

# Crossing Borders: Southern Jews in Global Contexts

October 23-26, 2014  
Austin, Texas

*Joint meeting*

Southern Jewish Historical Society

39th Annual Conference

Texas Jewish Historical Society

Quarterly Board Meeting

*in cooperation with*

Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, University of Texas

Jewish Community Association of Austin

Dell Jewish Community Campus



## Thursday, October 23

- 3:00 PM Check-in and registration at Holiday Inn, Austin-NW Plaza/Arboretum
- 6:00 PM SJHS Board meeting, location TBA

## Friday, October 24

**Morning** LBJ Presidential Library  
<http://www.lbjlibrary.org/page/library-museum>

### Welcome to Austin

*Robert Abzug*, director, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies  
<https://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/scjs/>

*Dale Rosengarten*, president, Southern Jewish Historical Society  
[www.jewishsouth.org](http://www.jewishsouth.org)

*Debra Winegarten*, president, Texas Jewish Historical Society  
<http://www.txjhs.org/>



*Robert Abzug*



*Dale Rosengarten*



*Debra Winegarten*

Self-guided tour of the LBJ Presidential Library

## *The Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies*

From its inception as a concentration to its present status as an integrative major, the Jewish Studies program at The University of Texas has been designed to reflect the dynamic complexity of Jewish histories, literatures, populations, traditions, and transformations wherever they have existed. As a richly diversified field, Jewish Studies at UT has embraced a wide range of interrelated studies including history, archaeology, languages, literature, textual analysis, ritual studies, sociology, art, and religious thought. This diversity of ideas and methods constructs natural bridges for students across the university to enter into dialogue with Jewish culture.



**Plenary Session, 10th Floor LBJ Library: “In the Oval: Southern Jews and the Presidency.”**

**Moderator:** *Ellen Umansky*, director, Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Fairfield University, Connecticut  
<http://www.fairfield.edu/academics/schoolscollegescenters/academiccenters/carlanddorothybennettcenterforjudaicstudies/>

**Panelists:**

*Claudia Anderson*, supervisory archivist, LBJ Presidential Library  
“LBJ and Austin Jewry: Reality vs. Hyperbole.”

*Stephen Whitfield*, Max Richter Chair in American Civilization, Brandeis University; author, *Culture of the Cold War; In Search of American Jewish Culture*.

“Bernard Baruch and Abe Fortas: No Southern Jewish Style in Politics.”  
<http://www.brandeis.edu/programs/american-studies/about/faculty/whitfield.html>

*Don Carleton*, founding director, University of Texas Briscoe Center for American History; author, *Red Scare: Conversations with Cronkite*; co-author, *Being Rapoport: Capitalist with a Conscience*.

“Capitalist with a Conscience: Bernard Rapoport’s Rapport with Bill Clinton.”

[http://www.cah.utexas.edu/about/bio\\_dracarleton.php](http://www.cah.utexas.edu/about/bio_dracarleton.php)

*Cecily Abram*, independent researcher, Bethesda, Maryland  
“Stepping Stones fom Georgia to Geneva: Morris Abram and His Ties to Five Presidents.”



*Ellen Umansky*



*Claudia Anderson*



*Stephen Whitfield*



*Don Carleton*

**Noon**

**Box lunches and discussion with plenary panelists**

**Afternoon**

**Tour of Briscoe Center for American History**

Walk next door for an optional visit to Briscoe Center for American History; view artifacts from Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection with Director *Don Carleton* and *Vickie Vogel*, past president TJHS.  
<https://www.google.com/#q=briscoe+center+for+american+history>

### **Tour of Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center**

Take charter bus or walk (20 minutes) across campus to Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, repository of literary and cultural artifacts.  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/>

### **Self-guided tour of special exhibit**

Tour a special exhibit from the collection of David O. Selznick, film director of *Gone With the Wind*.  
<http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/film/holdings/selznick/>

### **Tour of special exhibit**

Curator *Danielle Sigler* will guide our group, 20 people at a time, through a special exhibit of artifacts from collections of Jewish interest.

