS Board Meeting, continued from page 7

the USS Lexington. Speakers expressed appreciation for the Society's visit and emphasized the significance of hosting the event on one of Texas's most storied historic vessels.

The evening highlighted Jewish contributions to Texas and naval history, including the story of Dr. Albert Levy, who served in the Texas Navy during the Republic of Texas era. Special recognition was given to Richard "Dick" Juris of Brownsville for his extraordinary generosity to the USS Lexington over many decades, including a rare World War II-era crane and naval guns now displayed on the flight deck. Members also had the special opportunity to be among the first visitors to view the new Women of the Navy exhibition, the result of two years of research and preparation. The exhibit honors the service and achievements of women in naval history.

A central focus of the evening was the legacy of Lieutenant (J.G.) Joe Jessel, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in bringing the USS Lexington to Corpus Christi as a museum. Susan Martin, Jessel's daughter, read a moving tribute from her brother recalling their father's determination, integrity, and humility. Speakers described Jessel as a World War II naval aviator, devoted family man, and tireless civic leader who led a successful grassroots and fundraising effort to secure the Lexington

for Corpus Christi against strong national competition. His role in transforming the ship into a world-class museum and tourist destination was emphasized as a lasting gift to South Texas. Community leader David Engel, reflected on Jessel's mentorship and influence. He shared personal recollections of Jessel's deep commitment to civic responsibility and lasting impact on generations of local leadership and philanthropy.

The evening concluded with remarks from CAPT Steve Banta (USN Ret), Executive Director of the USS Lexington Museum, who highlighted the ship's historic role, and credited Joe Jessel's perseverance as the decisive factor in saving the vessel. He highlighted the essential role of staff, volunteers, and donors in maintaining the museum and announced ongoing efforts to renovate the Joe Jessel Theater. In a meaningful show of support, TJHS attendees donated a total of \$1,327 to assist with the restoration efforts.

The weekend concluded Sunday morning with the Society's Winter Board Meeting, where leadership conducted business. The meeting provided not only an opportunity for planning and collaboration, but also a deeper appreciation of Corpus Christi's Jewish heritage, its community partnerships, and the enduring impact of Jewish contributions to Texas history. 

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. Both of the following interviews were in *Texas Stories* – Mike Blum in May 17, 2024; and Hummingbird Holloway in July 8, 2025.

Mike Blum, the Valley Superman

by Tumbleweed Smith aka Bob Lewis

Mike Blum seems to be everywhere doing everything in the Rio Grande Valley. He lives in McAllen, and knows all about the valley. He says the area covered by eleven states is smaller than the area covered by the Rio Grande Valley. "Geographically, the valley is ninety miles from east to west and forty miles north to south. It's home to 1.2 million people in Cameron, Hidalgo, Wilacy and Starr Counties."

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Hummingbird Holloway

by Tumbleweed Smith aka Bob Lewis

"It's just amazing to work at a high level where the expectation is A plus. It helps to keep your game very sharp."

Pam Horowitz of Palestine spent some time on the east coast preparing food for the high and mighty. "I have been privileged to serve three U. S. presidents, a Supreme Court Justice, a few kings and queens, quite a few celebrities, and generals. I did Dave Letterman's holiday party in Rockefeller Center. It was a star-studded gala. In New York I ran a ten million dollar catering operation." She prepared food for big crowds.

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Mike Blum, continued from page 8

Mike was McAllen's city planner, was museum president, played Santa Claus for twenty years (even though he's Jewish), is in real estate and is an active civic worker among other things. "I am a twelve-string guitar player and I've been doing music with our Sunday School kids at Temple Emanuel for thirty years, teaching them Jewish songs. I love doing that."

He also plays guitar at Shabbat services at Temple Emanuel. He was Humanitarian of the Year for Easter Seals. "When I was seven years old I had polio. I only had it for four days. The first day I was almost unable to move. The second day I was paralyzed. The third day things started easing up and the fourth day it was gone. I never had another problem with polio. But in high school, I realized how important it is to take care of kids who have polio and I volunteered at the American Red Cross to learn how to be a baby sitter for kids in

a wheel chair or have braces on their legs."

What Mike really likes to do is create works of art in wood. "I'll put some wood on the machine and something will come of it. I've got to have an idea going in, but sometimes the wood tells you what to do and you just let the wood talk." He goes to meetings of the Wood Turners Association where he learns new techniques and buys exotic woods. A bowl he made in a high school shop class sits on his desk. "Fifty years after I made that bowl, my daughter was having a baby in Spring, Texas. Her husband took me to what I call a big boy toy store. It was a woodcraft store. I saw a mini-lathe designed to turn pens, as in ball point pens. I bought it, took it home and within a matter of days, I turned my first pieces since I was sixteen. I was hooked. For the next year I made a lot of little pieces, little bowls, little nothings. Periodically I'd experiment."

He spent two years studying with a professional wood turner. He did some favors for that person and to show his appreciation he gave Mike a \$2,000 lathe. "I can now turn forty-eight inches long and eighteen inches in diameter," said Mike.

Some of his pieces sell for thousands of dollars. He uses wood and epoxy to create a gallery of award-winning fine art. He makes lamps, vessels of all sorts, and even wooden eggs that have become collectors' items.

"I have developed a skill that allows me to look at a piece of wood and imagine what it would look like if I did this or that. I can take a piece of ugly wood, put it in a pot of epoxy, turn it and epoxy fills in all the imperfections and you wind up with a spectacularly different piece of wood." The International Museum of Art and Science in Houston has recognized his work. 

Hummingbird Holloway, continued from page 8

"We had this huge party at the National Gallery of Art. The linens were custom made; the florals were drop-dead gorgeous and the guest list was off the charts. It included President Reagan, Prime Minister Ghandi and 1600 other people. The menu was printed out, the equipment was in the kitchen, and I said, 'Wow, this is great.' So exciting. I loved it. I loved it so much I never left that level. I want to serve beautiful food with great service at the highest caliber in a beautiful setting."

Pam and her husband, Mike, have Hummingbird Hollow just outside Palestine in East Texas.

"Hummingbird Hollow is a

one-of-a-kind nature sanctuary with refined luxury for weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, graduations, showers, and we also do private dining."

So, how did she end up in East Texas?

