



Austin City Limits

By Bryan Edward Stone and Hollace Weiner, SJHS 2014 Program Committee Co-Chairs

Austin, Texas, is known for lots of things—Whole Foods, Molly Ivins, South by Southwest. It's the Live Music Capital of the World and home to the largest urban bat colony in North America. It's a hip, innovative, high-tech city of neighborhoods, cafés, and co-ops—and the epicenter of one of the most reactionary state governments in the country. (Which explains the popular t-shirt slogan, "Keep Austin Weird.") Many of these aspects of Austin life will be on display when the Southern Jewish Historical Society visits October 23–26. So will another thing Austin is famous for: traffic.

Once a sleepy college town poised within the overlapping orbits of the University of Texas Tower and the Texas Capitol building, Austin grew exponentially over the past 30 years, fueled by a booming tech industry. As the city sprawled, the Jewish population grew apace. Congregations largely unchanged since before World War II suddenly doubled and tripled in membership, outgrowing the central-city synagogues they had inhabited for generations. As Austin's urban population rapidly became suburban, the city's Jews struggled to meet the challenge.

The most important and innovative result is the Dell Jewish Community Campus, which will host many of our weekend events. The Dell Campus is located on 40 acres of former ranchland about six miles north of the Capitol and the University. Surrounded by residential neighborhoods and commercial strips, the wooded site is surprisingly lovely—secluded, quiet, contemplative. Visiting is a pleasant, memorable experience. Getting there is not.

Planning a conference in Austin has presented challenges. We want to show off the city to its best advantage but can't do that

without navigating its maddening and overburdened freeway system. We selected as our home base a comfortable, well-appointed hotel. It's near the Dell Campus but is on an island encircled by badly marked expressways and is difficult to access. We'll provide bus transportation to all conference events, as well

as maps and detailed directions for drivers, but attendees will face some challenges on their own. There are no hotel shuttles from Bergstrom International Airport (about 20 miles southeast of the hotel), and cab fare into town will run about \$50. If you decide to rent a car, bring a GPS. Even with digital assistance, you should expect to miss your exit at least once or twice hunting for a destination.

Rest assured, the venues we've secured are spectacular. At the Dell Campus, we'll join Congregation Agudas Achim for Shabbat services in its beautiful, sky-lit, limestone sanctuary. The LBJ Presidential Library will host our plenary session in a regal atrium a few steps from a replica of LBJ's Oval Office. The Humanities Research Center on the UT campus will introduce us to one of the world's foremost literary manuscript collections. We'll spend an evening downtown, on a boat cruising Lady Bird Lake, viewing the skyline and (hopefully) watching millions of bats fly out from under the Ann Richards Bridge, as they do every night at dusk. Each destination is appealing, unique, and indispensable.

It's been a long time since the SJHS has convened in a sprawling city like Austin, and the traffic will undoubtedly affect logistics and cause a few headaches. But don't mistake convenience for quality. Austin is one of the most beautiful, livable, and enjoyable cities in the country.

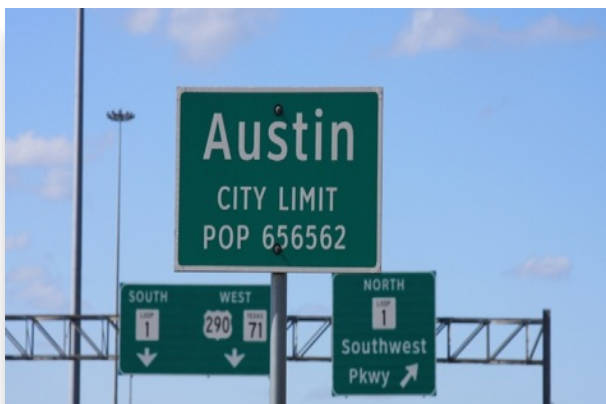
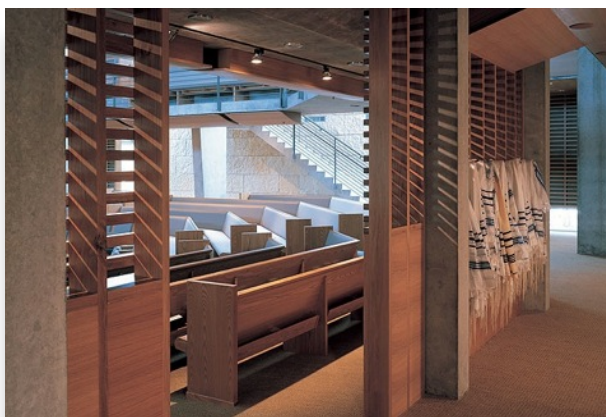


