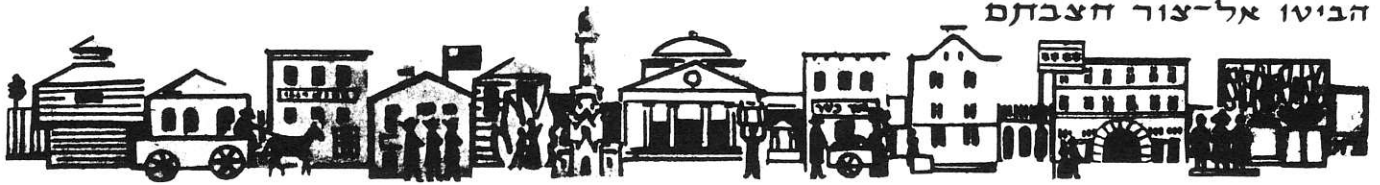


Look to the rock from which you were hewn

הביטו אל-צור הצבתם



chicago jewish historical society

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

society news

VOL. V-No. 1

MAY, 1981

SUNDAY AFTERNOON - JUNE 7TH, 1981

You and your friends are invited

ANNUAL MEETING

The Election of members of the Board of Directors

Introduction of new officers for 1981-82

PROGRAM

"SIXTY YEARS WITH THE MISHPOKHE: THE PINCUS ROSENBERG FAMILY SOCIETY"

PRESENTED BY

MICHAEL ROSENBERG

The Pincus Rosenberg Family Society is one of the few enduring of the once numerous local Jewish family clubs. Pincus Rosenberg, who died on Chicago's Northwest Side in 1919 at the age of 109, had a deathbed wish that his family keep together. Now, sixty-two years later, his descendants continue to meet regularly, and his great-great grandson, Michael, secretary of the Society, will talk about his Mishpokhe.

AND

"MISHPOKHE: A STUDY OF NEW YORK CITY JEWISH FAMILY CLUBS"

WRITTEN BY WILLIAM E. MITCHELL

REVIEWED BY

MARK MANDLE

C.J.H.S. Board Member, Librarian and student of genealogy

AT

BEDERMAN HALL - SPERTUS COLLEGE OF JUDAICA
618 So. MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO

1 P.M. - SOCIAL HOUR

2 P.M. - MEETING & PROGRAM



THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In the December Society News we wrote about our Oral History project. This month we report on another major activity - - publications. The publications projects are new and just beginning to unfold. In July, 1980 the Board voted to undertake a program of publications: reports of outstanding Society meetings, reprints of important works in Chicago Jewish history, and printing of new research in local Jewish history.

The Publications Committee immediately went to work, and the first product of their efforts has been mailed to our membership and is available for purchase. It is the report of the Society's symposium, The German-Jewish Emigration of the 1930's and Its Impact on Chicago--a most exciting debut for the publications program. We are proud of this fine first publication, and would like to share with you some of the complexities behind the attractive and informative monograph.

Behind the deceptively simple appearance of this pamphlet lie the co-operation and effort of numerous people, each engaged in a different essential task. The talks themselves, taped by the Oral History Committee, provided the raw material. During the summer, the tapes were transcribed, and the speakers invited to approve the transcripts. The text then underwent the fine tuning of an expert editor to convert the spoken, informal speeches to a readable, suitable-for-print manuscript. The Publications Committee chose photographs to accompany the text; these had been taken by the Oral History chairperson at the meeting itself. The manuscript next went through several typings and page proofs by the printer, each proof-read and corrected by the editor of the manuscript and associates.

Finally, the monograph went to press. It took the efforts of several Society members, working together and in sequence, to convert the spoken words to the printed book. We congratulate them on the admirable results, and look forward to their next efforts.

As the year of activities draws near its close, we look back over the trail we have followed. The year 1980-81 has been a good one for the Society.

Our bi-monthly programs covered a wide range of topics: Chicago Jewish politics, the development of landsmanschaften, the Metro History Fair exhibits in local Jewish history, a retrospective on the Englewood community, and tour of the Pinchas Rosenberg Family Club. We have made many friends at these meetings, with record-breaking attendance - sometimes exceeding 300 people.

