

Look to the rock from which you were born

הביטו אל-צור חצבתם



# chicago jewish historical society

618 South Michigan • Chicago, Illinois 60605 • Telephone: (312) 663-5634

## society news

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1984

### APRIL 8TH MEETING FEATURES CHANGES IN DIRECTIONS OF LOCAL JEWISH LIFE

#### Rabbi Ralph Simon Will Discuss Developments over Two Generations

One of the area's most respected religious leaders and a rabbi whose Chicago experience goes back to the Nineteen Forties will be the featured speaker at the Spring meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Rabbi Ralph Simon of Congregation Rodfei Zedek will discuss "The Changes in Direction of the Chicago Jewish Community during the Past Forty Years."

His talk, to be given at 2 PM at Spertus College, 618 South Michigan Avenue, on Sunday, April 8, will be preceded by a 1 PM social hour at which refreshments will be served. The public is invited free of charge.

#### Long First-Hand Experience

Rabbi Simon, who has been in the Rodfei Zedek pulpit since 1943, is well qualified by first-hand experience to talk about changes affecting local Jewish life. More to the point, however, is his reputation as a keen observer of and sage commentator on Jewish affairs locally, nationally and internationally.

An important leader in Conservative Judaism, Rabbi Simon is a graduate of City College of New York, Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. The latter institution has honored him with the degree of doctor of divinity and a distinguished service award and has established a professorial chair in his name in Jewish ethics and mysticism.

#### Active in Jewish Civic Life

In addition to his many efforts here and elsewhere on behalf of conservative Judaism, Rabbi Simon is active in local Jewish communal life and has served on the Illinois Board of Mental Health Commissioners and the Chicago Commission on Human Resources.

"Rabbi Simon is a speaker who will stimulate our members to examine the last forty years of local Jewish life and to check whether his perceptions of change agree with their own experience," said Program Chairman Burt Robin.

#### Nominating Committee at Work On New Slate for Society

Members of the nominating committee are currently at work seeking officers and directors to lead the Chicago Jewish Historical Society in the next few years. As her two-year term as president draws to a close, Rachel B. Heimovics has appointed a committee chaired by Sol Brandzel, a Society founder and longtime director who currently heads the Chicago Board of Education.

Sol's committee consists of Muriel Robin, founding president; Dr. Adele Hast, a past president; and the current treasurer, Norman Schwartz. The committee will present to the annual meeting in June a slate of officers for a two-year term and of directors to replace those whose three-year terms expire this year.

Suggestions may be sent to the chairman at 330 Diversey Parkway, Chicago 60657.

## SOCIETY WILL CO-SPONSOR SUMMER SEMINAR ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

### Meetings To Feature Practical Instruction on Seeking Family Roots

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Chicago Jewish Historical Society will co-sponsor the Fourth National Seminar on Jewish Genealogy on July 22-25, 1984. The seminar, to be held at the Holiday Inn in Evanston, will offer a diversified program of speakers, tours and workshops as well as on-site experience at libraries in the Chicago area for persons interested in researching family histories.

One of the highlights of the seminar will be the keynote speaker, Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern. Rabbi Stern is a noted genealogist and author of First American Jewish Families, a genealogical compilation of America's early Jewish settlers.

#### Stern To Discuss Jewish Migration

He is also the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York), former president of the American Society of Genealogists and a founding board member of the Jewish Historical Society of New York. Rabbi Stern will address the seminar on the topic "Jewish Migrations through the Ages: a Framework for Jewish Genealogy."

Another featured participant at the seminar will be Zachary M. Baker, librarian of the Yiddish department at the Jewish Public Library of Montreal, Quebec. Mr. Baker will hold workshops on Yizkor (Memorial) Books and on how to obtain Canadian Jewish vital records.

#### Emphasis on Practical Techniques

Special emphasis will be placed on practical applications and techniques of genealogical research for the beginning as well as for the advanced family historian. The final program, listing additional speakers, workshops, site visits and fees will be published in the next issue of Society News.

To obtain a registration form and other details as soon as they are made available, write to Judith R. Frazin, 1025 Antique Lane, Northbrook, Illinois 60062.

