

Space and Place in Southern Jewish History

Southern Jewish Historical Society

47th Annual Conference

Houston, Texas, October 20–22, 2023

Co-host: Program in Jewish Studies, Rice University

All events will take place at Rice University's Anderson-Clarke Center unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, October 19 – Historical Galveston Tour (optional add-on event)

To join the optional event, please select the tour on the registration form by the September 15th deadline.

Tentative Itinerary (subject to change)

- 1:00pm:** Depart from the Hilton Medical Center by bus to Galveston
- 2:00pm:** Arrive at Ship to Shore/Seaport (Immigration history museum)
(<https://www.visitgalveston.com/blog/ship-to-shore-attraction-opens-at-galveston-historic-seaport/>)
- 3:15pm:** Depart for Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery
- 3:30pm:** Visit and tour the cemetery
- 4:15pm:** Go to Congregation B'nai Israel
- 4:30pm:** B'nai Israel visit — tour of building, hear Rabbi Cohen stories, learn about the community today, possible viewing of archival materials
- 5:30pm:** Head to Strand for dinner on your own
- 7:00pm:** Bus leaves to return to Houston at 8:00pm

Friday, October 20

8:30–9:30 am: Registration, Hudspeth Auditorium

9:30–10 am: Welcome Remarks

- Josh Parshall, Southern Jewish Historical Society
- Matthias Henze, Program in Jewish Studies, Rice University

10–11:15 am: Outside the Archival Boxes: Art and Oral Histories Enriching Jewish Studies Scholarship

Chair: Mark Goldberg

- Emily Williams, “We had to know who we were; we had to know who we weren’t: Jewish Race, Place, and Memory in the Deep South”
- Jillian Glantz, “Remember My Soul: Exploring the Jewish History of the Texas Borderlands Through Film”
- Gabrielle Lyle, “Conversations to Guide Us: A Reflection on Conducting Jewish Oral Histories in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands”

11:20 am–12:30 pm: Lunch on your own

12:30–1:45 pm: Documenting Texas in the Jewish Imaginary: Creative Musings on Space and Place in Southern Jewish History

Chair: Hollace Weiner

- Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, “Searching for the Dybbuk (in Texas)”
- David Biespiel, “A Place of Exodus: Memory and Meyerland”
- Suzanne Seriff, “My Grandfather’s West Texas Salvage Store: Prophetic Musings for 21st-Century Museums”
- Sandi Wisenberg, “Holocaust Girl in Meyerland”

2–3:15 pm: Concurrent Panels

Social Movements

Chair: Catherine Eskin

- Jerome Dotson, “‘Black and White Together’: Harry Golden, Interracial Cooperation, and Civil Rights Allyship”
- Andrew Sperling, “‘A Shattered Dream’: Southern Jewish Reactions to Klan Antisemitism in the 1920s”
- Ashley Walters, “Serfs, Slaves, and Socialist-Revolutionaries: Writing the American Civil War through the Russian Revolution”
- Stephen Whitfield, “Louis Lusky and the Defense of ‘Discrete Minorities’”

The Sephardic Diaspora: The Places Crypto-Jews Inhabited after the Expulsion

Chair: Cengiz Sisman

- Marie-Theresa Hernández, “Memory and Identity: Traces of Converso History in the American Southwest”
- Nancy Katz, “Colonial Mexico and the Crypto-Jews: Frontier Spaces Far from the Inquisition”
- Merrill Shapiro, “The South’s First Jews?”

3:30–4:30 pm: Beeber Family Lecture (sponsored by the Helen Stern Fund)

- Bryan Edward Stone, “Very Small Histories in a Very Big State”

4:30–5:30 pm: SJHS Board Meeting

6:00 pm: Shabbat Services

Congregation Emanu El – 1500 Sunset Blvd. (*buses leave at 5:30 pm*)

7:00 pm: Dinner and Memorial Tribute Program

Multipurpose Room, Congregation Emanu El (*buses return at 8:30 pm*)

