

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.