Photo by Flickr user Adam Cowdin, 2008



Congregation Agudas Achim on the Dell Campus, where conference goers will attend Shabbat services.

Photo by Lake | Flato Architects



Officers and Board 2014

PRESIDENT

Dale Rosengarten

VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ELECT

Ellen Umansky

SECRETARY

Phyllis Leffler

TREASURER

Les Bergen

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Jean Roseman

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Bodzin

Perry Brickman

Bonnie Eisenman

Bob Gillette

Gil Halpern

Sol Kimerling

Beth Orlansky

Dan Puckett

Bryan Edward Stone

Jarrod Tanny

Bernie Wax (emeritus)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Stuart Rockoff

JOURNAL EDITOR

Mark Bauman

Southern Jewish History

6856 Flagstone Way

Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Phone: 678.828.7484

Cell: 678.428.3622

markkbaum@aol.com

JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR

Rachel Heimovics Braun

JOURNAL ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

Bryan Edward Stone

RAMBLER EDITOR

Deborah R. Weiner

The Rambler welcomes

submissions on news relevant to
southern Jewry.

Editorial inquiries to

dweiner70@hotmail.com

Send address changes to:

Barbara Tahsler

SJHS

PO Box 71601

Marietta, GA 30007-1601

barbaratahs@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Ellen Umansky

8 Baylor Circle

White Plains, NY 10605

Phone: 203.354.4000 x2065

eumansky@fairfield.edu

President's Message

By Dale Rosengarten



Dateline: Bialystok, Poland. What better place to compose my presidential letter for the summer *Rambler* as we look forward to "Crossing Borders" in Austin this fall? This is the fourth time my husband Ted and I have led a student trip to Poland and Germany. With 24 undergraduates from the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina, most of whom have taken Ted's courses on Holocaust history, we are visiting the cities of Krakow, Lodz, Warsaw, Bialystok, and Berlin, as well as sites of former Nazi death camps.

Bialystok was once a crossroads of the Russian empire. In this Babel of languages and peoples, L. L. Zamenhof conceived the international language of Esperanto. Tombstones in the old Jewish cemetery, where our students worked cleaning lichen and moss from the monuments, record birthplaces in Poland, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Germany. Before World War II the town's population boasted the highest percentage of Jews of any city of more than 100,000 residents in the world—an astonishing 63 percent. Today you can count the Jews of Bialystok on one hand.

My interest in Jewish history, as well as Ted's, is intertwined with a longstanding commitment to black history as a field of research, and to the Civil Rights Movement as a focus of political activism. We believe that the racism that made it acceptable to enslave Africans is not unrelated to the racism that fueled the Final Solution.

Yet, as one of our students reminded us, white people did not deport Africans and ship them to the New World in order to annihilate them. Indeed, it was in the masters' interest to keep their enslaved workers alive and productive. But the legal structures of southern society and the conditions imposed on the enslaved were dehumanizing and destructive of personalities, families, and social life.

Stanley Elkins, in his seminal study *Slavery: A Problem in American Intellectual and Institutional Life* (1959), dared to compare the totalitarian environment of Nazi concentration camps and southern plantations. Over the past 55 years, we have learned a lot about both systems; for example, domination was less total on the plantations and more extreme in the camps than we originally thought. But the analogy continues to generate insight and debate.

In Austin we will learn about the world of Jewish slaveholders, Latino Jews, and African American descendants of Jewish southerners. We will reconsider the 21st-century legacy of the Civil War and examine the racial stereotypes of *Gone with the Wind*, the promise of the Rosenwald Schools, and the heroism of Vilna's partisans. The causes and consequences of war and social development cross the borders of place and time, and the Jewish people who have carried ideas and commerce to all corners of the globe have borne the costs and rewards disproportionately. We will assess the roles Jews have played as agents of global, national, and local change.