The publications and archival programs that we planned at the beginning of the year made important strides. We issued our first publication, described in the above paragraphs. Judging by the enthusiastic response of members and other readers the initial press run will soon be gone!

The Archival Committee launched a major project, with a letter to virtually every Jewish organization and synagogue in the area. We informed them that we would collect their records and memorabilia for processing and deposit it in the Chicago Jewish Archives at the Spertus College Library.

My term of office draws to a close along with the year. I feel fortunate indeed to have been part of these exciting and worthwhile projects. Behind each of the accomplishments lie much devotion and hard work by a dedicated board. Other projects not discussed here have also been in progress: historic bus tours, exhibit planning, oral transcriptions. Without the efforts of active members, these achievements would not have been possible.

Leadership now passes to the Society's new president, Muriel Robin and to Executive Vice-Presidents Doris Minsky and Sid Sorkin. You already know of their earlier contributions to the Society. We congratulate them and wish them well as the Society continues its programs and moves into new projects to preserve and present our Chicago Jewish heritage.

ADELE HAST

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 7, 1981

The membership of the CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY is hereby notified that the annual meeting of the members shall be held on Sunday, June 7, 1981 at 2:00 p.m. at Bederman Hall of Spertus College of Judaica, 618 So. Michigan Avenue at Chicago, Illinois.

At said meeting the directors of the Society shall be elected. The nominating committee of the Board of Directors has named the following persons to be elected for the terms set forth above their names:

For three year terms:

Leah Axelrod	Kenneth Singer
Dr. Irving Cutler	Shirley Sorkin
Mark Mandle	Sidney Sorkin
Dr. Edward Mazur	Jerry Temaner
Elsie Orlinsky	

Continuing Board Members and their unexpired terms:

For two year terms:

Roberta Bernstein	Dr. Curtis Melnick
Sol Brandzel	Doris Minsky
Sally Goldsmith	Burt Robin
Sara Jacobson	Moselle Schwartz
Emma Kramer	

For one year terms:

Charles B. Bernstein	Rachel Heimovics
Ruth Brandzel	Richard Marcus
Shaina Pearl Cohn	Muriel Robin
Judah Graubart	Norman Schwartz
Adele Hast	

The nominating committee also recommends that the following members of the board shall be elected as officers of the Society for terms of two years:

PRESIDENT	Muriel Robin
EXEC. V. PRESIDENTS	Doris Minsky
	Sidney Sorkin
VICE PRESIDENTS	Chas. B. Bernstein
	Ruth Brandzel
	Norman Schwartz
TREASURER	Mark Mandle
RECORDING SECRETARY	Shaina Pearl Cohn
CORRESPONDING SEC'Y.	Burt Robin
AJHS LIAISON & PUBLICITY	Rachel Heimovics
SPERTUS LIAISON	Richard Marcus

WE ANNOUNCE WITH SPECIAL PRIDE

- NEWLY PUBLISHED -

The Report of the Symposium held at Congregation Ezra-Habonim on November 18, 1979 entitled:

THE GERMAN-JEWISH EMIGRATION OF THE 1930'S AND ITS IMPACT ON CHICAGO

Copies of this monograph, the first to be published by our Publications Committee, are available from our office. Please send check with your order.

members' price -	\$2.50
non-members	\$3.50

* * * * *

THE CHICAGO JEWISH SOURCE BOOK \$6.95

by Rachel Baron Heimovics

This compendium of current information has 225 subject categories, with a comprehensive directory beginning with Archives and ending with Zionism.

The author is a freelance writer, a founding board member of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, a member of the executive council of the American Jewish Historical Society, and liaison between the two Societies.

THESE BOOKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT OUR JUNE 7th MEETING

look to the rock from which you were hewn
הביטו אל-צור חצבתכם



chicago jewish historical society
618 SOUTH MICHIGAN . CHICAGO , ILLINOIS . 60605

SOCIETY NEWS is published by the CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
618 So. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Phone: (312) 663-5634

President.....Adele Hast
Editorial Board.....Sidney Sorkin,
Roberta Bernstein, Marion Cutler,
Mark Mandle, Burt Robin

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Bernstein:

. . . .