--Janet Hagerup

## President's Message

### LOOKING FORWARD TO A FULL SCHEDULE FOR SPRING AND SUMMER

This season marks the beginning of the Society's eighth year. And this issue of Society News is the first for 1984 and for our eighth year. As with all new years, we can look ahead and make certain assumptions and anticipate with good feelings our planned events.

#### A Busy Year Ahead

We look forward to our April 8 program featuring Rabbi Ralph Simon. Another program, planned for Sunday, June 3, will be announced. There will be our summer bus tours of Jewish Chicago, now a standard offering by CJHS. And we especially look forward to welcoming participants to the American Jewish Historical Society's national conference in May and the Fourth National Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in July.

#### How Important Records Disappear

On the other hand, we also know that during the year ahead, there will be a few congregations and organizations that will either move to new facilities or close their doors permanently. This happens every year. Sometimes we are alerted in time to save archives. Sometimes we learn too late that in the move archival treasures have been destroyed.

So I am asking the help of all of our members. Please keep us informed. If you hear of any congregational or organizational moves in our community, any closures, any mergers, call us. The archives we collect are placed in the Chicago Jewish Archives, housed in the Asher Library of Spertus College. We have people who will make the appropriate contacts--and others who will physically go into a building and box up and write an inventory of records, photographs, files and other memorabilia.

#### Can You Work with Us?

We especially welcome calls from our members to tell us they will assist in the collection of archives.

Call the office, 663-5634, or Elsie Orlinsky, Archives Chairman, 643-9666.

--Rachel B. Heimovics

## EXHIBIT AT SPERTUS MUSEUM FEATURES 300 YEARS OF JEWISH LIFE IN DENMARK

### Members Attending April Meeting Can See How Danes Saved Jews

A major exhibit of art, photographs and ceremonial objects relating to three centuries of Jewish life in Denmark has opened at the Spertus Museum of Judaica and can be viewed by those attending the CJHS meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 8 at Spertus College.

Titled "Kings & Citizens: The History of the Jews in Denmark, 1622-1983," the exhibit will be open through May 20. The show also commemorates the 40th anniversary of the nationwide Danish effort in which 7,000 Jews were smuggled out of the country before they could be captured by the Nazis during October, 1943. Along with photos and documentation of the rescue, the exhibition includes a fishing boat that was actually used during the secret evacuation.

"Kings & Citizens" presents a 300-year history of the Jewish community in Denmark, including the development of the magnificent Hebraica Collection of the Royal Library in Copenhagen. This special group of portraits, ceremonial objects, paintings, (including several examples from "The Golden Age of Danish Painting"), textiles and documents was collected during the reigns of kings Christian IV, Frederik III, Frederik VI and Christian X. Several extremely rare examples of Judaica are included in the exhibition. A 1709 Torah curtain from Fredericia, for instance, is the only known example largely composed of block-printed linen. There is also a set of wimpels (Torah binders presented to a synagogue in commemoration of the birth of a male child) that bear a painted likeness of King Frederik VI and are the only known wimpels to incorporate a portrait of royalty.

The Spertus Museum of Judaica is located at 618 South Michigan Avenue in Chicago. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for senior citizens and children; admission is free on Fridays. Exhibition hours are: Monday through Thursday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Friday, 10 AM to 3 PM; Sunday, 10 AM to 4 PM.

The "Kings & Citizens" show is being mounted at the invitation of the Danish Government Committee for Cultural Exchange

as part of the "Scandinavia Today" arts program. Its Chicago showing is also made possible by grants from the Illinois Arts Council and Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Following its Chicago visit, the exhibition will travel to Washington, D.C.

### The Story Behind the Rescue Of Danish Jews from Nazis

"It is important to put the rescue of Danish Jews during World War II into perspective. It was not a 'miracle,' but rather the response of an enlightened and humanitarian Danish society that characterized 300 years of cooperation," said Arthur Feldman, director of the Spertus Museum of Judaica.

In September, 1943, a German shipping expert stationed in Nazi-occupied Denmark informed a Danish politician of the impending roundup of Danish Jews. The message was passed covertly through the Jewish community, and Jews immediately sought refuge in the attics and basements of Danish homes. On the night between October 1 and 2, during the observance of the Jewish New Year, the Nazis struck. Expecting to find the Jews at synagogue or at home, they discovered instead that their victims had vanished.

