

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES



Heritage Association of Frisco

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Edition 3, Volume 4

Researching, Preserving, and Sharing Frisco's Rich History

COMING TO FRISCO

"The story of humankind is a story of migration."

Adam Strom is the Director of the Re-Imagining Migration Project and his quote above beautifully ties together so much of what Frisco has been historically and continues to be today... a community knit together over decades into a tapestry of migration stories.

This month, the Frisco Heritage Times goes behind the scenes of the Heritage Museum's newest exhibit, highlighting the history of Leo and Irma Wollenreich—one of Frisco's most compelling migration stories. The exhibit is titled "Fleeing to Frisco: How One Jewish Family Escaped Nazi Germany & Rebuilt Their Lives" and is now open to the public.

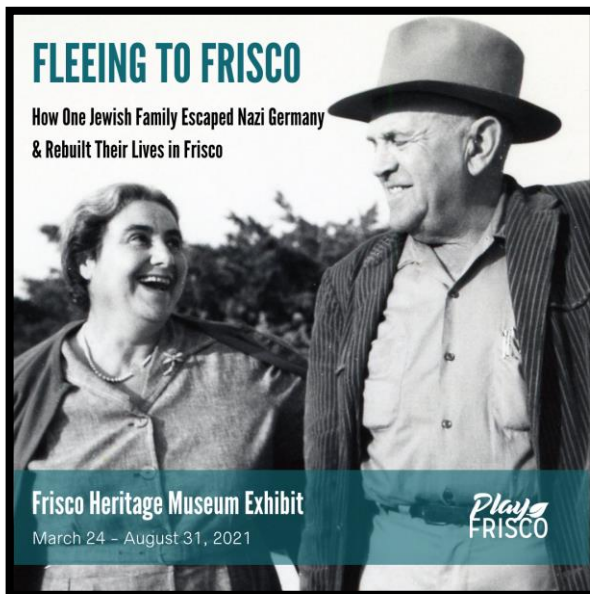


Photo Source: Play Frisco Webpage
<https://www.friscotexas.gov/1357/Exhibits>

Frisco Heritage Center Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday

We will explore the painstaking process of preserving the artifacts on loan from Jesse and Lupe Sanchez who were entrusted with many heirlooms over the years from Leo and Irma. And we'll dive deeper into the research process with our very own favorite history geek, Donna Anderson.

You will also get the chance to learn more about one of our newest HAF Board members, (and life-long Frisco resident) Mike Sanchez—who initially brought the Wollenreich collection to the attention of the Heritage Association.

MIGRATION IN MANY FORMS

It's possible that I missed this day in Honors History class (sorry Mrs. Loker—I promise you were a FASCINATING teacher!) but I never really connected the dots on how the words "emigrant," "immigrant," "migration," and "migrant" were related and yet different. Growing up in an Indiana farming community, I knew we had "migrant" workers who came in for the harvest season and then traveled south in the winter, but I didn't understand the different uses of words to describe people moving from one area to another. So here goes:

A person who relocates FROM one area has *EMIGRATED* from there. When they move TO a new area, they are an *IMMIGRANT* to the new area. If you think about it, most Frisco residents have migrated—either from another part of the US or an entirely different country!

FROM PHILLY TO FRISCO

Donna Anderson is one of Frisco's treasures—a Philly girl who migrated to Frisco in 2007, Donna's story is similar to many other Frisco residents who have arrived over the years. Whether people moved for work transfers, a desire to be closer to family in the area, or simply for improved opportunities, Frisco's moniker as the "fastest growing city in America" for the past two decades is due, in large part, to our newest neighbors like Donna.

When I asked Donna how much time she has devoted to the Wollenreich exhibit, she acknowledged that she kept a log to help the Heritage Association of Frisco track volunteer hours. Donna's enthusiasm and energy for the project has been tireless with more than 400 hours (so far!) logged on tasks including research, scanning, emailing, phone calls, and other errands related to the collection (like driving to Richardson to take the newspapers to a specialist for digitizing and photoshopping and going back to pick up the finished product).

"I don't keep track of the hours spent just thinking about the story when I should be doing other things...like sleeping!"