"In the suburbs of Philadelphia, we had a 10,000 square foot commissary. All we did was off-premise catering. The trucks were rolling from event to event and I was coming home later and later. Michael suggested we buy a venue. So, we started a search on the east coast. It was like Goldilocks: too close to the road, infrastructure wasn't good, on and on. We just couldn't find what we liked. We looked in other places besides the

east coast." Mike says they came to the property for a wedding and fell in love with it.

"It's a magical place and offered a very different lifestyle for us so we thought it over carefully, made an offer, and they accepted it. We bring a high level of hospitality. We get people who want to celebrate life in a grand manner. We've been impressed with the response from people who come here."

Guests can stay in cottages and enjoy a five-course dining experience, custom designed for them. They've had Hummingbird Hollow for nearly ten years. "We make sure we meet our guests' high expectations," says Pam. 

Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award To Be Presented March 5, 2026

by Hollace Weiner

The annual Lynna Kay Shuffield Memorial Award, named after a tenacious historian and board member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, will be presented March 5, 2026, to two documentary filmmakers. Each winner will receive \$2,000 from a bequest that Shuffield left the TJHS when she died in 2018 at age 61. The award recognizes graduate students and non-academics—like Shuffield—researching Texas Jewish history.

The LKS Memorial Award is administered through the Texas State Historical Association, which is holding its annual meeting March 4-7, 2026, at the Westin Irving DFW Hotel & Conference Center, in Irving.

This year's winners are documentary filmmakers Barbara Rosenthal and Jillian Glantz. Descriptions of their professional work and academic backgrounds follow.

Grit and Grace, a lively description of trailblazing Lone Star ladies, is the title of Barbara Rosenthal's fifty-one-minute documentary about five Jewish women who forged novel paths across Texas and beyond. Fort Worth-born Frances Rosenthal Kallison hopped on her father's draft horses and held the reins all the way to the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame. She improved healthcare for San Antonio mothers, newborns and veterans along the way. Lithuanian-born Ray Karchmer Daily enrolled in medical school when few women dared, made surgical innovations in the field of ophthalmology, and presided over the Houston School Board during the Red Scare era. German-born Olga Kohlberg came to wild and dusty El Paso, creating an oasis of civility, including the city's first hospital, public library and the state's first free kindergarten.

Russian-born Fania Kruger, a fiery and socially conscious poet, won national awards for her verses and praise from none other than Langston Hughes. Waco's Gussie Oscar, a musician and theatrical entrepreneur, brought the likes of Pavlova, Heifetz, Astaire, and the Marx Brothers to audiences along the Chisholm Trail and was threatened with arrest for allowing discussions of family planning.

Grit and Grace revives and amplifies the lives of these public figures. Through dogged research, Rosenthal located descendants of each woman. They shared memories and memorabilia that add texture to the biographies that unfold. The film has an original musical score, much of it written and performed by Rosenthal, accentuated with a cross-cultural performance from El Paso-based Mariachi Flores Mexicanas.

A Miami native, Rosenthal previously directed *Seders & Cigars: A History of Jews in Tampa*, which at the end of the nineteenth century was a hub for the cigar industry and a destination for European immigrants. The seventy-one-minute documentary explores cultural assimilation, racial segregation, immigration quotas, and women's emergence in politics. Rosenthal, a 1987 graduate of Western Carolina University, works full-time as an editor, writer, and producer for a variety of clients. After moving to Austin in 2021 to be near her growing family, she looked for a project



Jillian Glantz



Barbara Rosenthal

that would acquaint her with Texas. *Grit and Grace* is the award-winning result.

Remember My Soul is a cross-cultural look at Texas's Rio Grande Valley, a borderland long populated by a mix of Catholic Mexicans and

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Shuffield Award, continued
from page 10

Jewish migrants, many scarcely aware of their ancient religious traditions. The documentary, produced by Jillian Glantz in 2019, remains in demand among secular and Jewish groups curious about the layers of history in a bilingual region known for its cohesion and blended background.

Glantz, the documentary's director and editor, continues to give educational talks at film screenings. She is presently a doctoral student at Texas A&M University in College Station. For her dissertation she is exploring the creative labor of Black women filmmakers across the United States from 1918-1941.

A Dallas native, Glantz grew up at Tiferet Israel, a modern Orthodox congregation. She graduated from Richardson High School, where she thrived at its magnet communication program for film and broadcasting. The hands-on experience in camera and video work led her to internships on film sets with Austin producer Richard Linklater, Los Angeles producer David Foster, and work on PBS documentaries.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) in Edinburg, where she majored in political science and minored in criminal justice and Mexican American studies. She went on to Texas A&M University for a master's in history and a Graduate Certificate in Film & Media Studies. Her thesis focuses on a historic Black cemetery in the Rio Grande Valley. She has volunteered with many Texas animal rescue centers and as a poll worker and deputy registrar in Grimes and Brazos counties. 

Genealogy Paper: My Schwartz Family History, 1835-2001

By David Stein

In February 2001, for a writing assignment for Hillel High School at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, 17-year-old David Stein wrote a genealogy paper on his mother's side, the Schwartz family. He wanted to explore the question why his family always spent Rosh Hashanah at Temple Israel in the small rural town of Schulenburg, Texas, rather than their regular attendance at Congregation Beth Yeshurun in Houston.

Now 25 years later, David lives in Houston with his wife, Meghan, and daughters, Sofia (10) and Emma (5). And, while a member today of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, David still spends every Rosh Hashanah in Schulenburg. His dad, Rick, has been leading the Rosh Hashanah services at Temple Israel as the lay rabbi for over 20 years. Sofia and Emma love being part of this mean-

ingful service with their grandfather, representing 7 generations of Texas Jews!

The lesson here is that as a young man, David discovered from writing this genealogical report the importance of learning about his ancestors' immigration and settling and building a Jewish life in rural Texas.

Following is the unedited report by David at age 17, grade 12. His age and those of his sisters, years of his parents' marriage, and other facts are accurate for 2001; the family historical dates are the same in 2026. All photos are from the Schwartz Family Collection.

Every Rosh Hashanah I go with my family and grandmother to attend services at Temple Israel in Schulenburg, Texas. I realize how important it is to spend this holiday with my family, but why in Schulenburg? Temple Israel is very different from Congregation Beth Yeshurun -- there are no parking problems, no ticket takers, no rabbis, and you don't have to go early to get a good seat. Even my friends ask me why I go to Schulenburg to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. It was only after doing my genealogy essay on the Schwartz family history that I found my answer.