Over the next several weeks, in a clandestine rescue operation involving a makeshift fleet of fishing boats and rowboats and the cooperation of large numbers of the Danish population, more than 7,000 Jews (practically the entire Jewish population of Denmark) were evacuated to sanctuary in Sweden.

This testimony of determination--by the Danes, who actively refused implementation of Hitler's "final solution," and by the Swedes, who offered to accept Denmark's entire Jewish population--will be illustrated in the "Kings & Citizens" exhibition through photographs, documentary materials, audio-taped description of the rescue by survivors and one of the actual fishing boats used in the rescue. The objects included in the show were drawn from the collection of the Freedom Museum, Copenhagen, and other holdings.



Max Targ

## SOCIETY RECEIVES RECORDS OF GROUP PROMOTING MUSIC IN ISRAEL

### Chicagoan Max Targ Gives AMLI Files to Chicago Jewish Archives

Thanks to Max Targ, Chicago businessman and philanthropist, the Society has secured for the Chicago Jewish Archives the files and papers of the Americans for a Music Library in Israel. These constitute the full record of a unique charitable institution based in Chicago throughout its twenty-six-year history.

AMLI, as the organization was known, was founded by Targ and his late wife Fannie in 1950, shortly after Israel was founded. Its purpose was to provide the new and struggling nation with the musical resources necessary for music to play a creative role in the culture of the country. It solicited donations for the purchase of musical instruments, tapes and recordings, sheet music and music books and publications from all over the United States.

#### Organization Received Wide Support

Because Max Targ was a well-known music materials wholesaler, he was able to secure gifts from manufacturers, publishers and other music dealers as well as enlist the support of prominent musicians throughout the world. Many Chicagoans assisted him in his efforts, and he himself gave very generously.

The result was that in its more than a quarter-of-a-century existence, AMLI not only provided instruments and equip-

## CLASS REUNIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES OF INTEREST TO CJHS MEMBERS

The following reunions and anniversary celebrations may be of interest to Chicago Jewish Historical Society members:

Roosevelt High School class of 1950 is planning a reunion. Those interested in helping with planning or attending should call Manny Weincord at 539-0211.

Marshall High School class of June, 1945 is planning a fortieth anniversary reunion. Call Nan at 675-0866; Lorraine at 262-3110, or Irma at 634-1603.

Hirsch High School classes of 1938-39 have scheduled a reunion at the Holiday Inn Alsip for June 30. Contact Max Axelsson at 361-5693.

Von Steuben High School classes of 1965-66 are planning a reunion. For information call 674-5022 or 539-6136.

Glenbrook South High School class of 1969 is planning a fifteenth anniversary reunion for the fall. Call Debbie Poynter at 480-9113.

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ment for scores of Israeli municipalities, schools and orchestras but also created nine major music libraries that played a vital role in the spread of music education and music therapy.

#### Targ's Efforts Produce Success

During virtually its entire existence it was given office, warehouse and shipping space at Targ's place of business. His leadership was continuous and vital. Its seed work largely completed, AMLI disbanded in 1977.

"Israel's international excellence in the field of fine music is well known. Less well known are AMLI's and Max Targ's contributions to this excellence," said Moselle A. Schwartz, a CJHS founder who persuaded Targ to contribute the files to the archives. "Now the record of these contributions will be preserved."

#### Files Now in Archives

The records were received by the Society at the end of 1983 and were processed by Moselle and Janet Hagerup under the direction of Archives Chairman Elsie Orlinsky. They are now in the Chicago Jewish Archives at Spertus College.

## FULL SCHEDULE FOR SPRING, SUMMER MAKES MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL VITAL

Readers are reminded that renewals of memberships in the Society must be completed soon in order to remain in good standing.

"Since Society memberships expire at the start of the year, just about all members should have been paying their 1984 dues during the past two months," said Treasurer Norman Schwartz. "Those who have not yet done so should pay within the next several weeks to insure staying on our mailing lists and retaining the many benefits of membership."

### Advantages of Membership

Members receive copies of Society News, meeting notices, discounts on summer tours and purchases at the Spertus Museum Store and free or reduced admission to certain events of Jewish historical interest.