IN OUR MAILBAG

PLEASE SEND YOUR "ROOTS -
JEWISH STYLE" TALE TO OUR
MAILBAG - WE'LL BE HAPPY
TO PRINT IT

Dear Sirs:

Last Sunday (Feb. 8, 1981) my son took me to your meeting (featuring Metro History Fair participants). I was especially impressed because I lived in South Chicago and attended Bickur Cholim for 47 years. My husband, Hyman Mendelson (who was one of ten children) made his Bar Mitzvah there; also my two sons, Burton and Kenneth, stood on the same Bema as their father to make their Bar Mitzvahs.

Because I enjoyed the meeting, I would like to join and am enclosing my check. The Mendelsons were on Commercial Avenue for 76 years, from 1899 to 1975. For sixty years, from 1910 (when my husband entered) until 1970, there was always a Mendelson at Bowen High School. My son Burton still attends the services at Bickur Cholim on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Yours truly,
Ethel G. Mendelson
Chicago, Illinois

P.S. The Mendelsons owned the building at 8909 Commercial Ave. from 1906 when it was built until 1972 when it was sold. I, myself lived there for 40 years.

Dear Treasurer:

Just saw a copy of your Society News. Your organization sounds so interesting that I'm enclosing a check for a contributing membership. My own Chicago roots are pre-Chicago Fire.

Sincerely,
Alice Solovy
Skokie, Illinois

(Ed. note: We answered the above letter, expressing our interest in the writer's pre-Chicago Fire roots." The following letter is her reply.)

I've enclosed a summary of the family tree. If all the descendants of those listed were included, it would stretch for several pages (information that I can get if you really want it. In asking my father about it, he said that he didn't mind, that as far as he knew there were no horse thieves in the family!)

Some of the migration patterns were pretty interesting, though. A great-uncle of mine, Samuel Pearl, once told me that his grandparents came here first from Lithuania, then the grandchildren, then his parents. His sister, Rose Pearl Meltzer, was the one who talked her parents into coming to the U.S. They were timber merchants who were reluctant to lose everything to come here. However, they did when their daughter was able to successfully convince her parents that they could lose all they had at any moment anyway due to the hostile conditions surrounding them. As a teen-ager, Great Uncle Sam with a brother of his took his grandmother rowing in Lincoln Park. As she wore an old-fashioned lace cap, it must have been an interesting blend of old world and new.

My great-grandfather, Maier Rosenthal, entered the United States by way of the Great Lakes. After living in Chicago for a while he moved to New York, where he married my great-grandmother, Antoinette Metzler Rosenthal. They moved to New Jersey, where their first child was born, then back to Chicago.

My great-great-grandparents, Isidor and Jenny Marcus, lived in Milwaukee before the Civil War, later living in Chicago. My great-grandfather, Julius Marcus, fled the Chicago fire, again returning to Wisconsin. He married my great-grandmother, Emma Teweles Marcus, there. Their sons were born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The return move to Chicago occurred because there were no facilities for Jewish education for their sons. Today, almost a century later, there is a synagogue in Oshkosh and there are Marcuses (unrelated to us) there. Rumor had it that Isidor and Jenny Marcus had been buried in Lincoln Park when it was a cemetery, then later reinterred. Jenny Jonas Marcus had a relative who was a court physician to one of the German Kaisers.

As a child, I always found the tales of my older relatives interesting. Whenever I uncover a new "old" fact and spring it on my younger siblings, I'm greeted with groans and raised eyebrows. I guess I've earned the nickname "Family Historian!"

Thanks for your interest.