Left: Memorial at Treblinka death camp, June 2014. Photo by Saskia Coenen-Snyder

Right: Students working in the "new Jewish cemetery" in Bialystok. Photo by W. Wójtkielewicz

Crossing Borders: Southern Jews in Global Contexts

Southern Jewish Historical Society 39th Annual Conference / Texas Jewish Historical Society Fall Meeting
Austin, Texas, October 23–26, 2014

Bryan Edward Stone and Hollace Weiner, Conference Program Co-Chairs

Thursday, October 23

3 pm Check-in and registration at the hotel

6 pm SJHS board dinner, location TBA

Friday, October 24

All daytime events are on the campus of the University of Texas–Austin.

LBJ Presidential Library

9 am Self-guided tour

10:30 am Plenary Session: “In the Oval: Southern Jews and the Presidency” (Moderator: Ellen Umansky)

- ▶ Claudia Anderson, LBJ Presidential Library supervisory archivist, “LBJ and Austin Jewry: Reality vs. Hyperbole”
- ▶ Stephen Whitfield, “Bernard Baruch and Abe Fortas: No Southern Jewish Style in Politics”
- ▶ Don Carleton, “Capitalist with a Conscience: Bernard Rapoport’s Rapport with Bill Clinton”
- ▶ Cecily Abram, “Stepping Stones from Georgia to Geneva: Morris Abram and His Ties to Five Presidents”

Noon Box lunches and discussion with plenary panelists

Briscoe Center for American History

1 pm View artifacts from the Texas Jewish Historical Society Collection.

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

2 - 3:30 pm Tour exhibit from the collection of David O. Selznick, director of *Gone With the Wind*. Guided tour of a special display of artifacts from collections of Jewish interest.

Dell Jewish Community Campus

6 - 9 pm Erev Shabbat service, Congregation Agudas Achim. Kosher barbecue dinner, Jewish Community Association of Austin.

- ▶ **Keynote speaker:** Samuel D. Gruber, architectural historian, author, historic preservationist, “Saving Synagogues: Different Goals, Different Strategies in Brenham, Brookhaven, Birmingham and Beyond”
- Introduced by Sherry Zander, small-town synagogue historian

Saturday, October 25

All daytime events are on the Dell Jewish Community Campus

9am Concurrent panels

Zionism in the South: Religion, Race, and Reaction (Moderator: Marni Davis)

- ▶ Lee Shai Weissbach, “A Southern Jew, Before and After”
- ▶ Allison Schottenstein, “Houston’s ‘Basic Principles’: Whitening the Synagogue Walls”
- ▶ Peggy Pearlstein, “A Journey to Palestine in 1946: The Emergence of a Zionist Lobby in the Southeast”

The Atlantic as Highway: Four Centuries of Jewish Migration (Moderator: Mark Bauman)

- ▶ Dale Rosengarten, “Port Jews and Plantation Jews”
- ▶ Keith and Nancy Atkinson, “Crossing Borders: The Nunes Carvalhos, a Transatlantic Family”
- ▶ Anton Hieke, “Leaving the South: Southern Jewish Migration to Europe”

10:30 am A Foot in Two Worlds: Transnationalism and Southern Jews (Moderator: Suzanne Sheriff)

- ▶ Sebastian Klor, “Latino Jews in Texas”
- ▶ Alan Astro, “Texas Yiddish Writers in a Global Context”
- ▶ Josh Parshall, “The Arbeter Ring and Transnational Yiddishkayt”
- ▶ Jay Silverberg, “The Meyer Brothers of Louisiana: Letters from Home”

Noon Luncheon Address: Theodore Rosengarten, “Diplomacy’s Cruel Sword: The Civil War’s 21st-Century Legacy”

1 pm Jewish History on the Big Screen: Documentary Filmmakers (Moderator: Paul J. Stekler)

- ▶ Aviva Kempner, *The Life & Times of Hank Greenberg; Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg; Partisans of Vilna; The Rosenwald Schools* (forthcoming)
- ▶ Cynthia Salzman Mondell and Allen Mondell, *West of Hester Street; The Enemy Within; Make Me a Match; Waging Peace*

2:30 pm Blacks and Jews: The Genealogical Record (Moderator: Leonard Rogoff)

- ▶ Sadie Day Pasha, “Cohen of Georgetown County, South Carolina, 1760–1960”
- ▶ Anthony Cohen, “The Search for Patrick Sneed: Retracing the Footsteps of an American Jewish Slave’s Escape on the Underground Railroad”

6 pm Havdalah dinner cruise on Lady Bird Lake

- ▶ View of Austin skyline and nightly flight of bats from beneath the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.