Saturday, October 21

9–10 am: Shabbat services/text study, Anderson-Clarke Center

9–10 am: Walking tour of the Rice campus

10:30–11:45 am: Concurrent Panels

Roundtable: Civil Rights Tourism in the Jewish South: Notes from the Field

Nora Katz, chair and moderator

- Margaret Weinberg Norman, Melissa Young, Yvonne Holden, Ko Bragg, and Lance Wheeler

Childhood

Chair: Sarah Imhoff

- Anne Gessler, “The Sophie J. Gumbel Home for Feeble-Minded Girls and Shifting Understandings of Disability in New Orleans”
- Samuel D. Gruber, “Two Generations of Texas Jewish Girlhood: Flora Susnitsky Moskowitz (b. Brenham 1894) and Shirley Moskowitz Gruber (b. Houston 1920)”
- Pearl J. Young, “‘Month of Treason, Day of Sorrow, Year of Disunion’: A Jewish Family’s Commitment to Faith and the South”

11:45 am–12:45 pm: Lunch

12:45–1:45 pm: Dr. Lawrence J. Kanter Lecture

- Tyina Steptoe, author, *Houston Bound: Culture and Color in a Jim Crow City*

2–3:15 pm: Concurrent Panels

Architecture, Material Culture, and Print Culture

Chair: Samuel D. Gruber

- Laura E. Cochrane, “The Bezael Academy of Arts and Design and Defining a Jewish Space in Texas”
- Ellie Smith, “Good Bones: Tracing Nashville’s Jewish History through Architecture”
- Timothy Riggio Quevillon, “По-Русски: Louisville’s Jewish Community and Russian-Language Journalism in the Mid-South”

Immigration

Chair: Ellen M. Umansky

- Eric Goldstein, “Blazing a Trail: H.O. Gordon and the Challenges of Early Eastern European Jewish Settlement in Texas”
- Jeffrey Veidlinger, “Israel Zangwill, Jacob Schiff, and the Galveston Movement”
- Mimi Jessica Brown Wooten, “Making Space and Finding a Place in an ‘Era of Giants’: Rubin Morris Hanan and Ottoman Sephardi Migration to the U.S. South”

3:30–4:30 pm: Documentary Film Trailer and Q&A

- Barbara Rosenthal and Linda Levitt, *Grit and Grace: How Six Jewish Women Transformed Texas*

5:30–6:30 pm: Reception (co-sponsored by the Texas Jewish Historical Society)

Duncan Recital Hall, Shepherd School of Music

6:30–7:30 pm: Performance and Havdallah with Joe Buchanan

Sunday, October 22

8–9 am: Breakfast

9–10 am: SJHS and TJHS member meetings

10:30–11:45 am:

Roundtable: Activating the Archives: Embracing the Power of Southern Jewish Collections for the 21st Century

Suzanne Seriff, chair and moderator

- David Schulz, Nora Katz, Joshua Furman, and Bryan Stone

11:45 am: Closing Remarks

Hotels

Special rates are available with three hotels all within 10 – 15 minutes walking distance from the Anderson-Clarke Center, the conference site on the Rice University campus. Please use the link below to book, or call the phone number if you have any issues with the link. Please mention that you are with the Rice University's Jewish Studies Event group. **Reservations must be made by September 15th to access these rates:**

- Houston Marriott Medical Center / \$149 plus tax (*Hotel offers shuttle service to conference venue*)
 - [Click here to book](#)
 - (713) 796-0080
- DoubleTree by Hilton Houston Medical Center / \$139 plus tax (*Room with kitchen*)
 - [Click here to book](#)
 - (713) 528-7744
- Hilton Houston Plaza Medical Center / \$109 plus tax
 - [Click here to book](#)
 - (713) 313-4000

Restaurants and Shopping at Rice Village

Rice Village is a collection of shops, restaurants and pubs, situated about 1.5 miles west of Rice University's Anderson-Clarke Center. Please [click here](#) to access a list of restaurants.

Rice University Parking

For campus parking, **West Lot 5** is the closest parking lot to the Anderson-Clarke Center. Please see Rice University map on the next page for the exact location of the event venue and the parking lot. Anticipated cost is \$12/day.