Sincerely,
Alice Solovy

MAILBAG CONTINUED

Attention: Elsie Orlinky,
Archives Chairperson

Regarding the 1892 kindergarten class picture of Jewish Manual Training School (in Dec., 1980 issue of Society News):

My mother attended that school from 1891 or 1892 to 1894 or 1895. She was 9 years old in 1981 when she arrived in Chicago with her mother. They came from Sevey (near Suwałke), Russ-Poland as it was called then. My mother referred to the school as "Jewish Training School." She studied English, German, arithmetic and (perhaps) American history. Her teacher's name was Miss Shoets. My mother's maiden name was Bertha Bernstein.

My mother's German school papers were on exhibit at the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

Jeanette Scheckman
Skokie, Illinois

P.S. There was a Jewish Manual Training School alumni association. Annual meetings were advertised in the Chicago newspapers. The last meeting I recall was 10 years ago (approximately).

(Ed. note: This is the kind of response we love to hear from our readers. If anyone else has any further information regarding the JMT School, let us hear from you.)

WHO WAS FIRST?

We are seeking information out of our past. Who was the first Jewish blacksmith, public school or cheder teacher in Chicago? Who was the first pharmacist, alderman, dentist, judge? There was a baker, a plumber, a candlestick maker, a carpenter and a merchant who was the first Jewish one in Chicago.

If you have any information about any Jewish firsts in Chicago please write to our Society office: 618 So. Michigan Ave Chicago, IL 60605. We'll print answers in future issues of our Society News.

* * * * A SPECIAL DAY * * * *

2nd annual

GREATER CHICAGO JEWISH FOLK ARTS FESTIVAL

Sunday, June 14, 1981

from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

at

Centennial Park - Evanston
Church Street & Sheridan Road

(in case of rain: The Alumni Gym
Loyola University - Devon & Sheridan Rd.)

This Festival will feature:

On Stage I:

- *Dina Halpern (Yiddish Actress)
- *Debbie Friedman (Singer-composer)
- *Fred Holstein (Folk singer)
- *Sasha Nanus (Mime)
- *"Eclectricity" (Klezmer trio)
- *Dance Groups

On Stage II:

Special programming for Children
at 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30

Featuring:

- *The Emmes Puppets
- *Tiny Tov

Art Fair - works of local artists
will be on display

Ethnic Food (Kosher)

and

A Free Shuttle Bus from the
Davis Street CTA Station

Don't miss the CJHS information booth

- See you at the FESTIVAL -

SPERTUS MUSEUM STORE

OFFERS

10% DISCOUNT

TO

C.J.H.S. MEMBERS

UPON PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP CARD

"GHOST TOWN: THE ENGLEWOOD JEWISH COMMUNITY"



At the April open meeting of the C.J.H.S. on Sunday, April 12, 1981, Board member Dr. Curtis C. Melnick, his wife, Jane, and their son, Sam, presented a program entitled: "GHOST TOWN: THE ENGLEWOOD JEWISH COMMUNITY." More than 300 persons attended this slide-talk program at Temple Emanuel.

Curtis and Jane, who were both raised in Englewood and spent their formative years attending public and Jewish schools in the community, presented many facts about the entire community of Englewood and especially about the role of the small Jewish group within it. The growth of Englewood as a large commercial center in the 1910's and 1920's and its appearance today were graphically illustrated by 150 slide photographs taken by Sam and co-ordinated with the text.

They told of the origins, vibrant religious life, and demise of the two Jewish congregations in Englewood, the orthodox First Englewood Congregation B'nai Israel, familiarly known as the "Aberdeen Street Shul," and Congregation Oir Chodosh, which called itself a Conservative Congregation, although it was never affiliated with the Conservative movement. Some of the history of the Rabbis and officers of the two congregations was also presented.

Jane interspersed facts with delightful anecdotes concerning members of her family who were active in the community and at Congregation Oir Chodosh. She also spoke of other Jewish institutions supported by the community.

Curtis traced the origin of Englewood as a railroad center from its beginning in the 1860's to its rise as an outstanding commercial center in the first two decades of the 20th century, and its gradual demise as a viable community for Jews in the 1940's and early 1950's.

One of the delightful aspects of the afternoon was the presence of many former residents of the Englewood Jewish Community who not only were delighted to see and hear incidents about their own lives, but were gratified at seeing friends and acquaintances whom they had not seen for many years. At the conclusion of the program photographs were taken of some of the former Englewood people who were present. Many of these photos will appear in a future publication of our Society.