~Donna Anderson

Donna has worked on numerous other HAF and Heritage Museum projects before, but this one has satisfied a personal curiosity or itch she has had since her first days here in Frisco. Here she shares the story of her first exposure to the history of the Wollenreichs:

"When I moved here in 2007, I drove by the little old white house on North County Road and wondered about its history. I eventually heard about the Wollenreichs and the Sanchez family from Jane Whitledge. Then Rick Fletcher wrote a history of the house based on the recollections of old timers who knew Leo and Irma, which he shared on Facebook. I was fascinated. When I heard the Sanchez family had artifacts, I was intrigued. When I saw them for the first time, my inner historian did a tap dance of joy. (I try to restrain the outer historian from such public displays.) I knew we were looking at something extremely unique and really special.

*Wollenreich/Sanchez home
9880 North County Road*



Photo Courtesy of Rick Fletcher

To have the opportunity to study the letters, photos and artifacts was an absolute privilege. I wanted to be sure we understood as much as we could about Leo and Irma and their life in Germany prior to the events of Kristallnacht and their departure for the USA. As we learned more about their immediate and extended family, it became a much larger research project, but it gave us greater insight to their lives. Even though I never met them--and I sure wish I had--I feel like I know Leo and Irma. Their story will always be with me and as long as I'm alive I will share their inspirational story of leaving a life in Straubing, Germany where they were living in terror, to find hope and a future in Frisco, Texas."

PRESERVING FRISCO'S HISTORY... ONE HEIRLOOM AT A TIME

Continuing our behind-the-scenes tour of the Wollenreich exhibit, Donna Anderson shares how the artifacts were preserved once the museum received the items:

With a collection that large, where do you begin?

(Donna): The letters are all over 70 years old and in fragile condition, so the first order of business was to carefully unfold and place each item in archival sleeves. The same was true of the photographs. Some were in an album, but on acidic sticky paper, which can destroy the chemicals in the photos.



*Ani Simmons and Rayna Alam gently sort through the Wollenreich Collection
Photo Courtesy of Donna Anderson*

Those were removed and placed in archival sleeves, which also allowed us to access any writing on the back of the photos. Others were stored in cardboard boxes and had curled up over time. Those we put in archival sleeves and carefully weighted them down so they would flatten. Everything was scanned in high resolution, which would allow Rayna the opportunity to print large images for the exhibit.

The other artifacts were placed in acid-free boxes for storage until they were installed in the exhibit.

Once everything was safe from a preservation perspective, the real research began. I could not read the letters, but I could identify some German words that stood out. One date that jumped off the page of several letters was 9 November 1938. *Kristallnacht*. We knew Leo had been beaten up and taken to Dachau. We thought it might have been related to Kristallnacht but were not able to confirm it until we saw that date. Fortunately, that letter was typed, so I retyped it into Google Translate and was able to understand what it said.

A Moment in Time: Kristallnacht, November 9, 1938

Kristallnacht is the name used to describe the two-day period when Nazi's robbed, vandalized, and burned down 267 Synagogues across Germany, Austria, and parts of what are now the Czech Republic. Debora Hinderliter Ortloff explained in her 2016 Dallas Morning News opinion piece: "the glass from the windows of Jewish-owned businesses covered the streets in the aftermath, leading to the euphemism "Kristallnacht," literally, Crystal Night. On November 9th, Jews, especially young men, were jailed, publicly humiliated and in some cases killed. Meanwhile most ordinary citizens looked on in silence. The fire brigades worked to keep the flames from spreading to non-Jewish neighborhoods, but nothing more. *Kristallnacht* is considered one of the critical turning points leading to the Holocaust because the lack of protest by Germans to the brutality signaled to the Nazis that the path was clear for more violence."

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2016/11/10/on-this-anniversary-of-kristallnacht-we-must-not-be-silent/>

FOR THE LOVE OF FAMILY

The Wollenreich exhibit is a love story. Or, to be honest, it's actually two love stories. The first love story focuses on Leo and Irma's life together as they escaped the horrors of Nazi Germany and found freedom in Frisco Texas. That portion of the story is compelling reason enough to head to the Heritage Museum and soak in their heroic journey.