Sunday, October 26

Holiday Inn Austin NW-Arboretum

8 am SJHS membership meeting / TJHS board meeting

Dell Jewish Community Campus

10 am Bagel bar and coffee

10:30 am Meet the Authors (Moderator: Scott Langston)

- ▶ Kay Goldman, *Dressing Modern Maternity: The Frankfurt Sisters of Dallas and the Page Boy Label*
- ▶ Caroline E. Light, *That Pride of Race and Character: The Roots of Jewish Benevolence in the Jim Crow South*
- ▶ Additional authors TBA

12:30 am Ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of B’nai Abraham, oldest Orthodox synagogue in Texas, just transplanted to Dell Jewish Community Campus from Brenham, Texas.

— Meet the Austin Conference Co-Sponsors —

Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies, Seven Years Old and Counting



From its inception in 2007 with a matching grant from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin has evolved into a nexus for the study of Jewish thought, culture, and history from Latin America to Israel.

The Center, which helped underwrite the upcoming

SJHS conference with a \$2,500 grant, has elevated Jewish studies at UT from a “concentration” to an “integrative major.” It draws upon faculty from more than ten departments to offer courses from art history to Yiddish. At any given moment, some 750 to 1,100 UT students are registered for courses with Jewish Studies content.

Taking advantage of Texas’s central location and its history as a crossroads, the Center developed the Initiative on Jewish Life in the Americas to promote teaching and research on Jewish life from Latin America to Canada. It offers courses on Latin American Jewish writers and hosts visiting scholars from south of the border. It works with UT’s Teresa Lozano Long Institute for Latin American Studies and Benson Latin American Collection, which have thousands of holdings relevant to Latin

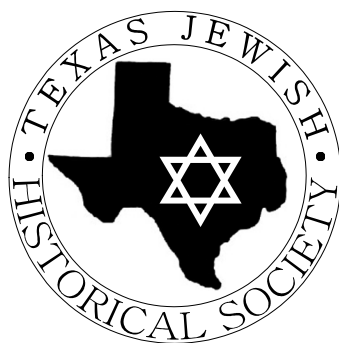
American Jewish life. In 2013, the Center hosted the International Conference of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association, whose website it maintains.

In 2011, with support from the Israel Institute, the Schusterman Center established the Israel Studies Collaborative, turning a network of UT faculty and graduate students into a core team that offers at least six courses a year on Israeli literature and society, as well as on the conflict between Israel and its neighbors. The Center also hosts visiting Israeli scholars who teach courses in their areas of specialization. The Collaborative co-sponsors lectures and events such as the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies and the 2013 conference, “The Yom Kippur War: 40 Years Later.” Collaborative efforts are underway with Israeli academic institutions such as the University of Haifa.

The Center’s founding director is Robert H. Abzug, who has initiated a book series, *Exploring Jewish Arts and Culture*, with the University of Texas Press. Abzug will greet us at the LBJ Library on Friday morning, October 24.

The Schusterman Center works closely with the Beaumont-based Gale Foundation, a longtime supporter of the SJHS’s *Southern Jewish History* journal. The Gale Foundation established an endowment in the 1970s that funded UT’s first Jewish Studies chair and a lecture series that was a major campus event for more than 25 years. The Gale Chair has become part of the Schusterman Center, and the lectureship is to be revived.

Texas Jewish Historical Society, A Grassroots Intergenerational Group



The Texas Jewish Historical Society, our partner for this year’s annual conference, is a unique organization that maintains an extended-family feeling, replete with all the emotions and interconnections that the Yiddish term *mishpocheh* implies.