The Schwartz family's Texas history begins on October 28, 1835, when Michel Schwarz, 24, of Busenberg, Rheinpfalsa, in the Rhine District of the Kingdom of Bavaria married Veronika Morella, 31, of Weissenburg, France. Michael was a butcher and then a haberdasher in Busenberg. In 1836 Ve-

[continued on page 12](#)



David's father Rick Stein conducting Rosh Hashanah services at Temple Israel, Schulenburg, TX, with help from David's daughter Sofia, September 2025.



Veronika Morell Schwarz, born 1804 in Weissenburg, France; died 1870. Buried in Rest Haven Cemetery in Gonzales, Texas



Amelia Hirsh Schwarz, born August 21, 1841, Busenberg, Germany; died July 18, 1903. Buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville, Texas.

ronika had her first child, Isaac. Then came Henrietta in 1838, Abraham in 1841, Moses in 1844, and Bernhard in 1848. In 1854 at age 43, Michael died. In 1859, Isaac, the eldest son was called for duty in the German military service. At the same time, Henrietta received an offer of marriage from a friend, Joseph August, who had immigrated to Hallettsville, Texas, in the United States of America.

Widowed Veronika decided to come to America with Isaac, Abraham, and Henrietta and to supervise the planned Hallettsville wedding between Henrietta and Joseph. The January 12, 1860, wedding record of Joseph and Henrietta makes the Schwarz family arrival in America sometime in the year 1859. The Civil War was being fought, and records show that on February 22, 1862, Isaac Schwarz, age 22, joined the Confederate Army. He was injured and hon-

orably discharged in August. Descendants think Veronika asked Isaac to return to Germany and supervise his young brothers who were still living in Busenberg and awaiting the end of the Civil War.

Records show that Bernhard and Moses came to America sometime in between 1865 and 1866 to join their mother. Isaac remained in Germany where he married Amalia Hirsh and started a family. In 1875, Isaac returned to America with his wife Amalia and children: Max, 10, Leopold, 8, Henrietta, 7, Lena, 4, and my great-grandfather, Julius who was 3. In a petition for naturalization, Julius stated that they arrived through the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana, but he did not know the name of the ship. Unfortunately, Isaac's mother, Veronika, had died five years earlier in 1870 at the age of 66. Because there was no

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The Schwartz family: Max, Leopold, Julius, Annie, Lena, and Henry, 1904. Julius is David's great-grandfather.

Schwartz Family History, continued from page 12

Jewish Cemetery in Hallettsville, she was buried with 15 other pioneers in a small area called Rest Haven Cemetery near Gonzales, Texas.

Isaac decided Hallettsville did not offer enough opportunities to him, so he and Amalia chose to open a grocery store in Engle, Texas. Soon there were 2 more children, Henry born in 1876 and Annie in 1878. Tragically,

daughter Henrietta was lost in a fire in 1876. In the 1870s, the railroad was being built across Texas and towns were being built along its path. The town of Schulenburg was established in 1873, and Isaac saw new opportunities for his family in this new town 6 miles east of Engle.

Once in Schulenburg, Amalia expanded her grocery store and added

home-baked goodies. Isaac met the trains and rented horses and buggies to the new settlers who needed transportation. Young Julius was energetic, bright and wanted to help with the family income; so he sold sandwiches and cookies to the hungry passengers and trainmen. Julius received only a third-grade education but loved reading encyclopedias as a hobby to gain more knowledge.

Julius was only 13 when his father died in 1885. Isaac was buried in the first Jewish cemetery in Hallettsville, TX. Now Max, Julius, and Leopold ran the horse and mule business. Max was the physically strong one who was an expert livestock appraiser and trainer. Julius was in charge of the finances, and this included borrowing money to enable warehousing of flour, feed, and to make purchases of livestock and real estate. Later Leopold moved to Bay City but the partnership between Julius and Max continued until Max's death in 1939. Max and Julius often traveled by train to states such as Wyoming, Montana, and the Dakotas to get livestock at wild animal roundups and auctions.

At one time, Julius was the piano agent for the entire state of Texas. He was also a founder/director and later president of the First National Bank in Schulenburg. Schwartz (the "t" was added to the Schwartz name around 1875) Brothers became one of the biggest and most respected horse and mule dealers in the South. Their clients included the railroad, prison farms, the government during World War I, and the legendary Pancho Villa.

On a visit with his aunt in Chicago, Julius met Helen Straus who was 10 years younger than him. After their wedding in 1902 in Chicago, Julius brought the educated and refined



David's grandfather Hirsh at 5 years old, on his horse, Munchie, in front of the Schwartz home in Schulenburg, Texas, 1914.

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David's grandfather Hirsh with David's great-aunt Amy and great-grandparents Julius and Helen, 1924

Helen to live in Schulenburg. Helen was known as a poet, a lover of music, gardening, books, and was very active in the community of Schulenburg.

My grandfather, Hirsh Schwartz, was born to Julius and Helen on March 12, 1909. There are many family photographs, but one shows Hirsh already on a horse at the age of one! This past year, a diary written by Helen was found and describes Hirsh's birth and early years. One passage from November 12, 1910, reads, "He likes to drive Billy (the horse and buggy) and says 'whoa Billy, whoa Billy' all the time and chuckles when he sees a picture of a horse and mule." In 1916, Hirsh welcomed a baby sister named Amy.

Records and pictures show Helen often made trips back to Chicago

to see her parents and liked to spend the summers in Colorado with her children to escape the heat.

Julius had strong beliefs about education, Judaism, and charity. He was proud to help Rabbi Henry Cohen of Galveston with contributions, and he also helped other German families who were immigrating to America. In 1924, Hirsh was confirmed in Galveston by Rabbi Cohen at Temple B'nai Israel. Since Schulenburg did not have 12 grades of school, Hirsh lived with a cousin in Galveston so he could graduate from an accredited



David's grandfather Hirsh (back row, second right) with confirmation class 1924, Temple B'nai Israel, Galveston, TX, with Rabbi Henry Cohen (seated center)



David's grandparents Mayor Hirsh and Felice Schwartz in front of a circa 1927 stage curtain with ad (costing \$15.00) from the Schwartz Brothers livery business in Schulenburg, TX. Photo taken in late 1960s

high school and attend the University of Texas. Only after graduating from the UT Law School was Hirsh allowed to marry his childhood sweetheart, my grandma, Felice Marks who was from New Orleans. They met in Galveston and wrote love letters to each other when they were apart. Felice moved to Schulenburg after their wedding in 1933. Hirsh was a lawyer,

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Above: David with his parents Paula Schwartz Stein and Rick Stein at Temple Israel, Schulenburg, Texas, Rosh Hashanah 2003. Right: Author David Stein with wife Meghan and daughters Sofia and Emma, Rosh Hashanah in Schulenburg, September 2025



banker, and served in the Navy during WW II as a Lieutenant J.G.