*Jesse Sanchez with Leo and Irma,
1955, Photo Courtesy of
The Sanchez Family*

But if not for the second love story, the first might have been lost to us forever. The second love story in the exhibit is the one shared between the Wollenreich's and the Sanchez family. That story shows us how caring for our neighbors can transform lives and can create family where none had existed.

How did this collection come to the museum?

Donna Anderson shared her excitement from the initial conversations with Mike Sanchez after he mentioned that his parents (Jesse and Lupe Sanchez) had letters, photos and other artifacts from Leo and Irma Wollenreich. She had high hopes that there might be enough content for a potential exhibit. "We asked if they might be willing to show what they had to the museum staff, Rayna Alam and Ani Simmons, and me. We were thrilled when they agreed," Donna explained.

When did you first see the items?

"January 12, 2021. I'll never forget it because that's when my interest level went from high to off-the-charts," Donna recalled. "It was astounding to think about what Jesse and Lupe Sanchez had saved. These were things that most other people cleaning out an estate would have thrown away. They couldn't read the letters written in German, but they knew Leo and Irma's story and assumed they were important. They were absolutely right."

Donna continued to recount that afternoon when the team first saw everything Jesse and Lupe had so lovingly saved from the Wollenreich's: "Rayna, Ani, and I were slack-jawed at the sheer volume of the collection and immediately recognized the importance of properly researching and sharing this story. We were thrilled when Jesse and Lupe agreed to loan the items to us."

And the rest, they say, is history.



*Mike, Jesse, and Lupe Sanchez meet with Museum
Research Team, January 12, 2021
Photo Courtesy of Donna Anderson*

UNLOCKING HISTORY—ONE KEY AT A TIME

As Donna and the team unpacked, preserved, and then catalogued the items from the Wollenreich collection, they realized there were gaps in the story they needed to tell. Each artifact was like a small key that unlocked yet another door into the history and mystery of Leo and Irma's incredible survival story. Here, Donna provides additional insight into their search and the discoveries they made:

What items stood out to you?

Donna: Is "all of them" a reasonable answer? There were newspaper articles with interviews that gave us some great information about Leo and Irma's background, a little about what happened to them in Germany, their journey to America, and other details that we were able to confirm through research.

In the collection is a pink yamaka. It had a name inside, "Randy Walter," along with a date and location. It was this little yamaka that helped us track down Randy, who is Leo and Irma's great niece. That was a game changer for my research.



Photo Courtesy of Donna Anderson

So, you found family members?

Yes! Randy connected us with her cousins—all great nieces and nephews of Leo through his sisters Selma and Jenny. Dan Walter was especially helpful as he had spent several summers here with Leo and Irma. He has some great stories about his time in Frisco. We hope to be able to record an oral history when he and his brother visit later this summer.

You seem to know a lot about Leo's family.

In order to understand who the people in the photos are and how they connect to Leo and Irma, I built out a family tree for each of them. We also needed to understand how the authors of the letters—and sometimes the receivers—related, too. Some of the letters are addressed to other people and we didn't understand how Leo and Irma came to have them. As it turns out, they would forward letters to each other—much like we forward emails today.

What else did you learn by building a family tree?

We were able to find out what happened to other members of the family. Leo's father made it out of Germany, Irma's mother did not. We also found out that two of Leo's uncles and several cousins died in concentration camps. I expected we would find things like that, but it was heartbreaking to actually find them.

In building out the trees, we also found the towns in Germany where the families were from and were able to access those town archives for information.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Leo and Irma's story begins half way around the world—far from Frisco's borders. Likewise, the process of researching and documenting their story also stretches far beyond our borders, taking on its own global reach and scale. In this last segment of the behind-the-scenes peek into the process of building the exhibit, we learn from lead researcher Donna Anderson just how deep, far, and wide the research team had to dig to hit history gold!

I understand you were in contact with archives in Germany and Israel.

Yes. Initially I was able to reach out to Elisabeth Böhner, who is a volunteer like me in Schweinfurt, Germany. She was a tour guide when Dan Walter visited with his aunt and uncle in the early 1990s. She has done extensive research on the Jews who were deported and murdered by the Nazis from the Schweinfurt area, which includes Niederwerrn, the town where Irma was born and raised. Elisabeth was able to provide details about Irma's mother, Luise Hesslein, that we would have never found otherwise, including her deportation number—213.