President Debra Winegarten, a writer of poetry and prose who lives in

Austin, got involved in the TJHS because her late mother, historian Ruthe Winegarten, was the lead author of the Society’s first sponsored book, *Deep in the Heart: The Lives and Legends of Texas Jews*. President-elect David Beer, a commercial realtor, and Sally Drayer, a past president, educator, and art-museum docent, each became active after a parent who was a longtime board member passed away. These three officers enjoy a sense of mission as they continue their parents’ work and mingle with folks who share fond recollections of their families.

Such extended-family ties are but one way that the TJHS, founded in 1980, differs from the Southern Jewish Historical Society, which is more academic, less intergenerational, and smaller, with a roster two-thirds the size of the Texas group.

Differences and similarities will become evident when the two societies convene October 23–26 for a joint conference in Austin. Twice before, large TJHS contingents attended SJHS conferences—1997 in Hot Springs and 2002 in Shreveport. The upcoming conference differs because it will be our first time on Texas turf and because TJHS is a full partner, donating \$2,500, providing several panelists, and heading up local arrangements.

In Texas, a key component of most every weekend meeting is a hospitality suite stocked with homemade cookies, brownies, chips, and salsa. Sunday-morning board meetings close with a group picture, printed in the Society’s quarterly news magazine, a 20-page publication filled with reminiscences, family narratives, reprints of news stories, and articles researched from the group’s archives.

It’s easy to get involved in the Texas society, because it has a board of 40 *continued on next page...*

continued from previous page... trustees plus an executive committee with up to 10 officers. The TJHS boasts around 625 dues-paying members and families—most residing in Texas with a sprinkling from 20 other states and Israel. The board meets four times a year, often in towns off the beaten path. These meetings offer a chance to learn about small-town Jewish communities, some extinct and others with a dwindling number of Jews. Often these visits are the first formal connection in years that these rural Jews have had with a larger Jewish community. The Society encourages caretakers of disappearing communities to donate their precious historical materials to TJHS or other archival collections. Further afield, the TJHS Travel Committee this year arranged a trip to Cuba, a mission trip to meet with leaders of Havana's Jewish community.

The TJHS has helped underwrite two books—*Deep in the Heart*, mentioned above and published in 1990 by Austin's Eakin Press, and *Lone Stars of David*, a coffee-table anthology published in 2007 by Brandeis University Press. The Brandeis volume's writers include four historians with overlapping memberships in both TJHS and SJHS—Hollace Weiner, Bryan Stone, Stuart Rockoff, and Gary Whitfield.

The TJHS compiled and published an important research tool, a book listing Texas Jewish burials. Updates are to be posted online. The Texans have given financial support to films and

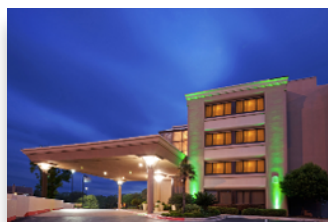
videos such as “West of Hester Street,” “At Home on the Range, Jewish Life in Texas,” and a documentary in production about the Rosenwald Schools. The Society provided research materials and funding for “Shalom Ya'll—The Jewish Experience in Texas,” an ongoing exhibit at the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The Society also provides research grants and other monetary support to scholars studying Texas Jewish history.

The TJHS Collection, an impressive repository of primary documentation about Texas Jews, is housed at the Briscoe Center for American History at the UT Austin campus. A visit there is on our fall conference agenda.

In 1994, the TJHS published a volume called *Chronicles*, which included an essay by Samuel Gruber, keynote speaker at this fall's Austin meeting and an authority on Jewish landmarks worldwide. His article was titled “Why Save the Historic Brenham Synagogue?” Coincidentally, that synagogue, constructed in rural Texas in 1893, is being transplanted 89 miles from Brenham to Austin. It will arrive in time for our joint conference, and attendees will have the opportunity to view the ribbon cutting on Sunday, October 26, at the Dell Jewish Community Campus, the venue for much of the Texas conference.

More about the TJHS can be found on its website, txjhs.org.

SJHS Conference Hotel—Book Now!



Hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn Austin NW-Arboretum, 8901 Business Park Drive, must be made separately. **Call 877-719-8291** and ask for the special TJHS/SJHS conference rate of \$109/ night. Room fee includes parking and Wi-Fi. Breakfast is not included; there are two restaurants on site. Your reservation must be received on or before Sunday, October 12.

For more information see txjhs.org or jewishsouth.org. Details about the Holiday Inn Austin NW-Arboretum can be found at holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/austin/ausnw/hoteldetail.



North Carolina Honors “Jewish Mark Twain”

On May 4, 2014, the State of North Carolina recognized the life and achievements of Harry Golden, publisher of *The Carolina Israelite* and author of *Only in America*, among several other bestsellers, with the dedication of a state highway marker in Charlotte. In the 1950s, when he was at the height of his fame, *Time* called Golden “the Jewish Mark Twain.” The marker, located at the intersection of Hawthorne Lane and 7th Street, describes him as a “journalist, humorist, and civil rights advocate.” An exhibit featuring Golden is on permanent display at the Atkins Library of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a biography of Golden will be released by the University of North Carolina Press in 2015.

Photo courtesy of Carol Sawyer

NEWS AND NOTES

Vom Rhein an den Cape Fear River: Eine Rheinhessische Auswanderungsgeschichte

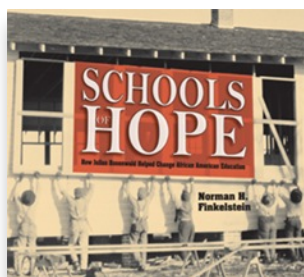


Southern Jewish history goes global! This richly illustrated book depicts the experience of German Jewish immigrants in the post-Civil War South through the example of Abraham David (1844–1914). In 1862, David left his native Gimbshheim, Rhine-Hesse, and made his way to Wilmington, North Carolina, where he became a successful clothing merchant. Hans-Dieter Graf, Martina Graf, and Gabriele Hannah, local historians from Rhine-Hesse, neatly connect

the shores of the Atlantic by employing both German and American sources to trace David's life. His story is contextualized by excursions into the Jewish histories of Gimbshheim and Wilmington. By following one representative individual from Europe to America, the authors ingeniously transcend the barrier between the historiography of Jewish emigration from Germany and Jewish immigration to the United States.

As one of the first works in German on the Jewish South in the 19th century, this book (in English, *From the Rhine to Cape Fear River: A Rhine-Hessian Story of Emigration*) opens the field to the German-speaking audience. With a contribution on the Jewish history of Wilmington by Anton Hieke and illustrations by Gisela Graf. Published by Kehl in Osthofen, Germany (2013). An English translation is being prepared.

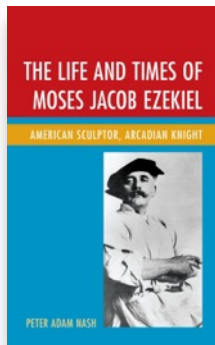
Schools of Hope Explores Rosenwald Legacy



When famed African American educator Booker T. Washington asked Julius Rosenwald, philanthropist and head of Sears, Roebuck and Company, to help him build well-designed and fully equipped schools for black children, the face of education in the South changed for the better. It was the early 1900s, a time of discrimination,

racial segregation, and inadequate education for African Americans. Rosenwald created a special fund that in just 20 years built more than 5,300 schools attended by 600,000 black students. In the young adult book *Schools of Hope: How Julius Rosenwald Helped Change African American Education*, noted nonfiction writer Norman H. Finkelstein spotlights one man's legacy and the power of community action. Calkins Creek, 2014. Illustrated with vintage photographs; includes a detailed bibliography and index.

A New Biography of Moses Ezekiel



In *The Life and Times of Moses Jacob Ezekiel: American Sculptor, Arcadian Knight*, author Peter Adam Nash tells the remarkable story of Ezekiel's rise to international fame as an artist in late 19th-century Italy. Sephardic Jew, homosexual, Confederate soldier, Southern apologist, opponent of slavery, patriot, expatriate, mystic, Victorian dandy, good Samaritan, humanist, royalist, romantic, reactionary, republican, monist, dualist, theosophist, freemason, champion of religious

freedom, proto-Zionist, and proverbial Court Jew, Moses Ezekiel was a riddle of a man, a puzzle of seemingly irreconcilable parts. Published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2014, the book is available at amazon.com.