It was during the war in 1943 when Hirsh learned of Julius' death at the age of 71. On his return from the war, he discontinued his law practice and devoted his life to civic and charitable work. He obtained the 33rd Degree in the Masonic Lodge, served as the first Jewish potentate of the Arabia Shrine Temple in Houston and worked closely with the Shriner's Burn Institute and the Shriner's Crippled Children's Hospital. He served as chairmen of the board and president of the bank of which his father was a founder. Because of his intense collection of coins and interest in numismatics, he was appointed by President Nixon to serve on the 1972 Assay Commission, the oldest commission in the United States.

In Schulenburg, he was very proud of his Jewish heritage and served as finance chairmen, treasurer, and president of Temple Israel. Hirsh and his sister, Amy, donated the land so a temple could be built in Schulenburg and serve the Jewish population in the tri-county area. Temple Isra-

el was dedicated on September 16, 1951, and will celebrate its 50th anniversary this upcoming September.

Hirsh became the mayor of Schulenburg in 1964 and served very proudly for 17 years until his death in 1981. Hirsh and Felice had 3 daughters, Jean Burke, Phyllis Hengst, and my mom, Paula Stein, who all now live in Houston. Besides being a mother, Felice was always at Hirsh's side with support and encouragement. She was active in Temple Israel's Ladies Auxiliary and served as head of the religious school for many years. She was a great First Lady of Schulenburg and always enjoyed entertaining others in her home and at their ranch. To me, she is just Grandma and makes the best matzo ball soup.

As a boy, my dad, Rick Stein, used to tease his mother, Martha Lea Rubin Stein, that she was from a small town called Hallettsville. Little did he know that he would meet a girl name Paula Schwartz at the community Seder in Schulenburg at Temple Israel and marry her in 1975. My parents, Paula and Rick, have been married for 25 years and have 3 children,

Katie (20), Julie (16), and me (17).

This coming year when I attend Rosh Hashanah services at Temple Israel, I will remember my Schwartz family ancestors and be grateful for their courage to start a new life in a new country one hundred and forty-three years ago. I will look forward to a new Jewish year and the importance of keeping Judaism alive for the next generations to come.

I want to thank my mom for helping me with my research and the following authors whose books helped me with so much information about the Schwartz family.

- *Jewish Cemeteries-LaGrange, Columbus, Hallettsville* by Norman Krishcke
- *Two-Hundred Twenty-Five Years, A Family History, Schwartz 1763 to 1988*, by Mose Schwartz
- *Temple Israel - Schulenburg, Texas*, by Dr. Abraham I. Shinedling 1960, and reedited by Vickie Vogel
- *Schulenburg 100 Years on the Road, 1873-1973*, by Jane Knapik 

Meet Your Board

Gail LeVine from Cedar Park, is a TJHS Board Member



and serves on the Nominating Committee. She spent forty-one years working in the pharmaceutical industry and is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist, bringing a lifelong commitment to health, education, and service. Gail has been an active volunteer with hospitals and health-related nonprofit organizations

and is deeply committed to preserving, documenting, and sharing the rich history and cultural contributions of Jewish communities throughout Texas. She is married to Jeff, TJHS 2nd Vice President, and they have two grown sons.

David Beer, TJHS Past President (2015-2017), was



born and raised in Dallas. He worked in the restaurant business, waiting tables and working his way to managing restaurants for eleven years. He joined the Beer family real estate business, where he has spent forty years working with buyers and sellers in the DFW metroplex. David has two sons, Alex (Laura) and Nate (Claire). Alex and Laura, who are educators live in St.

Louis. They have one son and one daughter. Nate and Claire live in Richardson. Nate provides clients with health insurance needs, and Claire teaches in Richardson ISD.

David Vogel graduated from University of Texas/Austin



with a B.B.A. in Marketing in 1971. He served as President of Temple Israel of Schulenburg for sixteen years. David is known as Bat Man in some circles because he volunteers at the largest bat cave in Colorado, where he shows and educates people about bats. He enjoys live, original music and supports independent musicians, songwriters and independent mu-

sic venues. He is a UT basketball and baseball fan, and attends many games. He is married to TJHS Past President, Vickie Vogel (2006-2008) for “at least forty-five years (that number keeps changing.)”

Gayle Feldman Cannon is a retired lawyer now living in



Austin. She is a transplanted Dallasite and has three children, two stepchildren, sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She is a widow and active in the Austin Jewish community and is a strong supporter of Congregation Beth Israel in Austin. Her interests include genealogy, bridge, reading, traveling and theater. Gayle

serves as co-chair of the Speaker’s Bureau.

Anita Feigenbaum grew up in Bastrop, Texas, graduated



from the University of Texas and received a Master Degree from Texas A&M University. She and her husband, Leslie, have been married forty-one years and have two children, Sarah and Ryan. They live in College Station, where Leslie is on the faculty at A&M University. Anita became involved in TJHS years ago with her parents, Dr. Neil Gurwitz, z”l, and Betty. In her free time,

she loves visiting with family, traveling, attending Aggie events, and entertaining her puppy, Bella. She has been involved in retail and property management. Anita is one of the Chairs of the Meetings Committee.

Amy Milstein is from Frisco, and grew up in Longview.

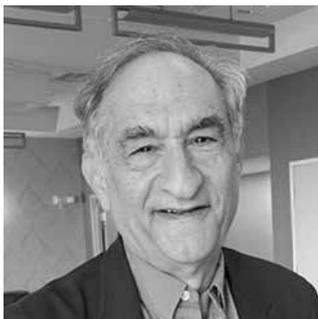


She graduated from the University of Texas/Austin. She has been teaching for twenty-five years—English for fifteen and now she teaches electives. Amy loves to travel and has taken several trips with TJHS. In her spare time, she likes to scrapbook, read and

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attend movies. She has been involved with TJHS for many years and is the daughter of Past President Rusty Milstein.



Jeff Aresty and his wife, Ellen, live in Waco. Jeff is the founder of a nonprofit board focusing on creating access to opportunity for youth. He is also an international lawyer. He worked on the film, *The Jacob De Cordova Story*.