FROM THE SINAI TEMPLE BULLETIN: 120TH ANNIVERSARY ARTICLES

April 7, 1981 marked the 120th anniversary of CHICAGO SINAI CONGREGATION. In commemoration of this milestone anniversary this historic Chicago synagogue is printing short articles of historical interest in its bulletin. They have given us permission to share these articles with our readers. The first two of these articles are reproduced below.

**1981 - SINAI CELEBRATES ITS
120th ANNIVERSARY YEAR**



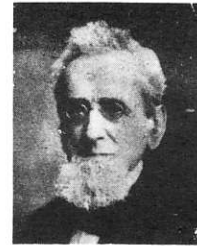
On April 7, 1861, Chicago Sinai Congregation was officially established as the first Reform Jewish Congregation in Chicago. On June 21, 1861, Sinai dedicated its first house of worship - a frame, one-story building located on Monroe Street between Clark and LaSalle. In 1871, this building was destroyed by the fire that engulfed the greater portion of the City of Chicago.

Following the fire, the Congregation worshipped in Martin's Hall at 22nd and Indiana Avenue for five years. It was on Sunday, January 15, 1874, that Sinai held its first Sunday Service which the Rabbi, Dr. Kaufmann Kohler, introduced as an additional weekday service. The Sunday Service has continued uninterruptedly for one hundred seven years.

Sinai built and dedicated the Temple at the corner of 21st Street and Indiana in 1876. In March, 1912, the building at 46th Street and Grand Boulevard (now Martin Luther King Drive) was completed and dedicated.

On March 3, 1950, Sinai's present structure and fifth house of worship in its 120 year history was dedicated.

It is our hope that during the year 1981 which marks the 120th Anniversary of Sinai's beginning, the Bulletin will publish short articles of historical interest.



Bernhard Felsenthal
Rabbi — Chicago Sinai Congregation
1861 - 1864

Bernhard Felsenthal was born in Germany in 1822 and came to America in 1854. As a student in Germany he was introduced to rabbinic and talmudic literature, studies which remained a passion with him throughout his life.

At the time he settled in Chicago in 1858, there were only two Jewish Congregations in the city - Kehillath Anshe Ma'arav (KAM) and Kehillath Bene' Shalom - both orthodox. He was one of the founders of the "Jüdischer Reformverein". On Sunday, June 20, 1858 at 3:00 p.m., nine men, of which Bernhard Felsenthal was one, met in the office of Greenebaum Brothers (45 Clark Street) and organized the Jewish Reform Society.

In a pamphlet on the early history of Sinai published in 1898, Dr. Felsenthal wrote of this first meeting — "We are so exact in giving time and place, for on this day and in that meeting, the first foundation stones were laid for the Sinai Congregation. We are perfectly justified when we say that June 20, 1858, was the real birthday of Chicago Sinai Congregation." It was at this meeting that he presented his twenty-seven propositions or "theses" as he called them, in which he stated clearly the objectives for which, in his opinion, a reform body should strive, and the spirit that should mark its endeavors.

When Chicago Sinai Congregation was officially established in 1861, Dr. Felsenthal became its first Rabbi and guided the congregation through its first three years of existence. In 1864 he declined re-election and became Rabbi of Zion Congregation in Chicago where he continued to serve for twenty-three years.

Dr. Felsenthal was one of the founders of the Jewish Publication Society of America and of the American Jewish Historical Society. He was one of the first Reform Rabbis to favor participation in the Zionist Congress in Basel in 1897 and was active for many years in the Federation of American Zionists.

During his lifetime Dr. Felsenthal wrote several important books on Jewish lore and over two hundred and fifty articles and essays. He died in Chicago on January 12, 1908.