Shalom, Y'all: The Jews of Columbus, Georgia



Prayer shawl at the Columbus Museum.

There has been a Jewish presence in Columbus, Georgia, since the city's founding. The Columbus Museum's exhibition *Shalom, Y'all: The Valley's Jewish Heritage* explores the story of Jewish life in Columbus and surrounding communities, looking at migration, business,

and religious and cultural institutions. The exhibition traces the growth, decline, and perseverance of Jewish communities in the region over time, with an eye to how the local Jewish experience exemplifies broader trends in southern Jewish life. Funded in part by the SJHS, *Shalom, Y'all* will be on display until July 13, 2014.

The Henry Alexander Sr. Digitization Project

This spring marked a landmark event in the history of the Cuba Family Archives for Southern Jewish History at the Breman Museum in Atlanta. With the generous support of the Alexander family, the Archives purchased a top-of-the-line document scanner to begin digitizing its thousands of manuscript collections.

The scanner is currently being used to digitize the Alexander Family Papers, which total 11 linear feet. These papers document the significant work of Henry Alexander Sr., who served as an appeals attorney and confidant to Leo Frank, and Cecil Alexander, a prominent architect who helped shape the skyline of Atlanta. The goal is to make this material available online by the end of the year, and many more collections available online soon thereafter. For more information please contact: Jeremy Katz, Archives Director, at jrkatz@thebreman.org, 404-870-1862.

In Memoriam: Beryl H. Weiner, Esquire



Beryl Weiner on an SJHS tour. *Photo courtesy of Rachel Heimovics Braun*

The SJHS lost part of its heart and soul when Beryl Weiner passed away on April 19, 2014. Born in Camilla, Georgia, in 1931, Beryl moved to Atlanta with his family after his father's death in 1941. The family joined The Temple, where Beryl would later serve as board member, pro bono attorney, and legendary eighth-grade Sunday school teacher. According to Rabbi Peter Berg, Beryl contributed endless poems, sermons, and invocations. Janice Blumberg remembers his yeoman help preparing the revised edition of her Temple history in 1987. Beryl also taught southern Jewish history for Congregation B'nai Torah's adult education program and presided over Atlanta's Jewish Educational Loan Fund.

After University of Georgia law school and military service, Beryl began his legal career, establishing

an eminent domain precedent in the Georgia Supreme Court with his very first case. He later founded what would become Weiner, Yancey, Dempsey, and Diggs, LLP. He also served as Georgia special assistant attorney general and as associate Fulton County attorney.

Beryl became involved in the SJHS in the 1980s. He chaired several committees, co-chaired the Atlanta conference in 1993, and served as president from 1993 to 1995. He also donated the services of his administrative assistant, Barbara Tahsler, as unofficial Society secretary. Barbara has provided invaluable administrative support through the years, including computerization of the Society's membership list. A significant step occurred during Beryl's presidency when the publications committee recommended the creation of a scholarly journal. After extensive discussion, the SJHS launched *Southern Jewish History* in 1998. Beryl later provided pro bono legal counsel to the journal and frequently commented on proposed changes to the Society's constitution.

A stroke in 2010 ended Beryl's legal career, his tennis game, and his clarinet performances in the Atlanta Concert Band. Yet his love of poetry, music, and people continued.

In his president's column in a 1994 Society newsletter, Beryl wrote:

"Recording, researching, analyzing, and publishing history is no easy task, be it family, community, or ethnic, but with all our wonderful paraphernalia we ought to be able to preserve the present for our grandchildren and history students of tomorrow. Every family needs someone to record orally—or to write, on stone, bronze, or paper, or to record on videotape or CD so that the noted slices of time can be run forward or backward."

Beryl fulfilled this challenge for his family by compiling a family history and, for all of us, by supporting the Society in myriad ways. Beryl H. Weiner was truly a Renaissance man and a *mensch*. The Society sends heartfelt sympathy to his wife of 51 years, Eleanor Brown Weiner, children Patti and Andrew, daughter-in-law Joyce, and grandchildren, Daniel and Nicholas.