Sonny Gerber is married to Sharon, and they have been married forty-one years. They have six children and nine grandchildren. Sonny is retired and spends his time managing real estate investments, volunteering, and running errands. As he says “If you’re married, you understand.”

Barbara Rosenberg, TJHS Past President (1995-1998), lives in Sugar Land, Texas, with her husband, Ben, TJHS Treasurer. She is a native-born Texan who grew up in San Angelo; and is a first generation American. Her family owned the Hollywood Shoppe and Boston Store in San Angelo. She attended the University of Texas, Austin, and graduated at age twenty, when she married Ben. They moved to Houston



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

Nelson Chafetz, Austin, is a lifelong Texas resident, who was born in San Antonio. He attended the University of



Texas/Austin, where he received a B.S.E.E. degree. He is married to another native-born Texan, Mitzi Chafetz. Nelson works for the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and is a competitive swimmer. He has two children, and two grandchildren. Nelson is a forty-four-year member of United States Masters

Swimming Organization (usms.org), and in his spare time, is a party barge captain.

Paul Keeper was born and raised in Houston. He moved



to Austin in 1973, and is married to Mary Thompson. He is a retired lawyer and judge. He was active in TOFTY, and is a past president of Congregation Beth Israel in Austin. Paul speaks and reads Yiddish, Spanish, Hebrew, and of course, English! He is interested in the Yiddish legacy of his immigrant family members. He currently is serving as *Zayde* to three grandchildren.

Emily Williams is from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. 

In Memoriam

J. Livingston Kosberg, TJHS Member, died in Houston, January 24, 2026. He is survived by his wife, Saranne Rosenzweig Kosberg, and daughters, Robin (Mark) Washofsky Kosberg, Lori (Jeff) Blumenthal, and Wendy (Andy) Starr; eight grandchildren, and his sister, Dolores Kosberg Wilkenfeld.

Jay Lack, TJHS member, died December 21, 2025, in Victoria. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Jessel Lack; his children, Josh (Jill), Jared (Carolyn), Andy, and Lara; four grandchildren; ten siblings and spouses; and many nieces and nephews.

May his memory be a blessing.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

Haymon Krupp: West Texas Wildcatter

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.

Haymon Krupp came to El Paso as a boy of 16 and became one of its most respected citizens. He was not only a successful merchant, he was a manufacturer, oil developer, and a philanthropist. Famous for giving coal to needy people in West Texas through Christmas requests supplied by churches and charitable organizations, the American Legion once declared him the “Most Useful Citizen in Texas.”¹

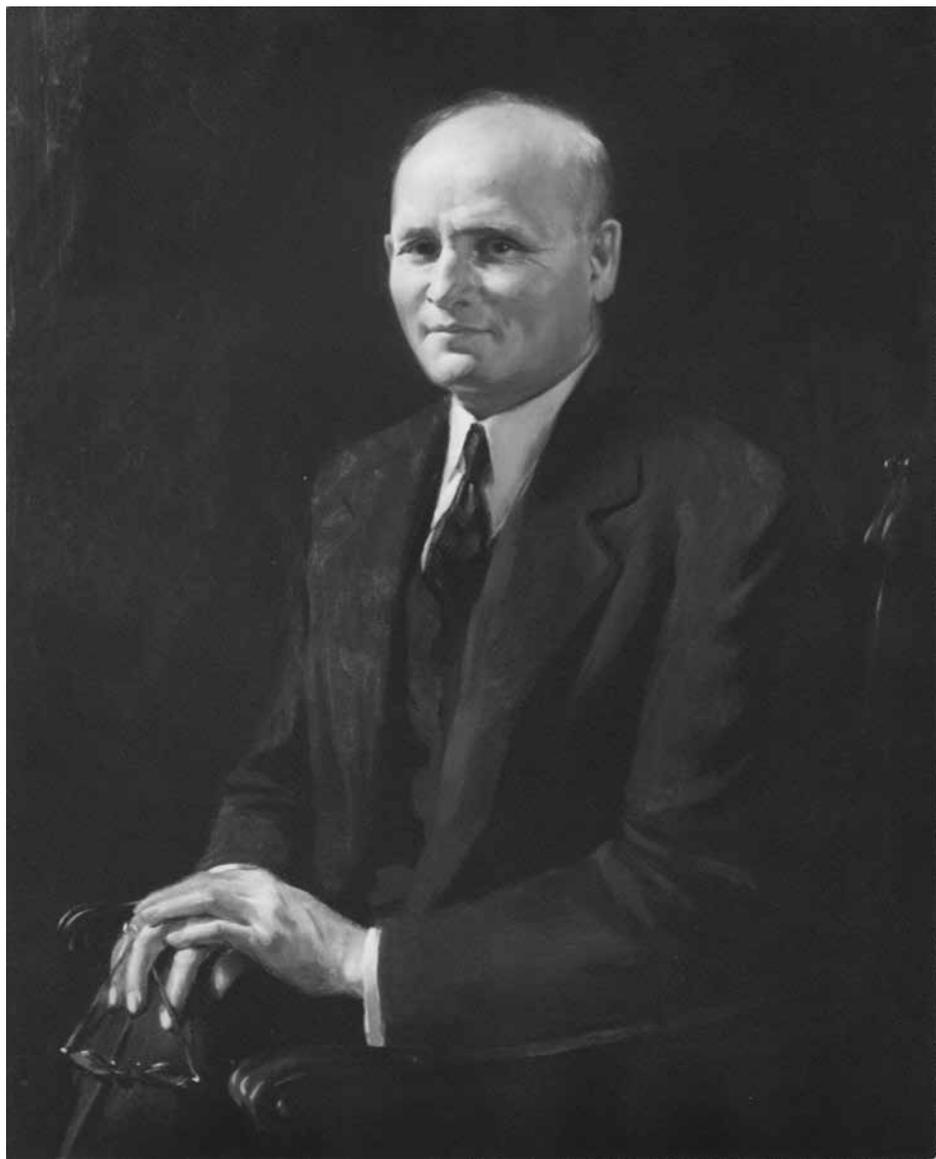
Krupp was born in 1875 in Lithuania to Abraham and Malka Krupp, one of 13 children. The family settled in New York where Haymon learned English in public schools. In 1890, he made his way to El Paso to work for his brother Harris in his dry goods store.² H. Krupp and Brother was located at 233 San Antonio Street, expanding to the building next door in 1900.³ Next, Haymon opened his own wholesale and retail dry goods store, the Bazaar, at 101 North Mesa. Remembering that New York stores

put sale items on the street to attract customers, Krupp became the first El Paso merchant to do so.

