

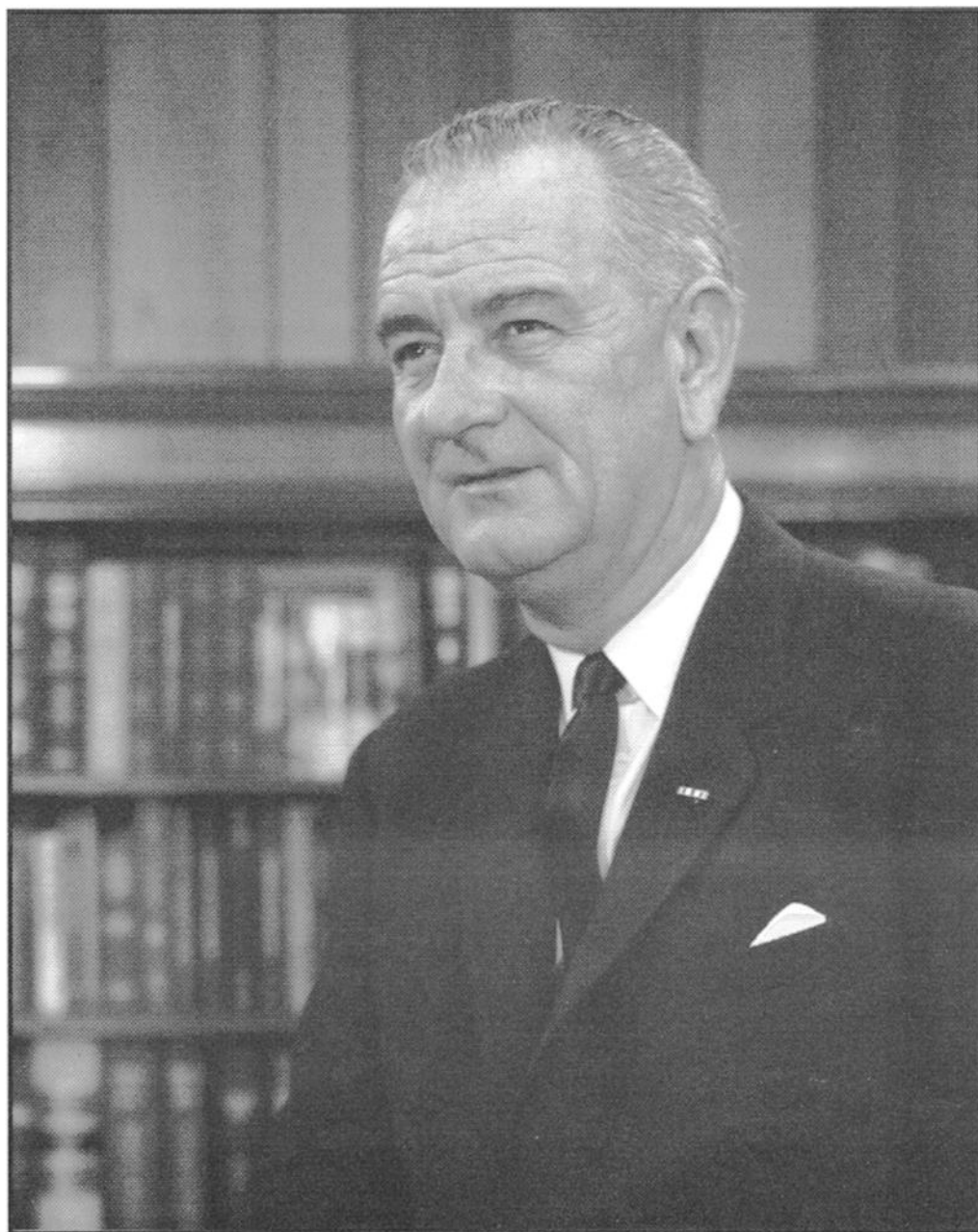
Texas Jewish Historical Society

Preserving Jewish Heritage in Texas
Established 1980

TEXAS JEWISH
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

November, 2002

Lyndon B. Johnson: A Friend to the Jews





From the Prez

The summer Board Meeting in Kerrville was enjoyed by 17

Board Members and 8 guests. Thank you to Mitzi Milstein for chairing the weekend activities. The hill country provided a respite from the city heat. All attended a delicious dutch treat dinner at Patrick's Restaurant on Saturday night. Items discussed at the Sunday morning Board Meeting were: membership (837 families, which includes 58 new members in 2002), book project, new traveling exhibit, Shreveport meeting, winter Board Meeting in Tyler, and the 2003 Gathering. A luncheon was held at the Y. O. Ranch Resort Hotel after the meeting was adjourned.