"This year, with both the American Jewish Historical Society and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois having conferences in Chicago in conjunction with the Society, CJHS membership is more valuable than ever before," Schwartz said. "Be sure not to let it lapse."

### Use Coupon on Page Eleven

Dues may be paid using the coupon on page eleven of this issue of Society News or the renewal forms recently sent in the mail. Regular annual dues begin at \$15.00 with senior citizens and students paying \$10.00. A full schedule of dues categories appears on page twelve of this issue.

# **society news**

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Editor . . . . . Irwin J. Suloway

### Editorial Board

Marian Cutler, Rachel Heimovics,  
Mark Mandle, Burt Robin, Sidney Sorokin

## CHICAGO HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY IN MAY

### CJHS Plans Tours, Will Hold Reception; Local Volunteers Sought

Members of the CJHS will have an opportunity to become actively involved in the presentations, exhibits and tours planned for the National Conference of the American Jewish Historical Society to be held in Chicago in May.

The conference, arranged by the AJHS with the assistance of the CJHS, will be held on Saturday evening, Sunday and Monday, May 12-14, at the Chicago Historical Society building and at Spertus College.

### Active Role for CJHS

Events hosted by the CJHS will include tours of Jewish Chicago led by Leah Axelrod and Dr. Irving Cutler and a wine and cheese reception for registrants given by CJHS Sunday.

Other highlights of the conference include the opening address by Professor Arya Goren, of Hebrew University at Jerusalem, on Saturday at 8:00 PM in the Historical Society Auditorium and various academic presentations at Spertus College on Sunday and Monday.

### Local Volunteers Sought

It is expected that CJHS members will be permitted to attend the conference upon payment of the reduced registration fee charged members of the conference sponsor, the American Jewish Historical Society. CJHS President Rachel B. Heimovics urges members to volunteer for hospitality and other conference activities. Possible volunteers should call the Society office at 663-5634 or Janet Hagerup, coordinator of volunteers, directly at 491-0054.

Additional conference registration information will be sent to each CJHS member.

The American Jewish Historical Society, founded in 1892, is the oldest ethnic historical society in the nation. It is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts, in a building that includes a museum, library and archive. Several Chicagoans are members of its executive council.

## LIST INDIVIDUALS INCLUDED ON TAPES IN CJHS ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

Ongoing Project Involves Interviews  
As Well as Recorded Speeches

From its very beginnings the Chicago Jewish Historical Society has had an ongoing project of taping interviews with persons whose reminiscences add to the rich and variegated record of local Jewish history. Now, after eight years of efforts the oral history program includes more than seventy long-playing tapes in which individuals share their experiences and knowledge of Chicago Jewish life in bygone days.

Most of these were interviews, some of them extended, with famous or not-so-famous persons whose lives intersected with events or movements affecting local Jewish life. Many are available for immediate hearing by interested persons; others, by agreement, cannot be shared for a specified number of years but constitute a record which will ultimately become available to the scholars and the public.

Some Are Prepared Remarks

The December, 1983, Society News discussed the development of the oral history program under various chairmen which have included Adele Hast, Mark Mandle, Curtis Melnick, Moselle Schwartz and Sidney Sorkin.

Most of the tapes were made in the

presence of a CJHS interviewer, although some are recordings of speeches made at CJHS meetings and a few were recorded before the Society was founded and later given to the organization by Chicago Sinai Congregation.

Help Needed To Transcribe Tapes

Very few of the tapes have been transcribed into typescript thus far, although such transcription would make them more readily available. The Society seeks the assistance of members who have access to a typewriter and would be willing to assist with transcribing tapes. "These volunteers would be doing the Society a real service and adding to their own knowledge at the same time," said Oral History Co-Chairman Adele Hast. Interested members may contact Dr. Hast at 256-5768 (evenings) or leave a message at the CJHS office, 663-5634.

Listed below alphabetically are the names of individuals whose reminiscences or remarks are now on tape as part of the oral history program. Whenever possible there is also an indication of the major areas covered by the speaker; an (M) indicates remarks recorded at a CJHS meeting.