## **Evening**

### **Erev Shabbat Services**

Congregation Agudas Achim with *Rabbi Neil Blumofe*.  
<http://caa-austin.org/>  
<http://caa-austin.org/index.php?q=content/rabbi-neil-blumofe>

### **After Services, kosher barbecue dinner at Jewish Community Association of Austin, followed by keynote address**

### **Introduction**

*Sherry Zander*, small-town synagogues historian, Dallas, Texas  
<http://www.smallsynagogues.com/about.htm>

### **Keynote Speaker**

*Samuel D. Gruber*, architectural historian, author, historic preservationist; director, Gruber Heritage Global; president, International Survey of Jewish Monuments.

“Saving Synagogues: Different Goals, Different Strategies in Brenham, Brookhaven, Birmingham, and Beyond.”

[http://works.bepress.com/samuel\\_gruber/](http://works.bepress.com/samuel_gruber/)



*Sherry Zander*



*Samuel D. Gruber,  
keynote speaker*

# Saturday, October 25

## Morning and afternoon sessions at Jewish Community Association of Austin on Dell Jewish Community Campus

Throughout the weekend, enjoy the Texas Jewish Historical Society's traveling exhibits of vintage photographs in The Gallery at the J.

### Concurrent Panel Sessions:

#### Panel A "Zionism in the South: Religion, Race, and Reaction"

Moderator: *Marni Davis*, Georgia State University, author *Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition*.  
<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwhis/5521.html>

Panelists: *Lee Shai Weissbach*, former chair, Department of History, University of Louisville; translator and editor, *A Jewish Life on Three Continents: The Memoir of Menachem Mendel Frieden*; author, *Jewish Life in Small-Town America*  
"A Southern Jew, Before and After"  
<https://louisville.edu/history/faculty/lee-shai-weissbach/lee-shai-weissbach.html>

*Allison Schottenstein*, doctoral candidate, University of Texas at Austin  
"Houston's 'Basic Principles': Whitening the Synagogue Walls."

*Peggy Pearlstein*, writer, lecturer, retired Hebraic Section Specialist, Library of Congress  
"A Journey to Palestine in 1946: The Emergence of a Zionist Lobby in the Southeast"  
<http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/author/pearlstein-peggy>



*Marni Davis*



*Lee Shai Weissbach*



*Peggy Pearlstein*

## Panel B

### “The Atlantic Highway: Four Centuries of Jewish Migration”

Moderator: *Mark Bauman*, author, teacher, mentor, founding editor of *Southern Jewish History*  
<http://www.jewishsouth.org/mark-bauman>

Panelists: *Dale Rosengarten*, historian, founding director, Jewish Heritage Collection, College of Charleston; curator and editor of *A Portion of the People: 300 Years of Southern Jewish Life* “Port Jews and Plantation Jews”  
<http://www2.lib.unc.edu/apop/>

*Keith and Nancy Atkinson*, London residents trace their global family history  
“Crossing Borders: The Nunes Carvalhos, a Transatlantic Family”

*Anton Hieke*, lecturer, Martin Luther University, Halle Wittenberg, Germany; author, *Jewish Identity in the Reconstruction South: Ambivalence and Adaptation*  
“Leaving the South: Southern Jewish Migration to Europe”  
[http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en\\_cv\\_hieke.html](http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en_cv_hieke.html)



*Mark Bauman*



*Keith and Nancy  
Atkinson*



*Anton Hieke*

## *Jewish Community Association of Austin*

The Jewish Community Association of Austin (JCAA) supports an innovative community where Jewish living and learning can thrive. Located primarily on the 40-acre Dell Jewish Community Campus in Northwest Austin, the JCAA provides a vast array of services and programs, from enrichment opportunities for all ages to support services for families, from health- and wellness-oriented programming to global philanthropy.