He married Leah Silverman of New York (but born in Russia) in 1899. Census records paint a picture of the family. The 1900 census shows Haymon and Leah with their infant daughter, Birdie.⁴ Also living

with them was a nephew, Nathan (17). Nathan was also born in Russia, but is listed as from New York. Haymon and Nathan are recorded as dry goods merchants.

By 1910, Haymon had a large dry-goods house at 310 South El Paso Street known throughout the Southwest, as well as a manufac-



Haymon Krupp. Photo courtesy of Permian Basin Petroleum Museum of Midland, Tiffany Bradley, Archives & Collections Manager.

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turing arm for shoes, men's work clothes, women's dresses and Mexican shawls. His business employed some 500 workers. Just as his brother had helped him, Haymon employed five nephews who shared in the profits. He issued stock available to employees.

The 1910 census shows his household consisted of himself (36) and Leah (32), and by now three children Birdie (10), Maury Bernhard (9), and Paula (7),⁵ as well as a boarder, Harry Fine (24). Leah's sister, Rose, lived with them until her marriage. Haymon is listed as a clothing merchant and Leah was not employed outside the home. Harry was a salesman of clothing, perhaps an employee at the store. They rented their home on Kansas Street.⁶

Haymon learned Spanish and catered to the Hispanic community. In 1911, Pancho Villa was a tenant above the dry goods store. A regular visitor with Krupp, Villa placed an order for army uniforms and paid in Villa scrip. Krupp accepted the risk, and Villa paid most of his debt. Krupp also sold to the Mexican government, but had to sue for unpaid bills.

In 1916, the four-story Krupp Building was built at 119 W. Overland drive. Designed by noted architect Henry Trost, the building housed Krupp's manufacturing and retail businesses.

During World War I, Company B, a group of El Paso volunteers in the 141st Infantry Division stationed at Camp Bowie, Fort Worth, suffered the bitterly cold record-breaking winter of 1917. Krupp, through the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, supplied a blanket for each man. Along with his annual donations of coal for some forty years, Krupp was established as a philanthropist before he struck it rich in the West Texas oil fields. He later donated funds to build

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Advertisement in The Abilene Morning News, Vol 2, No. 84, Ed. 1 Wednesday, December 7, 1927, page 8, public domain. Accessed: <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1737511/m1/8/>

B'nai Zion Synagogue, and served as president of Mt. Sinai. He was a generous donor to both synagogues.⁷ He was a member of the volunteer firemen of House Co. No. 1 from 1900, was a 32nd Degree Mason, and was active in the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Maccabees, the Elks, and B'nai B'rith. He was a director of the Chamber of Commerce for many

years.⁸

Krupp ventured into the oilfield, a risk that would make him rich, and have a tremendous effect on West Texas, the University of Texas and other state universities. In 1876, the Texas Constitution called for the creation of the University of Texas and appropriated land to establish a Per-

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manent University Fund (PUF). More land was added in 1883.⁹ Krupp and partner Frank Pickrell, also of El Paso, bought a lease option to drill in the Permian Basin, on this University of Texas land, where there were rumors oil might be found. In 1919, they organized the Texon Oil and Land Company with Krupp as president and Pickrell as vice-president.

Historian Hollace Ava Weiner describes Krupp as “a gray-eyed, self-confident entrepreneur with the heart of a high-stakes gambler.”¹⁰ Investors, however, were reluctant to finance non-producing wells, so Krupp bought three producing wells in Burkburnett, Wichita County, and sold certificates of interest. Having now secured financing, drilling on the first test well, called the Santa Rita, began in 1921. It struck on May 28, 1923. As oil poured out on the ground, Krupp “jumped up and down and excitedly said, ‘Boys, boys, my goodness, get some buckets and save this oil. This well has cost a lot of money.’”¹¹

The Santa Rita opened up the Permian Basin and changed Texas higher education forever. A second well produced even more.

In 1929, Krupp and Pickrell ended their partnership and sold out to the Marland Production Company for some \$26 million.¹² Wildcatter Krupp continued with other ventures as Haymon Krupp Oil Co. founded in 1935, but they were not very successful. “Haymon operated on the principle that the treasures of West Texas were limitless,” according to Rabbi Floyd Fierman.¹³ The failed oil ventures cost Krupp much of his fortune.¹⁴

Leah Krupp died in 1931, aged 58, and is buried in El Paso. Haymon married Rebecca Goldstein in 1933, with Rabbi Martin Zielorika of Temple Mt. Sinai presiding. Rebecca, a high school teacher, was born in Texas in 1880.¹⁵

Haymon Krupp lived in El Paso most of his life, the last year in poor health. He died in 1949, after a two week illness, in Rochester, Minne-

sota, where he had gone for medical treatment.¹⁶ Services were at Temple Mount Sinai with Rabbi Wendell Phillips presiding. Rebecca died in 1963 at age 83. They are both buried in Temple Mount Sinai Cemetery in El Paso. A memorial statement for Haymon extolled “the loyalty and devotion to the great principles of life exemplified by our friend constitutes a rich heritage of those who are left to carry on and inspire us to greater nobler effort.”¹⁷

Frank Pickrell¹⁸ and Haymon Krupp were elected to the Permian Hall of Fame, part of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, in 1968 and 1969 respectively.¹⁹

The Krupp Building stood vacant and deteriorating for many years. The Justin Boot factory used the building from 1973 to 1981. When a Miami company bought it in 2018 in a bankruptcy-court auction for \$875,000 and announced plans to demolish it and build a five-story apartment building, the non-profit group Preservation Texas stepped in and selected it as one of the top ten “Most Endangered Places” in the state, partly because of its history with Haymon Krupp, but largely because it was designed by legendary architect Henry Trost. Calling it an architectural landmark in El Paso, the group wanted it to be upgraded instead of demolished.²⁰

In 2024, the buyers dropped their plans and put the property on the market for \$1.05 million. As of November 2025, the building had not been sold.