The Society also has tapes made at meetings or reunions of the Mariampoler Aid Society, the Chicago Home for Jewish Orphans, Tuley High School Class of 1931-2 and some CJHS meetings at which prepared speeches were not given.

<u>Interviewee or Speaker</u>	<u>Topics Discussed</u>
Eli Aaron	Law, American Jewish Congress
William Adelman	Jewish Workers (M)
Sam Ashley	
Leah Axelrod	Maxwell Street (M)
Ann Barzel	Culture in Lawndale (M)
Arthur Berman	Politics (M)
Rabbi Howard Berman	Emil G. Hirsch (M)
Charles Bernstein	Early Jewish History (M), Publications about Jewish Chicago (M)
Sam Bernstein	Politics
Joseph Block	Economics
Milt Block	Fish Dealers
Charles Bournstine	Civil War
Sol Brandzel	Labor; Education in Chicago
Mandel Brin	Pharmacies, Early Jewish Life
Isadore Brown	Law
Howard Carroll	Politics (M)

DIRECTORY OF CJHS ORAL HISTORY TAPES [Cont'd]

Dr. Irving Cutler	Jewish History (M); Maxwell Street (M)
Laura Fermi	The Atom Bomb
Dr. Morris Fishbein	Medicine
Eva Fruman	National Council of Jewish Women
Rabbi David Graubart	Conservative Beth Din (M); Family Life (M)
Rabbi Morris Gutstein	Local Jews in 1900 (M)
Dina Halperin	Yiddish Theater (M)
Pearl Hart	Law, Civil Rights
Rhoda Hauptman	Chicago Jewish Novelists
Rachel Heimovics	Jewish History (M); Maxwell Street (M)
Harry Heller	Jewish Athletes (M)
Philip Heller	
Ed Heizler	Mariampoler Verein
Lillian Herstein	Labor, Education
David Hirsch	
David Kind	Theatrical World
Esther Kopstein	
Moshe Kraus	Chenstochower Verein
Sonia Kurs	Mariampoler Verein
Herbert Levy	KAM Temple History (M)
Rabbi Oscar Lifshutz	Jewish Chaplains (M)
Cantor Phil Lind	Jewish Music
Richard Marcus	Publications about Chicago Jews (M); Archives (M)
Rabbi Simeon Maslin	KAM Temple History (M)
Curtis, Jane & Sam Melnick	Englewood Jews (M)
Rabbi Leonard C. Mishkin	Jewish Education
Pearl F. Paradise	Mariampoler Verein
David Passman	Mariampoler Verein
Herbert Prauer	German Refugee Congregations (M)
Mort & Ruth Rich	Mariampoler Verein
Bertha Read Rissman	Hadassah and Zionism
A. Abbot Rosen	Anti-Defamation League
Michael Rosenberg	Jewish Family Clubs (M)
David Rosenthal	Steel Workers
Bella F. R. Schmid	National Council of Jewish Women
Kurt Schwerin	Contributions of German Refugees (M)
Oscar Shabbat	Education, Junior Colleges
Rabbi Mark Shapiro	National Council of Jewish Women
Judge Seymour Simon	Law and Government
Meyer Solomon	
Sidney Sorkin	Local Vereins
Herman Spertus	Philanthropy and Jewish Education
Evelyn Stein	National Council of Jewish Women
Rabbi Malcolm Stern	Jewish Genealogy (M)
Bernard Wax	Jewish Historical Societies (M)
Dr. Rolf Weil	German Refugees in Hyde Park (M)
Diane Weiner	National Council of Jewish Women
Rabbi Victor Weissberg	
Frances Wisner	
Ethel & Rose Wolf	Mariampoler Verein
Congressman Sidney Yates	Government and Politics
Isadore Zitlin	

(M) indicates that the tapes are of prepared remarks rather than interviews.