THE SYNAGOGUE THAT WOULD NOT DIE

BY

IRMA ROMERO & ELSA SALAZAR

Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim is a Jewish Orthodox synagogue located at 8927-29 S. Houston Avenue in the southeast side of Chicago. Bikur Cholim, the original congregation at this site, was issued a charter by the State of Illinois in July, 1888, and the City of Chicago issued a permit in May, 1902, to construct a synagogue at the present address. The building was finally completed in 1903.

The synagogue has had various difficulties surviving. The chief obstacle has been its declining membership. This decline was due to the fact that the Jewish population of South Chicago has steadily moved away over the years, and when the Black population began moving into the surrounding neighborhoods, a "white flight" occurred among the Jews. They moved north, especially into the northern suburbs.

Despite the loss of the majority of its membership, the remaining members of the congregation, because of sincere devotion to their synagogue, have struggled to keep it alive. An example of their low membership is that at a service we attended there were only nine men. However, Orthodox Judaism requires a minyan of ten men. Consequently, a local merchant's son was contacted to be the tenth member. He willingly accepted.

It is interesting to discover that this synagogue has been forgotten by many important historical Jewish books. It was omitted from the latest edition of the Jewish Directory of Chicago. The lack of information on this synagogue is puzzling. Since it is the oldest building in the city of Chicago continuously operating as a synagogue, it should be expected that it be given special recognition in major Jewish history books of Chicago. Instead, it is largely forgotten by them.

Most of the residents of the predominantly Latino neighborhood do not know that Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim is a Jewish synagogue. They walk by it without realizing that it has survived only through the faith and perseverance of its members.

For all logical reasons this synagogue should have died along with the other Jewish institutions in the South Chicago area, but it did not. Its members are determined to keep it alive. So far they have succeeded, through trouble and hardships, but succeeded nevertheless. It will be interesting to see if the synagogue survives during the next ten years.

Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim was the first synagogue designed by the architect Alfred Alschuler,¹ who was at that time working with Dankmar Adler and Associates. Mr. Alschuler continued his work with religious buildings and thus became one of the most renowned designers of synagogues and churches in the United States. This was one of the first public buildings built without any obstructing support posts. The style of the building is Romanesque, which is descriptive of a design using arches and vaults. Furthermore, the acoustics in the building are excellent.

Since the building was completed in 1903, it has held regular services every Saturday and Sunday. This is the longest period of continual religious services in one location in any synagogue in the city of Chicago.

The synagogue was remodeled in 1928. Many large 8 X 12 ft. stained glass windows were replaced by glass brick. The facilities in the kitchen and social halls were updated. During the early 1920's, a steam heating system was installed to replace the conventional pot-bellied stoves that were the original heating source.

By 1972 Bikur Cholim was having financial difficulties. The congregation of Agudath Achim, located at 7933 S. Yates, had just sold its facilities because of the dispersing of its members into other parts of the city. It purchased the Bikur Cholim synagogue and joined the remaining membership of the two congregations into one. The synagogue has continued in operation as the congregation of Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim.



ELSA SALAZAR and IRMA ROMERO authors of this article, pose with CHARLES K. GOLDBERG, president of Congregation Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim of South Chicago. The authors, students at Bowen High School, wrote this paper under the guidance of faculty advisor Carlos Tortolero. They presented it and a graphic presentation at the 1980 METRO HISTORY FAIR where they were awarded 2nd prize. Elsa and Irma and other FAIR participants spoke and displayed their projects at our February Society meeting.

photograph by Moselle Schwartz

The congregation today holds about 15 families compared to the 500 families it had during its highest enrollment. The average age of its membership is 70. The majority of the people who still attend the services are very old due to the fact that the younger members of their families have married and moved away. We learned that the Jews in this community began to move northward in the early 1940's from a source that predicted that, "If the Black population should continue to move straight south, the Jewish population in this area will probably try to move into South Shore. If the Black population should be able to move across Cottage Grove, most of the temples, synagogues and Jewish institutions located only a few blocks east of Cottage Grove would become a Black area."²

Today, the majority of people who live around the synagogue are Catholic of Mexican birth or ancestry. The Jewish people who attend this synagogue and who still live in South Chicago are very few.