Those members who traveled to Branson, Missouri on October 20-24, on the tour led by Don Teter, reported they had a great time. Afterwards, they joined with some 60 members of

the Texas Jewish Historical Society (TJHS) to enjoy a weekend of education and camaraderie with the Southern Jewish Historical Society (SJHS) in Shreveport Louisiana on October 25-27. Programing on Friday included a Jewish tour of Shreveport with a stop at the old Jewish cemetery, lunch at Agudath Achim Synagogue, programs on everything from Jewish Confederates with Robert Rosen and TJHS member Gary Whitfield, of Fort Worth, to Dr. Jonathan Sarna, of Brandeis University, very entertaining talk following dinner and services at Temple B'nai Zion. A full day of scholarly programming followed on Saturday, ending with a thought provoking presentation by Dr. Paul Gaston, University of Virginia. After our Quarterly Board Meeting on Sunday, presentations were made, including a panel of authors with TJHS member Rose Biderman of Dallas. We Texans enjoyed true Southern Hospitality and helped make the SJHS annual meeting the largest in their history. I tip my hat to TJHS

member Hollace Weiner, who ran an extraordinary meeting as President of the Southern Jewish Historical Society.

"Howdy Y'all," our new traveling exhibit, was displayed for the first time in Shreveport. Thanks go to Helen Wilk and Hollace Weiner for working with the Institute of Texan Cultures on the development of this exhibit. "Howdy 'Y'all," as well as our original traveling exhibit, "Passages," are available for display. Contact Jack Gerrick for scheduling.

I hope to see you at the Winter Board Meeting in Tyler on January 24-26, 2003. Registration information will be mailed later.

DEADLINE:

The deadline for the next newsletter is **February 1**

Historical Texas Synagogues

Send Historical Texas Synagogues note cards when corresponding. Each pack contains color prints, two each of five different synagogues - 10 cards and 10 envelopes.

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Make check or money order payable to: **The Texas Jewish Historical Society** and send it with this form to:
TJHS, c/o Dorothy Harelik, 602 Bell Street, Hamilton, TX 76531. Allow 4-6 weeks delivery. Retail shops receive a 40% discount with a minimum order of any 10 packs. A Texas Resale Certificate must be included with order.



Letter From the Editor *or Freedman Slips*

Elsewhere in the Newsletter, I have addressed the problem with the foul up by our *current* printer with the August 2002 lack of last names on the address labels. Well folks, it couldn't have been too great a disaster since we heard complaints from a lot of people who would not have been able to complain if they hadn't gotten their copies!

SO MANY READ, SO FEW WRITE

What I do find disconcerting is that I hear from so many people telling me how much they enjoy reading the Newsletter and the stories. Disconcerting? Disturbing? Upsetting? All of these adjectives are descriptive of my emotion because so very many are reading – **not writing their own stories!** I thought one of

the premises of this organization was to share our histories. And yet, when I have personally asked members to write their stories, I get some very interesting excuses. (*My father used to tell me that a million excuses are not worth one job well done.*) I have even asked several people to give me leads so I could track down stories on people whose stories deserve telling. Results – *gornisht!*

In this 24 page Newsletter, there are **three** family histories or stories of Jews in Texas. If I went over all of the past issues, I would probably find this is a high average. The rest of the 24 pages are made up of “boiler plate” and non-Jewish histories. The lead story about President Johnson came from Claudia Anderson, Archivist at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum in Austin. I am truly appreciative of her sharing, as I am for the

other three. But folks, we have over 800 members who express their interest in the **Texas Jewish Historical Society** and pay their \$36 for membership. But where are **your** family history contributions to the Society?

While I have enjoyed editing this Newsletter, frustration is setting in. Without help from the members of the **Texas Jewish Historical Society**, the gratification gained from the job is rapidly diminishing. Attaboys are great, but as my dad used to tell me, the foam on an ice cream soda tastes good, but it's not too filling...

Buddy Freed

Dates to Remember:

TJHS Winter Board Meeting
January 24-26, 2003
Tyler, Texas

TJHS Annual Gathering
April 25-27, 2003
Dallas, Texas

Texas Jewish Historical Society Website

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The Texas Jewish Historical Society draws its membership from across the State of Texas, bordering states and across our great nation. TJHS supports a wide-ranging agenda. Quarterly Board Meetings are held at points of particular interest, an extensive newsletter is published regularly and a speakers bureau is maintained. A variety of research projects are facilitated through the Jewish Archives in the Barker Library and support is provided directly for projects such as “Virtual Restoration of Small-Town Synagogues in Texas.”

We are very proud of our organization and ask you to look us up and celebrate the joys of Texas history.