## FEBRUARY MEETING LOOKS AT THE CULTURAL LIFE OF LAWNSDALE WHEN IT WAS JEWISH

### Ann Barzel Reminisces about The Roles of Education, the Arts

Ann Barzel, regarded by the "greats" in the dance as one of the most knowledgeable critics and responsible authorities in the United States, was the guest speaker at the February 19 open meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Her subject was "Cultural Life in North Lawndale When It Was Jewish." Here follows a summary, without the personal flavor, of her remarks:

North Lawndale was a two-square-mile area bounded by Ogden, Crawford, Taylor and Douglas Boulevard into which Jews from the Near West Side came, expressing their upward mobility. It became Jewish, beginning in 1910. Most Jews moved out in the Fifties. Certain values and needs which were reflected in the way of life and in the institutions made the area unique.

#### Religious Institutions Came First

The first thing the Jewish people did was to build their synagogues, both mid-rash and Hebrew schools. The synagogues were often organized by vereins. Hebrew schools were true places of learning, not just "bar mitzvah factories." Great cantors like Yossele Rosenblatt came for the High Holy Days.

Barzel taught eighth grade at the Penn School. There were 3200 Jewish children with interested parents and no truant officer. Children were serious about learning.

#### Education and Americanization

From the grade schools, the boys and girls went to Marshall High. They brought with them their Jewish values--the importance of family life and of education. In addition to grade and high schools, there was night school which was a "must" because, besides being Jewish, everyone wanted to be an American. For those who wanted more, the Hebrew Theological Seminary was nearby.

It was at the Douglas Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library where Ann remembers checking out books from Golda Meir, who asked her many years later, in 1972,



Speaker Ann Barzel received an "apple for the teacher" from former students at February meeting.

--Photo by Moselle Schwartz

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in Israel, "Tell me, is Silverstein's delicatessen still there?"

#### The Movies: A New Form of Entertainment

Balaban and Katz built the Central Park Theatre (it was the prototype of the movie "palace") for the new form of entertainment, a combination of stage show and cinema.

The Marks Nathan Jewish Orphans' Home was in North Lawndale. The youngsters said it was better than a foster home. They had lessons in drama and dancing, theatre at Central Park every Saturday, and ice cream three times a week from the Goldenrod Ice Cream Company.

The B.M.Z. (Beth Moshav Z'keinim) home for the aged was fondly called "Bubbe mit Zeyde." The greatest place of all was the JPI (Jewish People's Institute). It was a beehive of activity with a gymnasium, swimming pool, 800-seat theatre for plays and concerts, a beautiful roof garden, and rooms in which there were night classes for learning English, Boy Scout meetings and Junior Hadassah meetings among others.

#### Yiddish Theatre Flourishes

The Yiddish theatre was an important part of the life of North Lawndale. There were four Yiddish theatres and eight Yiddish vaudeville houses in Chicago.

"The Yiddish theatre of New York took to realism before its Broadway theatres ever discovered realism. Yiddish was very

[Continued on Page 9]



From the Archives

WARTIME HEBREW SCHOOL REPORT

SHOWS TREND TOWARD BAS MITZVAHS

Among the thousands of items in the Chicago Jewish Archives at Spertus College Library are ones touching virtually every aspect of life in Chicago. Included are individual family items, records of Jewish communal groups, synagogue records, reminiscences, photographs, newspaper accounts and programs of public events--to name just some of the variety.

From time to time Elsie Orlinsky, longtime CJHS archives chairman who spends much time sorting and cataloging contributions to the collection, calls attention to items which because of their content are of special interest or reveal particular aspects of local Jewish history. Periodically such items will be printed or described in issues of Society News.

The item chosen by Mrs. Orlinsky for this issue is, on the surface, a routine document--a report of a Hebrew school committee chairman to his congregation. However, this report is unusually interesting because of its wartime nature (it was written in January of 1944) and because it reflects the then new trend toward Bas Mitzvah ceremonies for girls.

This is my report as Chairman of the Hebrew School:

The Hebrew School is progressing through another successful season. The enrollment reached a peak of 33 and now has 31 regular pupils. This compares with a peak of 28 last year. There will be six Bar Mitzvahs this year. This is an especially notable season because three girls are in the school and next year should allow us to enjoy three Bas Mitzvahs. We have two boys, nine and one-half years old and every encouragement should be given to the early enrollment of boys and girls.

The High School is virtually self-sufficient financially and much of the credit is due to Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ for her leadership, teaching ability and business sense. Our only regret

is that her desire to be with her soldier husband requires her to take leaves of absence but that is one of the hardships of war, in which even the Hebrew School must share.