Elisabeth and I sent emails back and forth. As it turned out, I was able to provide information for her research, too. I was also, with permission from Jesse and Lupe, able to provide a photo of Luise to be used on a memorial site and possibly a book.

That's amazing! Who else helped you?

Elisabeth suggested I reach out to the State Archives in Straubing to see what else they might have regarding Leo and Irma, since that was where they lived. I wrote to the general email address and received a response from Dr. Dorit-Maria Krenn, who has been an invaluable source of information. Not only did she provide Irma's letters that she pulled from the Munich archives, but she was also able to transcribe and translate one of the letters written to Leo and Irma from their cook, Therese, after the war.

Dr. Krenn shared with Donna that Leo and Irma's story is just as important to Straubing as it is to Frisco. Donna provided scans of letters and documents to the Straubing Archives that filled in blanks they had about Leo and Irma. Dr. Krenn even took a walk through the town taking photographs of Leo and Irma's house as it looks today (photo right), the cemetery where Leo's mother is buried, and the family home that Leo lived in until his marriage to Irma.



*Photo Courtesy of
Dr. Dorit-Maria Krenn*

SLEUTHING FOR THE SHABBOS LAMP

When you think about your family's prized possessions, what are they? Are they treasured pieces of jewelry or artwork, passed from one generation to the next? A great grandfather's pocket watch? A great-great aunt's dressing table set? Sadly, some family heirlooms end up sold, or even donated, when younger members don't recognize or understand the importance of the item. But every now and then, the significance is remarkable and unmistakable. That is the story of the Shabbos Lamp.

Donna Anderson revealed that the research team learned about a very special Wollenreich family heirloom after reading about it in a 1975 newspaper article mixed in with the various archives. This heirloom was a Shabbos/Shabbat Lamp that had been in Irma's family for 300 years!

When Jesse and Lupe Sanchez shared the story of the Wollenreichs with the Heritage Museum's research team, Jesse mentioned the lamp and clarified that Irma's lawyer had come to the Frisco home and removed it from the ceiling after Irma died in 1988. Donna explained:

"No one seemed to know what happened to it after that. Randy Walter told me that she thought her cousin Dan had the ring that was also featured in the article and had belonged to his great-grandfather, Leo's father, Moritz Wollenreich. When I finally spoke to Dan, I asked about the lamp. As it turned out, the lawyer had sent the lamp to Dan and he eventually donated it to a Holocaust museum in Ohio, where he lives. I asked for a contact name at the museum and Rayna was able to get the lamp sent back to Frisco on a loan from the Temple-Tifereth Israel in Beechwood, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland."

Not every family preserves their heirlooms quite so tenderly but we are grateful to the Sanchez family for taking such good care of Leo and Irma's treasures, which has allowed us all to share in their beautiful culture and traditions.

HERITAGE COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT:



*The Shabbos Lamp
Photo Courtesy of
Donna Anderson*



Panoramic View of the Wollenreich Exhibit Photo Courtesy of Brad Sharp

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mike Sanchez

The Heritage Association of Frisco Board is elated and honored to have Mike Sanchez as one of our newest members. We wanted to give you a chance to learn more about Mike, not only because he pretty much single-handedly set us up with one of the coolest Museum collections ever with the Wollenreich exhibit, but because he has the distinction of being a Frisco native—a rarity on the HAF board! Here are some highlights from Mike's life here in Frisco—in his own words.

I describe myself as a native Frisconian born in 1965. Spent all my life so far in this community and I'm proud to call it my home. We lived on North County road close to Irma and Leo Wollenreich. My mother and Dad, Jesse and Lupe Sanchez, just finished telling the story of how they knew the couple, their escape from Germany and loaned many artifacts to the Frisco Museum that had belonged to them. I encourage everyone to visit the museum to learn about this exceptional Frisco family.

Music captured me when I was small listening to my mom sing in the car and at family gatherings where she, her brothers and sisters would sing and play guitars. It was my grandfather who taught me my first guitar chords.