Endnotes

¹ Unless otherwise stated, all information is from the Texas Jewish Historical Collection, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Box 3A168, folder People by Occupation - Mer-



In 1958 the Santa Rita rig was moved to the entrance of the University of Texas at 19th and San Jacinto Blvd, Austin. Photo by Vickie Vogel

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- chants-Performance Artists. Letter from Birdie Krupp Hewitt to the Petroleum Museum in Midland. Undated. A wildcatter is an independent oilman who drills exploratory fields. "Death Takes Developer of UT Oil," *Austin American* Feb. 22, 1949.
- ² Another brother Meyer left El Paso for Nome, Alaska to seek his fortune in mining. Hollace Ava Weiner and Kenneth D. Roseman, *Lone Stars of David: The Jews of Texas*, Brandeis University Press, 2007, pp. 111-119.
- ³ El Paso County Historical Society, <https://epcc.libguides.com/c.php?g=754275&p=5406111>.
- ⁴ Birdie (1900-1979) married Colonel Leland Hazelton Hewitt and is buried in the Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/786817/birdie-hewitt>. She lived for a time in Seattle. *Austin American* op cit.
- ⁵ Maury (1901-1985) married Helen L. Hilton Buckley in 1936. She was the sister of Conrad Hilton of hotel fame. They lived in El Paso. Paula (1903-1987) married H. James Stone. Their son Alan lived in El Paso as a boy, then returned to Massachusetts where the Stone family business was - Independent Nail & Packing Co. Another son was named Edward. https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211630864/maury_bernhard-krupp; https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/233916625/helen_1-buckley. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-boston-globe-obituary-for-paula-krup/40556744/>; <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LRWD-PBF/haymon-krupp-1874-1949>
- ⁶ Natalie Ornish, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/krupp-haymon>; Weiner, op cit.; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211624955/haymon-krupp>. With thanks for TJHS' Kathy Cornelison Kravitz for adding the census records.
- ⁷ <https://www.isjl.org/texas-el-paso-encyclopedia.html>
- ⁸ Ruthe Winegarten and Cathy Schecter, *Deep in the Heart, The*

- Lives & Legends of Texas Jews*, Eakin Press, 1990, p. 139; "Haymon Krupp Taken by Death at Age of 74," *El Paso Herald Post*, Feb 22, 1949.
- ⁹ <https://universitylands.utsystem.edu/Home/History>
- ¹⁰ Weiner, op cit.; see also <https://apps.texastribune.org/shale-life/history-repeated/>
- ¹¹ Weiner, op cit.
- ¹² Winegarten, op cit.
- ¹³ Floyd Fierman, *Roots and Boots, From Crypto-Jew in New Spain to Community Leader in the American Southwest*, (Hoboken, NJ: KTAV, 1987), p. 114, quoted in Winegarten, op cit.
- ¹⁴ <https://www.isjl.org/texas-el-paso-encyclopedia.html>
- ¹⁵ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211632122/rebecca-krupp>. The 1920 Census shows she boarded with Martin and Bell (illegible surname).
- ¹⁶ <https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/LRWD-PBF/haymon-krupp-1874-1949>; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211624955/haymon-krupp>; *El Paso Herald Post* op cit.; "Rites Set Sunday for Haymon Krupp," *El Paso Herald*, undated.
- ¹⁷ El Paso Consistory Co-ordinate Bodies of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, in the TJHS archives op cit.
- ¹⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/211625612/leah-krupp>
- ¹⁹ *El Paso Herald-Post*, Friday, June 13, 1969 "Krupp Named to Permian Hall of Fame."
- ²⁰ "Facing Demolition, Historic Krupp Building in El Paso Praised," by Garry Boulard, <https://construction-reporter.com/facing-demolition-historic-krupp-building-in-el-paso-praised/>; Vic Kolenc, "Hotel Paseo Del Norte developer selling historic Downtown building, cancels housing project," *El Paso Times*, September 9, 2024. Accessed at <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/money/business/2024/09/09/historic-downtown-el-paso-building-for-sale-after-housing-plan-nixed-by-hotel-paseo-del-norte-owner/75094625007/> 

Rabbi Jimmy Kessler Educational Outreach Fund Contributions

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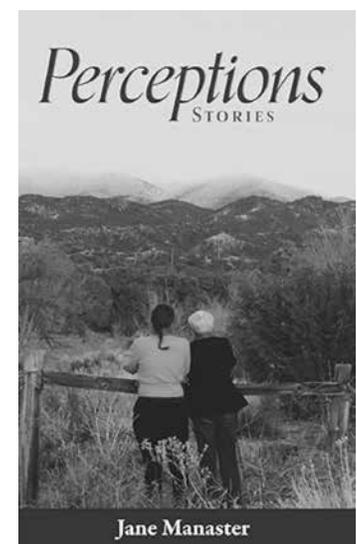
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Books to Read

Perception: Stories, by Jane Manaster. Available on Amazon.



New Criteria for TJHS Recognition Awards

For Outstanding Achievement of the Texas Jewish Community

by Shana Bauman

About the TJHS Recognition Award.

The Award focuses on individual or group achievements that have a profound impact of the breadth of Jewish experiences in Texas. The evolving nature of Jewish life in Texas calls for a broad recognition framework. The TJHS Award reflects the diverse ways Texans preserve and enrich Jewish heritage—through written or archival work, and through lived experience, cultural expression, and meaningful community engagement.

Award Criteria.

The award categories celebrate community leadership, cultural heritage, and education, social impact, bridge-building, historic site preservation and historic project achievement. These categories will honor individuals, groups, and organizations whose contributions strengthen Jewish life and promote Jewish culture in creative ways.

- **Significant Historic Site Preservation** recognizes the impact of an individual or group in saving the destruction of or preservation of the structure of historic synagogues and temples in Texas,
- **Project Achievement** recognizes volunteerism that educates, preserves stories, or archives Texas Jewish history.
- **Cultural Heritage & Education** celebrates creative approaches that share and preserve Jewish culture and history by educating diverse audiences, making Jewish traditions accessible and meaningful within Texas and beyond.
- **Community Leadership & Engagement** recognizes demonstrated exceptional leadership, volunteerism, and engagement that enrich the Jewish community through inspired programs, events, or initiatives that foster Jewish identity, unity, and participation across generations.
- **Social Impact and Bridge Building** demonstrate commitment to tikkun olam (repairing the world) by supporting Jewish and wider social causes, promoting interfaith cooperation and collaboration, and

uplifting vulnerable populations consistent with Jewish ethical principles.

- **Living Legacy** recognizes lengthy service, leadership, or cultural contributions, whereby sustained commitment serves as an inspiration and model for future generations, ensuring the continuity and flourishing of Jewish community and heritage in Texas.

Award Recognition.