The congregation involved, South Shore Temple, was a Reform congregation founded in 1922 at 7215 South Jeffery Boulevard by Rabbi G. George Fox. It built a large new sanctuary shortly after World War II, but the drastic change in the neighborhood thereafter led to abandonment of that site. It lives on through Congregation Kol Ami at 233 East Erie Street, which was founded by former South Shore Temple members and has the ark designed by Milton Horn for the latter congregation.

Additions to the Chicago Jewish Archives are welcome and may be made by calling Mrs. Orlinsky at 643-9666.

I.J.S

Barzel on Lawndale [cont'd]

[Continued from Page 8]

suitable for theatre; it grew up with living people. You can be more tender in Yiddish, more tragic in Yiddish."

The landsmanshaften and vereins instituted the "benefit performance which was very important to the survival of the theatre. The troupes were very innovative; they did both serious plays and comical ones like Shmendrick from Lake Shore Drive.

Contributions to Today

Miss Barzel finished by saying, "That was the old West Side. I have mentioned some of the things that went on....You don't have to glory in them or gloat about them, but we know there would not be a today if there had not been a yesterday. We are what we are for all our yesterdays."

As a token of love, members of her class of 1943 from Penn School presented her with a huge, highly polished red apple.

She then asked for people to come up to "testify" about their experiences. The enthusiastic audience responded with its memories of North Lawndale and the Yiddish theatre, expanding on Miss Barzel's excellent narrative.

The meeting was held at Spertus College and was preceded by refreshments served during a social hour.

--Norman and Moselle Schwartz

## PANEL DISCUSSES MAXWELL STREET AS CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE

### December Meeting Featured Four of Society's Own Historians

An unusually large crowd flocked to the Chicago Historical Society on December 4 to hear a CJHS panel discussion on "Maxwell Street Revisited" and to view two photographic exhibits devoted to the street in its days as a Jewish center and later.

The panel, composed of active CJHS members who have made a variety of contributions to the study of local Jewish history, focussed on the period from the Chicago fire in 1871 through the depression years of the 1930's, when Maxwell Street lost its Jewish flavor.

#### Topics Discussed by Panel

Under the guidance of Moderator Charles Bernstein, Leah Axelrod discussed how Maxwell Street developed into a "ghetto" for other ethnic groups before becoming Jewish, Irving Cutler talked about how the surrounding area developed into a location for Jewish-owned businesses as well as the site of a famous street market, and Rachel Heimovics spoke of the growth and change of a variety of Jewish institutions which centered in the Maxwell Street area.

Following the formal presentations, members of the panel answered questions from the audience and several of those present added information about the area based on first-hand knowledge. The meeting was developed by Program Chairman Burt Robin in conjunction with the Chicago Historical Society's exhibits and series of programs devoted to Maxwell Street during the fall of last year.

#### First Jointly Developed Activity

"We were especially pleased to be able to join with the Chicago Historical Society in the presentation of this program," said CJHS President Heimovics. "We hope that the December meeting is merely the first of a series of co-operative endeavors between the two societies, both of which have an abiding interest in local history."

--I.J.S.



Dr. Irving Cutler, Rachel Heimovics, and Leah Axelrod at the December meeting. --Photo by Moselle Schwartz

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### Past President Hast Reads Paper At American Historical Association

Adele Hast, a past president of CJHS, presented a paper on American leadership at the recent annual meeting of the American Historical Association in San Francisco. Dr. Hast's paper examined changes in the background, education, chosen professions and experiences of the relatively few persons chosen because of their leadership for inclusion in editions of Who's Who in America during its more than eighty years of publication.

Currently a board member of the Society and specially active in its oral history program, Dr. Hast is editor-in-chief of Who's Who in America. Prior to assuming that position she served as a research historian at Newberry Library. Her doctorate in history is from the State University of Iowa.

