

## From the Editor



Hurricane Katrina brought thousands of evacuees from New Orleans to Houston. Many will stay, literally moved by the combination of difficulties in New Orleans and opportunities in Houston. The massive Mississippi River flood of 1927 produced a similar mass movement from parts of Louisiana to Houston; indeed, the news in the last month in Houston has

featured several “feel good” stories of the descendants of those who came to our city in the 1920s taking in relatives who have now become, at least temporarily, migrants to Houston.

The Katrina evacuees join many others in the past who have been pushed out of their former homes and have come to Houston to start new lives. This issue of *The Houston Review* contains articles on the migration to Houston of a generation of South Vietnamese refugees after the fall of Saigon in the 1970s, a group of Holocaust survivors after World War II, tens of thousands of African Americans fleeing the harsh rural poverty of eastern Texas and western Louisiana in the first half of the twentieth century, and a migrant worker from Mexico who ultimately made his way to Houston after decades of trips back and forth across the border in search of better work than he could find in Mexico.

It was no accident that these migrants and others ended up in Houston. The region offered opportunities and an openness to outsiders. For more than a century, the city’s dynamic economy generally has produced abundant jobs for professionals and industrial workers alike. First the railroads, then cotton and oil, then space and medicine presented a promise of upward mobility, if not for the first generation, at least for its descendants. Seeking a shelter from the storms of disasters and poverty, or simply looking to improve their personal options, millions of people from throughout the nation and around the world have made the move to the Houston area over the last 170 years. The city in which we live today has been shaped by their presence. This issue seeks to put a human face on the experience of coming to Houston.

### ON THE COVER—Clockwise from top left:

*Holocaust survivor Louise Joskowitz (looking out the right window) on a train in Germany, waiting to be transported to the ship that would bring her to the U.S.*

*Louise holding her infant daughter, Pepi, on the ship to America.*

*In 1949, Holocaust survivor Morris Penn (right) left Europe behind, boarded a military ship all by himself and came to Boston. He then took a train to Houston and arrived August 16, 1949, wearing his nicest clothing—a wool suit. He was greeted upon his arrival by relatives who took him in for a month before he set off on his own to start a new life.*

Courtesy Holocaust Museum Houston

*Louise gazing out at her first stop in America—the Port of New Orleans. Upon arrival, Louise and her husband, Rubin, took a train directly to Houston.*

## Upcoming Issues:

### Historic Preservation

We are now accepting article submissions and ideas for the spring 2006 issue on “Houston & Historic Preservation.” This edition of the magazine will focus on the various ways that the preservation of historic structures has shaped the physical, social, and economic landscape of the greater Houston area. We are interested in stories that address diverse matters ranging from threatened buildings of historical significance to sites saved and restoration successes.

### The Arts in Houston

We are also accepting article proposals for an upcoming issue on “The Arts in Houston.” The magazine plans to consider how the strong prevalence of artistic endeavors in Houston has contributed to and enriched the city’s cultural diversity. The editors are interested in articles that address all areas of the arts—from visual and performing to public and private to avant-garde and traditional. We welcome your ideas for stories or interviews and encourage you to contact us at the addresses listed below.

### COMMENTS...QUESTIONS...IDEAS...

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