The members of the congregation believe that Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim should be preserved as a religious landmark. The petition for it was sent to the City Council in 1978, but, unfortunately, no decision has yet been made.

We strongly agree with the congregation that this beautiful synagogue should become a landmark. Since it is the oldest continuously operating synagogue in the city of Chicago, it is of great historical value. The grant of the landmark status would provide it with adequate help to preserve it as such. Becoming a landmark would give it the importance it truly deserves.

Agudath Achim-Bikur Cholim has become the pillar of the surviving Jewish community of South Chicago. Persons who do not live in the area of the synagogue make a sincere effort to continue to participate in the services. It's extremely important for the members to keep this synagogue alive because in doing so they are contributing to the survival of the Jewish community in the area. For many it is a psychological focal point where they can find comfort and solace.

In conclusion, it was most interesting to discover how a Jewish synagogue, located in a predominantly Catholic neighborhood, was able to survive all of the changing trends that the community went and is going through. The faith in its success and the persistence of its members actually kept it alive. When the Black population began to grow on the southeast side, it was expected that all Jewish institutions would be closed down. On the contrary, the persons who didn't move strove for the synagogue's continued life.

We sincerely admire and respect the members of this congregation for their continuous striving to keep their place of worship alive.

¹Ed. note: Alschuler later designed the famous Byzantine styled Isaiah Israel Temple (now home of K.A.M. - Isaiah Israel Congregation), 1100 E. Hyde Park Blvd., Chicago, which was designated a national historic landmark in 1977.

²Technical Advisory Committee, Survey of the South Side Jewish Community, p. 48

FROM THE MICHAEL REESE NEWS "CENTENNIAL SAMPLER"

Michael Reese Hospital will celebrate its 100th anniversary on October 31, 1981. As part of a year-long celebration the Michael Reese News has a column entitled "Centennial Sampler" which presents various aspects of the history of this famous Chicago Jewish institution. Reprinted below is the column from the Michael Reese News of November 28, 1980.

Developing mental health care wasn't just another 'crazy' idea

by David Burns

Psychiatric care at Michael Reese goes back to the early 1920s, a time when psychiatry was considered something "crazy" by much of the medical community. Even later in the decade, when Reese's Dr. Roy R. Grinker, Sr. first became interested in Freud and psychoanalysis, he found that one librarian kept Freud's works locked up because of their "prurient nature."

Psychiatry at Reese began with the mental hygiene clinic at the West Side Dispensary in 1922. The clinic combined the skills of a psychiatrist, a psychologist, and a psychiatric social worker and provided psychological therapy and guidance primarily to immigrant families for whom assimilation into their new culture often created difficulties. The affiliation of a mental hygiene clinic with a general medical institution was uncommon when the clinic opened, but it proved successful.

An illustration of the benefits of such combined treatment involves a young boy who suffered from depression over the commitment of his mother to a mental hospital. He went into temper

tantrums when his father tried to discipline him. The solution involved changing the family's overly sympathetic attitude, which apparently accounted for the reaction to his father's firmness, and sending him to a nursery school where he could interact with other children. Physically, he benefited from a tonsillectomy and help from orthopedic and nutritional clinics.

By 1928, four other Chicago hospitals were employing psychiatric social workers. At Michael Reese, much of the administrative support for psychiatric services came from Sidney Schwarz, a trustee of the hospital from 1918 to 1945 and then president of the board. In 1936, Dr. Grinker returned to Reese, after an absence of several years, from the University of Chicago and after undergoing analysis by Freud himself. Under Dr. Grinker's direction, the hospital's first inpatient psychiatric ward was organized on the first floor of Meyer House. From these origins, the Psychosomatic and Psychiatric Institute was established in 1951.

Michael Reese News

Terry L. Werblo
Editor

Published by Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center, 29th Street and Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60616, an affiliate of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago.

Ivan R. Dee
Director of Public Affairs

Volume 7
Number 16

November 28, 1980

CJHS 1981 SUMMER BUS TOURS

The Society is pleased to announce four exciting Sunday afternoon bus tours of historical Jewish sites in Chicago for the summer of 1981. Tours are on air-conditioned coaches. Departure times and locations are indicated for each tour.