### Society Welcomes New Members

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society welcomes the following new members who joined during the month of February:

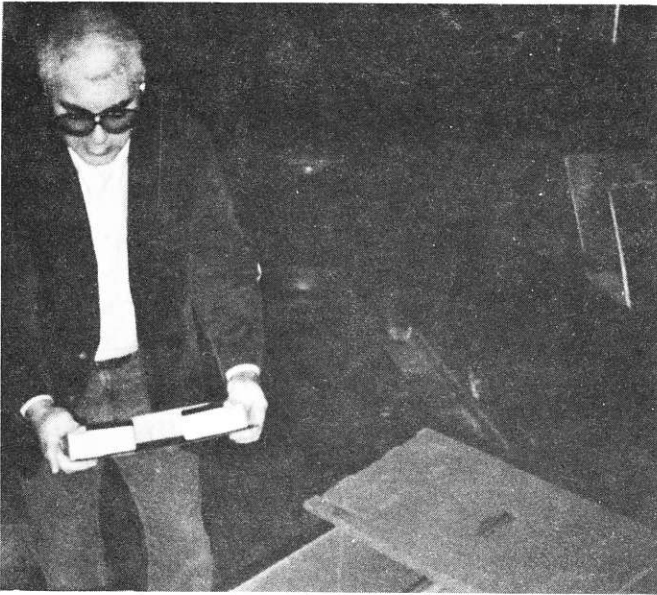
Mrs. Betty Feldman  
Mr. Harold N. Friedman  
Mrs. Florence Goldberg  
Mr. Alan Grafman  
Mrs. Freya B. Maslov  
Mr. Kurt and Mrs. Anna Uhlmann  
Dr. Sherwyn and Mrs. Irvina Warren

--Marian Cutler  
Membership Chairman

## Shrine for Jewish War Dead Seeks Memorabilia of Servicemen

Most CJHS members are probably unaware that there exists in Washington, D.C., a National Shrine for the Jewish War Dead which is interested in records and memorabilia of any Jew, living or dead, who has served in the U.S. armed forces. They are urged to contribute to this repository of Jewish servicemen's contributions to American war efforts.

The museum, chartered by Congress and administered by the Jewish War Veterans, is particularly interested in photographs of people in uniform, personal correspondence and diaries related to military service, commendations, and even discharge records. If you have suitable materials you wish to contribute to the Shrine's permanent collection, send them to Colonel S. J. Pomrenze, Archivist, National Shrine for the Jewish War Dead, 1712 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., 20009.



Ira Berlin packs Kehilath Jeshurun records for archives

--Photo by Moselle Schwartz

## ALBANY PARK CONGREGATION CONTRIBUTES RECORDS TO SOCIETY FOR ARCHIVES

### Member Alerts CJHS to Opportunity To Secure Kehilat Jeshurun Data

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society recently received extensive archives from a historic Albany Park conservative congregation, Kehilath Jeshurun Synagogue, 3707 West Ainslie. Impetus to acquire these materials came from Society member Janette Woods.

Other members, Ira Berlin, Richard Marcus and Moselle and Norman Schwartz, visited the synagogue, which was founded in 1939, to collect and pack the materials for transfer to the Chicago Jewish Archives at Spertus College. John Heimovics took extensive photographs of the building interior for the archives. The collection will be processed by CJHS before being placed in the archives.

Volunteers are being sought from among our membership to assist in processing. If you are interested in this work, call Janet Hagerup evenings at 491-0054. No special experience is necessary.

Archives Chairman Elsie Orlinsky expressed thanks to Janette Woods for her initiative in seeking the Kehilath Jeshurun archives for the Society and urged other members to be on the lookout for possible future additions.

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Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my 1984 dues. (\$15.00 regular; \$10.00 senior citizen or student; \$25.00 institutional or sustaining; \$50.00 patron; \$100.00 sponsor) Dues are tax-deductible.

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JOINING THE SOCIETY

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to Society News, discounts on other Society publications and at the Spertus Museum Store, information about Society meetings and other activities, and the opportunity to learn and inform others concerning Chicago Jewish history and its preservation.

Membership in the Chicago Jewish Historical Society is open to all interested persons and organizations. The membership year is from January to December; however, non-members may join at any time. Information concerning dues appears in the next column.

Committees currently active and seeking members include Oral History, Archives, Exhibits, Photography and the Speakers Bureau.

Requests for additional information and membership inquiries may be addressed to our office (Phone 663-5634). We welcome your membership and active participation.

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