The TJHS Awards Committee will recognize up to two recipients each year. The recipients will be recognized and receive an inscribed ceramic plate and certificate at the TJHS Annual Gathering held every Spring. The recipient(s) will receive advance notice to make arrangements to attend the Annual Gathering and invite friends and family. There will be press announcements in the statewide Jewish

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Memories of Corpus Christi

Fran Brodkey Needleman's 5th Birthday Party



Fran Brodkey Needleman's 5th Birthday Party on December 16, 1940, Corpus Christi, Texas. Annette Beyer (in front), Elizabeth Smith, Philip (Piney) Wolf, Barry Goodfriend, Jerry Nisenson, Frances Brodkey Needleman, Harvey Diemer, Morton Susman, Sharlene Goltzman Laser, Miriam Heifetz, Naomi Holtzman Golieb (front).

Contributions

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

- In Honor of John Campbell & Sheldon Lippman
Deliana Garcia
- In Honor of Barbara & Edward Stone
Professor Bryan Stone & Shannon Daugherty
- In Honor of Tumbleweed Smith for his Induction
into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame
Joyce Davidoff & Mike White
- In Memory of Mel Eichelbaum
Sally Drayer
Joan & Ruben Linares
- In Memory of Dan Markman
Amy Blum
Susan & Bob Lewis
Joan & Ruben Linares
Robert Markman
Melissa Neiman
Barbara Greene & Edward Stone
- Gift Membership to TJHS for Melanie & Michael
Cox from Lyndia & Michael Furgatch
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from Lynn Gordon & Hy Penn
- Gift Membership to TJHS for Cynthia & Barry
Weinberger from Lynn Gordon & Hy Penn

Seth Crosland Receives TJHS Grant

Seth Crosland was awarded a \$3,500 grant from the Texas Jewish Historical Society at its board meeting held in Corpus Christi January 14, 2026. Seth, who was born and raised in Dallas, is currently a graduate student in history at the Free University of Berlin, Germany.



The project is Seth's master's degree thesis, focusing on the experiences of Polish Jews, who were forced into exile during the 1968 "anti-Zionist" campaign in Communist Poland and who resettled in Texas and the American Southwest. Drawing on archival records, correspondence, and oral histories housed in Texas archives and Jewish institutions, it will examine how these emigres rebuilt their communal and emotional worlds in a new cultural environment. The project will include research in Austin, Dallas, and Houston, and will include personal interviews with remaining immigrants and their descendants. 

Proposed Slate

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Jane Manaster, Dallas
Hy Penn, Houston
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Joyce Wormser, Houston

Recognition Awards, continued from page 22

and other local newspapers.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations submission should reach TJHS Awards Committee by July 15 for the upcoming year's award cycle.

Nomination Form

An online nomination form is accessible on the TJHS Website, txjhs.org, under Grants Program menu. The online form can be completed online; the Submit button will send the form directly to the Awards Chairperson and TJHS President. A printable Nomination form is also available on the TJHS Website. It can be filled out with attached documents (as described on the nomination form) and mailed as directed on the nomination form.

Questions.

For further information email awards@txjhs.org or president@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.



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 multiple areas: The TJHS Award reflects the diverse ways Texans preserve and enrich Jewish heritage — not only through written or archival work but also through lived experience, cultural expression, and meaningful community engagement. The award categories include: community leadership, cultural heritage and education, social impact, bridge building, historic site preservation and historic project achievement. These categories will honor individuals, groups and organizations whose contributions strengthen Jewish life, and promote Jewish culture in creative ways.

TJHS now seeks you help to identify & honor those who have made a significant and lasting impact toward the Texas Jewish Experience. Two awards can be given yearly, but is not mandated to be given yearly, as only outstanding accomplishment can merit this award. Applications must be received by July 30, and the awards will be presented at the Spring Gathering in April. Please mail the application and supporting paperwork to Awards Chair, Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193 or awardschair@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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Historic Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Project Achievement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Heritage & Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Living Legacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Leadership & Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Impact & Bridge Building |

Please return this sheet as cover page and 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 awardschair@txjhs.org • txjhs.org*



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
\$10,000 - 24,999	Gold
\$5,000 - 9,999	Silver
\$2,500 - 4,999	Sapphire
\$1,000 - 2,499	Ruby
\$18 - 999	Diamond

Date: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____

Name of Donor(s): _____

- I give permission to use my name for publication in Kessler Fund Donor List.
- I prefer that my donation remains Anonymous.

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

Email: _____ Phone: _____

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"

*Texas Jewish Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.
Contributions to TJHS are tax deductible within the limits of the law.*



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Living Past Presidents are members of the Board of Trustees per TJHS Bylaws.

*Rabbi James Kessler, Galveston (1980-1982)

*Frances Kallison, San Antonio (1982-1984)

Lionel Schooler, Houston (1984-1986)

*Ed Lax, Dallas (1986)

*Ginger Jacobs, Dallas (1986-1989)

*Milton Smith, Austin (1989-1991)

*Fay Brachman, Fort Worth (1991-1993)

*Don Teter, Baytown (1993-1995)

Barbara Rosenberg, Sugar Land (1995-1998)

*Helen Wilk, Corpus Christi/Houston (1998-2000)

*Jack Gerrick, Fort Worth (2000-2002)

*Charles B. Hart, Temple (2002-2004)

*Marvin Rich, Houston (2004-2006)

Vickie Vogel, LaGrange/Austin (2006-2008)

Sally Drayer, Dallas (2008-2010)

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Davie Lou Solka, Corpus Christi/Austin (2017-2019)

Susan Zack Lewis, Big Spring (2019-2021)

Sheldon Lippman, Austin (2021-2023)

Joan Linares, Baytown (2023-2025)

**Deceased*

Texas Jewish Historical Society

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The Texas Jewish Historical Society New Membership and Information Update Form



Date: _____

Check the Appropriate Box(es)

- New Member Membership Renewal Gift* Information Update

Category of Annual TJHS Membership

- \$18 Student Member \$100 Sponsor \$1,000 Patron
 \$35 Basic Member \$250 Sustaining Member
 \$50 Supporting Member \$500 Benefactor

Member #1 _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Member #2 (optional for couple) _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

*If a gift, name of person(s) giving the Gift Membership: _____

Contributions to the TJHS are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Please send this completed membership form along with a bank check to Texas Jewish Historical Society, P. O. Box 10193, Austin, TX 78766-0193. You can also visit txjhs.org/membership.