My brother, Jesse, was already playing some and unknown to me had visions of playing in a band. When I showed an interest in playing he ran with the idea and got an electric guitar, a bass guitar, amps and a drum set.



*Budding guitar prodigy—
Mike at 3,
Photo courtesy of
Mike Sanchez*



*Mike and brother Jesse
Photo courtesy of
Mike Sanchez*

We practiced and played for about a year. I like to say our home was the first original school of rock in Frisco since friends would show up to learn to play, practice and have fun.

There was not much to do in Frisco for young people back then, but we hung out a lot at Snap E Jack to play video games, the skating rink, the snow cone stand, cruising up and down Main and driving to the lake in Little Elm to have some good times.

An interesting note about the snow cone stand is that later The SnowCone Lady became my wife.



*Mike and Mary Mathis Sanchez
(aka The SnowCone Lady), 1991
Photo courtesy of Mike Sanchez*

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Mike Sanchez, continued

Mike's contributions to Frisco and the HAF board are numerous—including using his musical talents to entertain visitors to the Heritage Village. We are fortunate that he and his band, Iron Horse Express (pictured right at the March Third Sunday event) have volunteered to perform for us over the years.

Here he shares a little more of his musical history:

My good friend James Harris (whose parents owned The Double Barrel Restaurant) lived out at Stonebriar. There were not many homes in the development at the time so we could jam and sometimes we would camp out in the woods nearby. James wanted to start a band and we all thought it was a great idea.



I was to play lead guitar, James was to be the drummer, my brother, Jesse, on bass guitar and James got Ricky Coulter to sing. We were all from Frisco and went to school together. We became The Rough Riders. If there was a school dance or party we would be called to perform. It wasn't long before we were playing in clubs while still in high school.

My brother graduated from school but James, myself, Ricky and his sister Tonya competed in the FFA talent state competition in San Antonio in 1983 (as seen in photo above).

In the following years I played in different bands to expand my musical abilities, from Mexican, Country, Blues, Rock and Roll and threw in some Cajun. One of the closest to me was another local band with all Frisco members. It was first called Rivers Edge with Ronny Spears, Russel Cunningham, Randy Rogers and myself. Opening for Willie Nelson at Beaumont Ranch was one of our highlights.

I played with the Penny Gilley band and traveled in Texas, New Mexico and South Dakota where we opened up for Loretta Lynn. I have had the chance to play with Ray Wylie Hubbard, Bugs Henderson, Pat Travers, Rusty Weir, Fog Hat, David Allan Coe and Preston Shannon at BB Kings in Memphis. I was invited on stage to play with Big Willey and The All Purpose band during Mardi Gras on Bourbon Street. Invited on stage to play in Hawaii and was then asked to play on a cruise in a couple of days but my flight home was before the cruise so I had to turn that one down...kind of hated to let that gig go.

(We're kinda glad you came home... who knows where you would be today if you had stayed on that boat!)