#1 JUNE 21, 1981 "EARLIEST BEGINNINGS TO THE SOUTH SIDE: 100 YEARS OF MOVEMENT"
Rachel Heimovics will guide a one hundred year journey from the Loop through Douglas Park, Grand Boulevard, Hyde Park, Woodlawn and South Shore. A repeat of a popular sold-out tour.
 Pick-up 12:30 - Horwich Center 1:00 - Cultural Center.
 Return 5:00 - Horwich Center 4:30 - Cultural Center

#2 JULY 26, 1981 "CHICAGO JEWISH ROOTS" Dr. Irving Cutler A sentimental tour to Maxwell Street, Lawndale, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Albany Park and West Rogers Park, with a number of stops at places of Jewish historical significance. This tour is also being repeated - it too, was sold-out last season.
 Pick-up 12:30 Horwich Center only Return - 4:30

#3 AUGUST 16, 1981 "MEET ME AT THE TERMINAL" Dr. Edward Mazur A tour of nostalgia through the streets and past the stores of the Albany Park Jewish community. Reminiscences of schools, popular places and
 Pick-up 1:00 - Horwich Center 12:30 - Cultural Center
 Return 5:00 - Horwich Center 4:30 - Cultural Center

#4 SEPTEMBER 13, 1981 "JEWISH WRITERS IN CHICAGO" Dr. Babette Inglehart A new tour. From a century of immigrants and their children; the writers and the neighborhoods in which they met, lived and worked.
 Pick-up 12:30 - Horwich Center 1:00 - Cultural Center
 Return 5:00 - Horwich Center 4:30 - Cultural Center

BERNARD HORWICH CENTER - 3003 W. Touhy Avenue
 CULTURAL CENTER - 78 E. Washington (Washington Blvd. entrance)

CHARGES FOR THE TOURS: CJHS Members: adults - \$6.00 Non-members: adults - \$9.00
 children - \$3.00 children - \$4.00

Check must accompany each reservation
 For further information phone:
 CJHS Office 663-5634
 Leah Axelrod, Tour chairperson 432-7003

Please send your check and reservation to:
 Mrs. Leah Axelrod
 2100 Linden
 Highland Park, IL 60035

----- CJHS Summer Tour Reservation Form

NAME _____ Member Chicago Jewish Historical Soc.

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RESERVATIONS: June 21: adults _____
 children _____
 July 26: adults _____
 children _____
 Aug. 16: adults _____
 children _____

*Non-members who join the Society at this time, by including dues payment with their tour reservation, will receive the members' rates for the tours. A dues schedule is on the back page of the May, 1981 Society News. Please indicate if dues payment is included.

Sept. 13: adults _____
 children _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY is open to all interested persons. We invite non-members to join us at any time. Our membership year is from January to December. However, new members joining after June 1st will receive an extra six month membership, which will not expire until December 1982.

Dues information follows this article. Membership in our Society includes a subscription to SOCIETY NEWS, discounts at the SPERTUS MUSEUM STORE, information about our bi-monthly meetings, and the opportunity to share ideas about the history and preservation of Chicago Jewish history with many Chicago area people.

Committees currently active and seeking additional volunteers include: Oral History, Archives, Exhibits and the Speakers' Bureau. New projects are invited and currently

we are anticipating a Photography Committee as well as an Audio-Visual Committee. We invite you to phone our office to volunteer, phone: 663-5634, or to request additional information. We welcome your membership and your participation in our Society.

Membership Dues Categories:

\$5.00	Students & Senior Citizens
10.00	Contributing Membership
25.00	Sustaining Membership
50.00	Patron Membership
100.00 & up	Sponsoring Membership
25.00	Minimum contribution for Synagogue & Organizational Membership

Make check payable to:
 CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 and mail to our office:
 618 S. Michigan Ave.
 Chicago, Illinois 60605

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
 תבטו אל-צור הציבדקם



chicago jewish historical society
 618 SOUTH MICHIGAN . CHICAGO , ILLINOIS . 60605