— Mark K. Bauman, Janice Rothschild Blumberg, and Rachel Heimovics Braun

ON BEING A SOUTHERN JEW

By Beryl H. Weiner, 1992

"I am neither white nor black"*
Or one of the traditional Jews.
Know less of Bialik** than of Langston Hughes.
Love black-eyed peas, greens and cornbread;
To Southern cuisine from Kashruth I have sped.
Product of assimilation, in my generation
Seeking to avoid strife
Amid the trials of daily life.

I am neither yellow nor red
Or pink, green or blue.
It is not the color of my skin
That defines my hue as a Southern Jew.
It is the way I feel in my heart and soul
Working towards my life's goal.

I am neither this nor that,
Republican, or Democrat.
It's not the label that defines my kind;
It is the way I hear
The sounds of the Shofar each New Year.
Yes, the ram's horn is heard
Loud and clear by us Southern Jews,
Even clearer than the Dixieland Blues.

Oh to be sure Southern culture is in my blood
Just the same as Noah's Flood.
I say "Y'all" in my prayer shawl;
But, there is a difference between
Me and my neighbors.
For I hear another call as I say, "You all."
"Shemah Yisrael Adonai Elahenu, Adonai Echod!"***
Sets my rhythm as a Southern Jewish bard.

Family history lost to posterity,
Forebears came from the old country
Freeing shackles, seeking prosperity.
With a sack on his back, Grandpa lonely peddling
Until Grandma joined the settling
In Camilla, Southwest Georgia, Thomasville,
Valdosta, Fitzgerald and Ocilla.

I am neither white nor black,
Do not carry a sack on my back.
I study law, poetry, even psychiatry,
No longer in the agrarian society.
Liberal in my thinking,
It is the holiness code that keeps blinking
In the candlelights of my holiday as I pray.
Each winter neighbors light different lights
Joining in the struggle for civil rights.
Some on the Christmas tree; on the menorah for me.
Thank God Pa and Ma married up in this land of the free,
Good old, red, white and blue,
Where I can be a Jew and Southern too.

This poem was likely written for the Southern Jewish Historical Society and appeared in *The Jewish Georgian*.

* From the Langston Hughes poem, "Cross"

** Chaim Nachman Bialik (1873–1934), modern Hebrew poet

*** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, The Lord is One!" watchword of the Jewish faith

Conference Registration Form

39th Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual Conference / Texas Jewish Historical Society Fall Meeting

Crossing Borders: Southern Jews in Global Contexts. Austin, Texas, October 23-26, 2014

Name _____ Spouse/Companion _____

Mailing Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Please indicate how many guests will: Ride bus to UT campus Fri. morning ____ Ride bus to Dinner Cruise Sat. night ____

Need vegetarian meals ____

Registration for full program:* Includes lunch/dinner Fri. and Sat., bagel bar Sun., and transport to all events. \$175/person. \$ _____

For Austin residents ONLY:* Mini-conference option. Includes Fri. dinner, Sat. programs and lunch at Dell Campus. \$75/person. \$ _____

***ALL conference registrants must be members of SJHS or TJHS.** If you are not a member or wish to renew, include membership dues. \$ _____

Total Payment \$ _____

Please make check payable to JCAA and mail with this form to: Davie Lou Solka, 3808 Woodbrook Cr., Austin, TX 78759. Or register online with a credit card after June 23 at www.shalomaustin.org/historical.

Registration deadline is Sun., October 12. A \$25 fee per person will be added after that date. Registration must be cancelled by October 12 to receive a refund.

Questions? Contact us through our website, sjhs.org.

HOTEL MUST BE RESERVED SEPARATELY. See page 5 for information.

SJHS dues: (circle appropriate level)

Student (individual only)	\$15
Individual or family membership:	
General member	\$36
Patron	\$50
Century	\$100
Cedar	\$500
Sycamore	\$1,000
Magnolia	\$2,500

TJHS dues: (circle appropriate level)

Student member	\$18
Annual	\$35
Supporting	\$50
Organization	\$100
Sponsor	\$100
Sustaining	\$250
Benefactor	\$500
Patron	\$1000