*Mike on the far right
with Iron Horse Express
Photo courtesy of Brad Sharp*

FROM THE KITCHEN OF IRMA WOLLENREICH

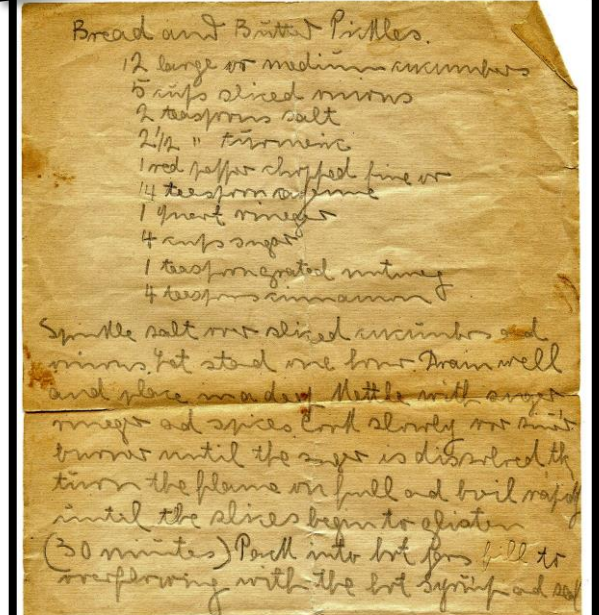
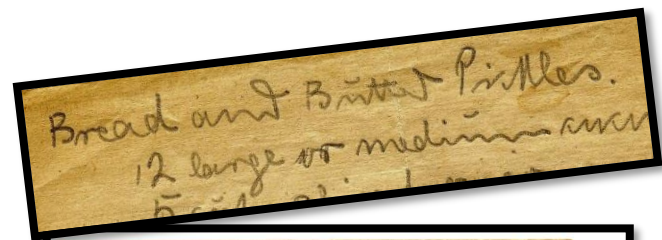
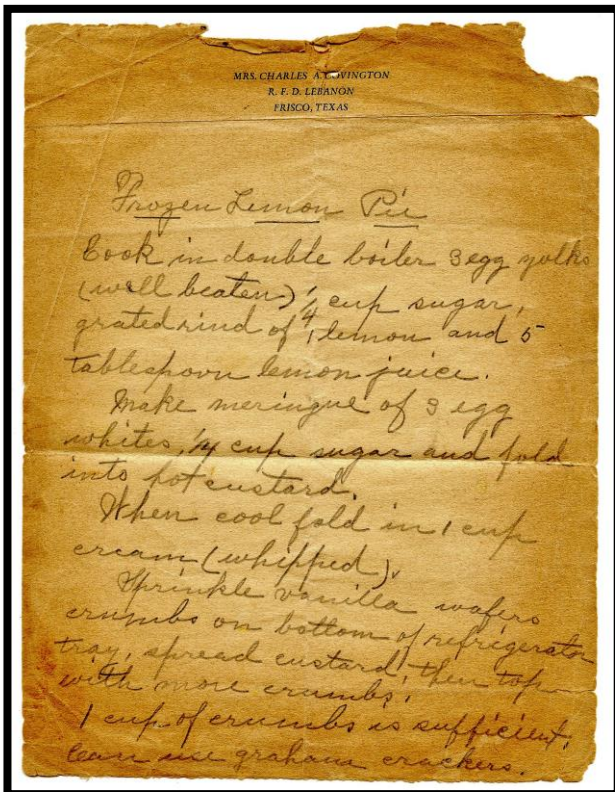


Leo and Irma Wollenreich, 1955,
Photo Courtesy of The Sanchez Family

Leo and Irma Wollenreich did not have children of their own but that didn't stop Irma from serving up plate after plate of cookies to neighborhood children. A Frisco Facebook Group dedicated to Frisco history and memories was recently flooded with fans of Irma's culinary creations—from pies and cookies to her delicious deviled eggs.

Irma's recipe book is part of the Museum's exhibit but we are fortunate to have copies of two of her recipes here—one for Bread and Butter Pickles and the other for Frozen Lemon Pie. (if you look closely at the Bread and Butter Pickle recipe, you can see an umlaut above the "u" in butter and elsewhere.)

Also notice the stationery used for the Lemon Pie. The recipe is written by Irma's neighbor in Lebanon—Mamie Crozier Covington. She most likely wrote it at the kitchen table in her home, which is now part of the Frisco Heritage Center. Can you just imagine Irma visiting with Mamie back when they both lived in Lebanon—sharing favorite recipes?