## Mid-morning Panel “A Foot in Two Worlds: Transnationalism and Southern Jews”

Moderator: *Suzanne Seriff*, anthropologist, curator, folklorist, lecturer,  
University of Texas at Austin  
<http://greenmuseum.org/c/aen/Bios/seriff.php>

Panelists: *Sebastian Klor*, post-doctoral fellow, University of Texas,  
Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies; dissertation, “Aliyah  
from Argentina to the State of Israel, 1948-1967,” University of  
Haifa  
“Latino Jews in Texas”  
<http://www.israelinstitute.org/recipients/sebastian-klor>

*Alan Astro*, professor modern languages & literatures, Trinity  
University, San Antonio; editor, *Yiddish South of the Border*  
“Texas Yiddish Writers in a Global Context”  
<http://www.trinity.edu/aastro/>

*Josh Parshall*, doctoral candidate, University of North Carolina,  
Chapel Hill; formerly oral historian, Institute of Southern Jewish  
Life  
“The Arbeter Ring and Transnational Yiddishkayt”  
[http://www.myjewishlearning.com/blog/southern-and-jewish/  
author/joshparshall/](http://www.myjewishlearning.com/blog/southern-and-jewish/author/joshparshall/)

*Jay Silberberg*, journalist, speaker, independent scholar,  
Petaluma, California  
“The Meyer Brothers of Louisiana: Letters from Home”  
<http://silverbergcom.com/who-we-are/>



*Suzanne Seriff*



*Sebastian Klor*

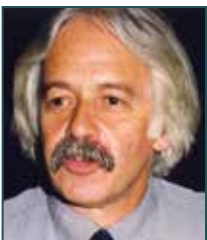


*Alan Astro*



*Jay Silberberg*

## Lunch Speaker



*Theodore Rosengarten*

*Theodore Rosengarten*, professor, College of Charleston and Univer-  
sity of South Carolina, focusing on African-American history  
and Holocaust studies; 1974 National Book Award winner  
[http://jewish.cofc.edu/about-the-program/jewish-studies-faculty-  
and-staff-bios/ted-rosengarten.php](http://jewish.cofc.edu/about-the-program/jewish-studies-faculty-<br/>and-staff-bios/ted-rosengarten.php)  
“Diplomacy’s Cruel Sword: The Civil War’s 21st-Century  
Legacy”

## Movie Panel

## Featuring Excerpts and Coming Attractions

### “Jewish History on the Big Screen: Documentary Filmmakers”

Moderator: *Paul J. Stekler*, chair, Radio, Television, Film Department, University of Texas; winner, Sundance Film Special Jury Prize, two Peabody, three Columbia/duPont, and three Emmy awards  
<http://rtf.utexas.edu/faculty/paul-stekler>

Filmmakers: *Aviva Kempner*, film critic, lecturer, founder, Washington D.C. Film Festival  
*The Life & Times of Hank Greenberg*; *Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*; *Partisans of Vilna*; forthcoming *The Rosenwald Schools*  
<http://cieslafoundation.org/home.php>

*Cynthia Salzman Mondell and Allen Mondell*, Emmy nomination, best directors; founders, Media Projects of Dallas  
*West of Hester Street*; *The Enemy Within*; *Make Me a Match*; *Waging Peace*  
<http://www.mediaprojects.org/>



*Paul J. Stekler*



*Aviva Kempner*



*Cynthia Salzman Mondell  
and Allen Mondell*

## Texas Jewish Historical Society

The Texas Jewish Historical Society was created to preserve the history of the Texas Jewish Experience. It sponsors and encourages research, as well as provides a forum for scholars and students of Texas Jewish History. A permanent TJHS archive of source materials, documents, family, community and organizational histories has been established at The University of Texas in Austin as part of the Center for American History Collection. The Society is not just for this generation, but for many generations to come who deserve to know of their Texas Jewish heritage.