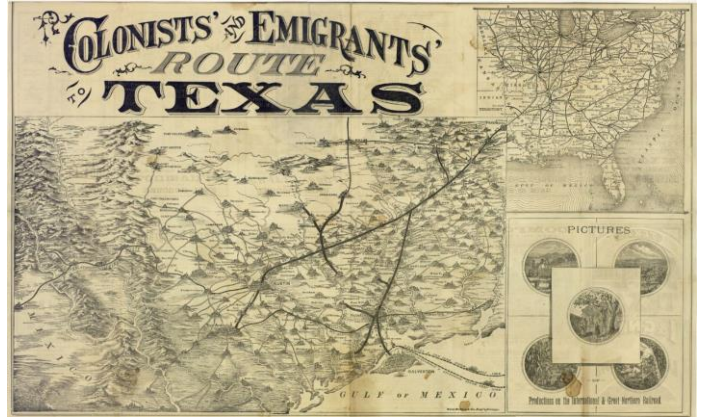


Recipe photos courtesy of
Heritage Association of Frisco

**Do you have an heirloom recipe handed down from generations in your family?
Share it with us on our Facebook page.**

MODERN DAY MIGRATIONS

Leo and Irma Wollenreich's account of fleeing persecution during WWII to come to Frisco is compelling and absolutely worthy of the recognition it has received. We also acknowledge that there are perhaps thousands of other migration stories around town today zooming up and down the DNT! Frisco, after all, was a town built by migration—teaming with people arriving from all over the country (and the world) to take their chances on the lots sold at auction back in 1902.



Colonists' and Emigrants' Route to Texas, Chicago: Rand McNally & Co., 1878, [Map #94033](#)

SOURCE: <https://medium.com/save-texas-history/colonists-and-emigrants-route-to-texas-3ff7f7ec1d6e>

Howdy Folks!

SOURCE: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/frisco-tx-population>

As my favorite Texas ambassador, Big Tex, likes to say as he greets visitors to the Texas State Fair, Frisco continues to roll out the welcome mat for fellow immigrants on a daily basis. Today, as Frisco prepares to reach a milestone population number of 225,000, our community continues to welcome and celebrate newcomers from all over the world. According to a 2019 US Census Survey, 77.22% of Frisco residents were born in the United States, with 37.72% having been born in Texas. 11.37% of residents are not US citizens. Of those not born in the United States, the largest percentage are from Asia. This migration pattern looks like it will continue until Frisco reaches total build-out, which is still a ways out. So be nice, wave, and maybe take a few minutes to learn your neighbor's story. You might just be inspired!

Finding Freedom

SOURCE: *Frisco—Now and Then, “An American – The Hard Way”*, Warren

One of my favorite stories Bob Warren tells in his book, *Frisco—Now and Then*, was about Chris Nguyen and his family. Chris was a refugee from South Vietnam, sponsored by the Catholic Charities back in 1978. Chris explains in the story that at the age of 20, he was one of the “boat people” who fled and headed to Malaysia temporarily before being sent to an orientation camp in the Philippines, where he stayed for nearly 3 years. While he was there, he was taught “the language, customs, laws and geography of our new home-to-be, the United States.” He arrived in the US in 1982, living and working in Iowa for a few years. After becoming a US Citizen in 1986, he learned about a beauty school in Garland, TX and decided to pack up and move to North Texas. He received his certificate AND met and fell in love with his wife during the program. Ultimately, they worked long and hard enough to open their own nail salon in Frisco in 2002—Glamour Nails! Bob was inspired by Chris' determination and his desire for freedom—for himself and his family.

OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND THANKS...

The Wollenreich exhibit would not have happened without the tireless efforts of the lead researcher Donna Anderson! And of course, thanks go to Mike Sanchez and his dear parents, Jesse and Lupe, for bringing the collection to the attention of the HAF!

Donna also shared some personal acknowledgements for the “team effort” that we want to pass along and add our appreciation as well.

From Donna A. :

In searching the Yad Vashem archives we found photographs that we needed to request permission to use in the exhibit and found another amazing resource for our questions. Also, the Jewish Genealogy website led us to another researcher in Tel Aviv who was able to guide us to other websites and archives to help with our search.

Aside from the international members, Rayna and Ani, and the Wollenreich descendants, we had some fantastic local help from a couple of my friends.

Anne Koehler is a native German speaker who helped me with some of the important hand-written letters deciphering the Sütterlin script and translating them.

Vickie Burns did a massive search for land records so we could trace Leo and Irma's investments here. She also pieced together the records for the land that Irma's cousin, Stephen S. Kahn, purchased in March 1941—just so Leo would have a confirmed job when he got to immigration and not be held back, like his cousin, Karl Wollenreich, was. Because of Vickie's efforts we know that Leo bought and sold nearly 400 acres between 1948 and his death in 1976. At the time of Irma's death in 1988 the remaining land holdings alone were worth \$2,000,000. That's impressive for a couple who arrived in Texas with 4 pennies in their pockets.