## Mid-afternoon Panel

### “Blacks and Jews: The Genealogical Record”

Moderator: *Leonard Rogoff*, Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina, author, *Down Home: Jewish Life in North Carolina*; *Homelands: Southern Jewish Identity in Durham-Chapel Hill and North Carolina*

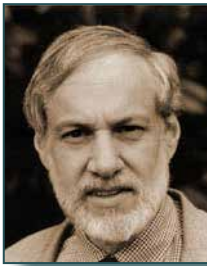
[http://www.blackbird.vcu.edu/v1n2/nonfiction/rogoff\\_1/](http://www.blackbird.vcu.edu/v1n2/nonfiction/rogoff_1/)

Panelists: *Sadie Day Pasha*, genealogist

“Cohen of Georgetown County, South Carolina, 1760-1960”  
<https://plus.google.com/110166423592313086647/posts>

*Anthony Cohen*, historian, founder, Menare Foundation

“The Search for Patrick Sneed: Retracing the Footsteps of an American Jewish Slave’s Escape on the Underground Railroad”  
<http://asmsa.org/news-events/173/underground-railroad-historian-to-open-asmsa-science-and-arts-cafe-series>



*Leonard Rogoff*



*Sadie Day Pasha*



*Anthony Cohen*

## Evening

### Havdalah Dinner Cruise

We will have a Havdalah Dinner Cruise on Lake Lady Bird to view the Austin skyline and nightly flight of bats from beneath Ann W. Richards

Congress Avenue Bridge.

<http://www.batcon.org/index.php/get-involved/visit-a-bat-location/congress-avenue-bridge/subcategory.html?layout=subcategory>

After the cruise, take a charter bus back to the hotel OR explore Austin nightlife ON YOUR OWN and find your way back to the hotel.



# Sunday, October 26

**SJHS Membership Meeting**

**TJHS Board Meeting**

**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM      Book-and-Author Panel**

Moderator: *Adam Mendelsohn*, Center for Southern Jewish Culture, College of Charleston; author, forthcoming, *The Rag Race*  
<http://jewish.cofc.edu/about-the-program/jewish-studies-faculty-and-staff-bios/adam-mendelsohn.php>

Authors: *Kay Goldman*, *Dressing Modern Maternity*  
<http://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/book/dressing-modern-maternity>  
Additional authors to be announced  
Browse and buy books by conference participants, courtesy BookWoman, Austin



*Adam Mendelsohn*



*Kay Goldman*

**12:30 PM      Ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication**

The conference moves outdoors for a ribbon-cutting and dedication at B'nai Abraham, the oldest Orthodox synagogue in Texas, just transplanted to the Dell Jewish Community Campus from Brenham, Texas.



# *Special Thanks to our Sponsors:*

Southern Jewish Historical Society  
Texas Jewish Historical Society  
Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies  
Jewish Community Association of Austin

## *Venues:*

Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas  
Congregation Agudas Achim, Austin  
Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas  
Jewish Community Association of Austin  
LBJ Presidential Library

*Special thanks to Jay Rubin,  
Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Community Association of Austin.*

### *Program Committee*

Bryan Edward Stone, SJHS and TJHS  
Hollace Weiner, SJHS and TJHS  
Sally Drayer, SJHS and TJHS

### *Local Arrangements Committee*

Davie Lou Solka, TJHS  
Lisa Cohen Quay, JCAA

### *Photo credits:*

**Cover:** the Capitol Building in Austin, photo by Carolyn Bauman Cruz for the TJHS

**Page 2, background:** LBJ Presidential Library

**Page 4, background:** Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Photo by Marsha Miller.

**Page 9, bottom:** Dinner Cruise on Lady Bird Lake. Photo by Micah Goff.

**Page 11, bottom:** B'nai Abraham in Brenham, Texas. Photo by Jenny Solomon.

**This page:** Congregation Agudas Achim. Photo by Lake|Flato Architects