Wollenreich Exhibit Install
Photo Courtesy of Donna Anderson

Rayna Alam, Heritage Park Administrator, is pictured left with the Signarama team as they prep for the exhibit. Rayna also recruited her husband, Fardeen, (pictured left) to help on the project. They didn't log their hours, but Rayna said it took somewhere between 60 and 80 hours for the initial installation, and they're still adding to it!

PARTNERING WITH AMAZON!

You may already be familiar with the Amazon Smile program where non-profit groups can partner with the retailer, providing an opportunity for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon.



The Heritage Association of Frisco is set up as one of the organizations you can support with your Amazon purchases! You simply start at ***smile.amazon.com*** and you will still find the same Amazon you know and love, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases to HAF!

Signing up is easy!

Here is how to sign up for AmazonSmile:

1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials
3. Choose a charitable organization to receive donations, or search for the charity of your choice
4. Select your charity – ***Select Heritage Association of Frisco*** (location: Frisco, TX)

Start shopping!

Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

We will have more information in the near future introducing another exciting partnership with Amazon regarding our Heritage Association of Frisco merchandise.

Be on the lookout for that announcement in the next couple of months!

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES



CELEBRATIONS AND COMING ATTRACTIONS...



Third Sundays are BACK!



Photos Courtesy of Brad Sharp

It was certainly great to have a Third Sunday in person in March. We celebrated Frisco's 119th Birthday. We also celebrated the arrival of the first train to Frisco. The first train rolled into town on March 23, 1902. This was after an 8 day delay due to rain damage along the rail between Hebron and Emerson. Mayor Cheney honored the event with a Proclamation and blew the train whistle. It was a drop-in event and we were so happy to have more than 100 people in attendance. This was the first in person Third Sunday that we were able to have since the last one in February 2020. From cupcakes to proclamations, blacksmiths to train whistle blowin', and our very own board member Mike Sanchez' band, Iron Horse Express, playing on the porch, everyone had a great time! ~ Donna S.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our April Open House, Sunday April 18th from 1-4.

And remember our Member Meeting on April 12th at 7:00pm. Watch our Facebook page for details about programming for both.

From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

If you have not paid your annual dues, or you would like to support the work of HAF by becoming a member, please visit our website at www.friscoheritage.org. There are two ways to complete and submit your membership application.

1. Fill out and submit an [online application](#) at www.friscoheritage.org and pay through PayPal.
2. [Download](#), print it, fill it out and mail it along with your check to:

**Heritage Association of Frisco,
PO Box 263
Frisco, TX 75034**

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends,

Hello everyone. I hope that this finds you doing well. The HAF Board has been continuing to meet regularly on Zoom to work through this year and think about the future.

May is going to be a busy month for us. May is National Historic Preservation Month. Mayor Cheney will honor this with a Proclamation at the May 4, 2021 Council Meeting in Council Chambers. The Heritage Association of Frisco will be unveiling an Historic Marker for the Dr. I. S. Rogers house on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 2:00 PM. The house is located at 6991 Maple Street in the Old Donation. This neighborhood was bordered by Maple Street to the north and Hickory to the south, by County Road to the east and John Elliott to the west. Dr. Rogers purchased the lot for this house on February 7, 1902 from the Black Land Townsite Co. for \$115. Dr. Rogers was the first doctor in Frisco. He was elected Frisco's first Mayor on March 27, 1908 when the City of Frisco was incorporated.

There is a wonderful new exhibit at the Heritage Museum as highlighted in this month's Newsletter. Please make every effort to visit the Museum and enjoy this amazing story. Our country was built on immigration. The exhibit takes us along with the Wollenreichs on their journey from Nazi Germany to "Freedom" here in Frisco, Texas. The Heritage Association has applied for a grant to have their letters professionally translated from the old German Sütterlin script so we can continue the research on their story.

As always, I encourage you all to renew your membership and help us continue to research, preserve and share Frisco's rich heritage. If any of you have an interest in becoming more involved, please let us know. We are always looking for members to help us explore the past and imagine the future together. Please take care and be safe.

Historically yours,

Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco



Wollenreich exhibit radio that could pick up signals from around the world and allowed Leo and Irma to keep track of what was happening in Germany during and after the war. Photo courtesy of Brad Sharp

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