

Look to the rock from which you were hewn

הביטו אל-צור חצבתם



chicago jewish historical society

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

society news

VOLUME VI - NUMBER 1

OCTOBER 1982

OPEN MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 1982

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Co-Sponsored by the
American Jewish Historical Society

Program

"THE JEWISH RADICAL IN AMERICAN HISTORY"

presented by

Dr. Stephen J. Whitfield

Associate Professor of American Studies
Brandeis University

Annual Meeting

Election of officers will take place

ADMISSION FREE

PUBLIC IS WELCOME

at

THE PARK SYNAGOGUE

16th Floor, Radisson Chicago Hotel
505 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago

2 P.M. REFRESHMENTS

3 P.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

President's MessageHOW WE CAN ACHIEVE
OUR ORGANIZATION'S GOALS

A new presidency--and a new year. A time to reflect upon where we have been and where we are going. A time to look freshly at the goals of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

In this first "President's Message" I would like to review our stated purpose--and to list what I believe are basic requirements for continuing to fulfill that purpose.

Our Basic Purpose

The official purpose of our Society is "to collect, preserve and exhibit memorabilia and materials of every kind pertaining to the settlement, history and life of Jews and the Jewish community of metropolitan Chicago; and to conduct educational programs, encourage study and research, and disseminate information pertaining to the settlement, history and life of Jews and the Jewish community of metropolitan Chicago."

For nearly six years, our Society has worked hard to implement each part of our multi-faceted purpose. Archives, oral histories, exhibits, lectures, panels, round-table discussions, tours, publications. All of these we have done; but what we have done is simply a beginning.

What We Can Do

In order to continue to work to fulfill our purpose, I propose the following:

- We must broaden our membership base by encouraging everyone who participates in our programs, who attends our meetings and goes on our bus tours to become members of the Society. I also ask each member to bring in one new member this year. Our membership dues is one of the few bargains around: \$10 a year for individuals and families; \$5 for students and seniors.

- We must utilize the talents of as many members as possible by strengthening the role of volunteers on our various committees--to gather Chicago Jewish archives, to tape and transcribe oral histories, to create and lead bus tours. People who have time and interest in working on our programs, memberships, and even in our office should call.



President Rachel Heimovics

- We must learn more about individuals and organizations engaged in projects related to Chicago Jewish history. We want to know about organization anniversaries and reunions, histories being written of congregations and organizations, local family and genealogical research, academic studies and doctoral theses. We want to know about everyone in our community who is an expert in any aspect of Chicago Jewish history. Who is doing oral histories or writing articles or books on these subjects?

- We are ready to welcome anyone who would like to establish a "satellite" project under the auspices of our Society.

In other words, we must have more people, more ideas, and most important, more energy to carry out current and new projects.

Rachel Heimovics

society news

Society News is published by the CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY at 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605. Telephone: (312)663-5634.

Editorial inquiries should be directed to (312)348-2800.

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Editor Irwin J. Suloway

Editorial Board

Marion Cutler, Rachel Heimovics,
Mark Mandle, Burt Robin, Sidney Sorkin

CJHS GETS NEW QUARTERS AS ORGANIZATIONS RELOCATE TO SPERTUS

MICHAL FINKELSTEIN SERVES AS OFFICE SECRETARY FOR SOCIETY

The seventh floor of the Spertus College of Judaica building has become an important nerve center of local Jewish life as a number of important communal organizations have joined the CJHS in locating its offices there. In the process the Society offices were moved across the hall to Room 702 in the building at 618 South Michigan Avenue.

Among our new neighbors on the seventh floor are Chicago Board of Rabbis, the regional office of the United Synagogue and the office of Camp Ramah and the local office of the Brandeis University National Women's Committee. Also new in the building is the Board of Jewish Education, which occupies the tenth floor.

Michal Finkelstein on Duty

Michal Finkelstein, the Society's first permanent employee, will be in the office on a part-time basis. Phone messages are taken by an answering service when the office is closed. A graduate of the University of Illinois with a masters degree from George Washington University, Ms. Finkelstein has specialized training and experience in museum work, and thus skills especially useful in many CJHS activities.

Besides doing museum and historical projects in the Washington, D.C. area, she has worked for the Chicago Jewish Archives and the Jane Addams-Hull House Museum, has taught historical workshops for the Chicago Board of Education, and has done Jewish genealogical work in the area.

Phone Number Unchanged

Ms. Finkelstein is currently handling CJHS membership records, mailings, and other office procedures. We are fortunate to have her.

The Society telephone number remains unchanged: 663-5634.

SUMMER TOURS PROVE SUCCESSFUL; MORE PLANNED

The Society is still getting "good vibrations," as the young people say, about the three tours it sponsored during the past summer. Members and friends who went on the tours are passing the word that the tours were not only interesting and informative but that they were full of pleasure and nostalgia as well.

"We shall of course be offering tours of local Jewish interest again next summer," said Leah Axelrod, longtime tour chairman. "Our members look forward to them." And now is not too early to send Ms. Axelrod suggestions for tours and guides for next year. She can be reached at 2100 Linden in Highland Park (60035) or by phone at 432-7003.

Tours this year, one each in June, July, and August, included a tour of Jewish roots in the west and northwest sides, an excursion to Oak Woods Cemetery and the Oriental Institute on the south side, and a visit to the Orthodox Jewish institutions. Travel was by air-conditioned buses with pick-up points arranged for members' convenience. Costs are just a few dollars for CJHS members.

Enrich your understanding of Jewish Chicago by planning to attend some or all of next summer's Society tours AND get in touch with Ms. Axelrod if you have any suggestions to make.

WOMAN FINDS "LOST" GRAVE OF GREAT GRANDFATHER ON CJHS TOUR

Among those on the July 25 CJHS tour which visited Oak Woods Cemetery was Belle Holman of Skokie. Mrs. Holman in her efforts to record her family roots had been searching for the grave of her great grandfather, the first member of her family to die in America nearly one hundred years ago.

She knew him by his Hebrew first name, Shlomo, but the local records office had no listing, and the books on early Jewish graves at Oak Woods Cemetery have been lost. When at Oak Woods with CJHS, however, the tour director, Charles Bernstein, found for her the grave of Julius Bisno who had died at that time--almost one hundred years ago. Mr. Bernstein was also able to read the Hebrew, which referred to Bisno's other name, "Shlomo," and thus the mystery was solved.

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS MEETING IN CHICAGO

OFFICIALS TO SPEAK AT THREE AREA SYNAGOGUES

The American Jewish Historical Society will hold a meeting of its executive council in Chicago on Friday, October 22. This is the first time since 1969 that AJHS will conduct official business in this city. The executive council is composed of more than 80 persons representing all areas of the United States. Founded in 1892, AJHS is the oldest ethnic historical society in the nation.

Featured appearances through the weekend will mark the occasion of the meeting. The public is invited to these special appearances.

Speakers at Various Locations

On Friday evening, October 22, Ruth Fein, AJHS president, will speak at the 8:15 P.M. religious services of KAM-Isaiah Israel, 1100 E. Hyde Park Blvd.

Rabbi Abram Vossen Goodman, author and former AJHS president, will speak at 11 A.M. Sunday, October 24, at Chicago Sinai Congregation, 5330 South Shore Dr. His subject is "A Spotlight on Some Forgotten History."

Dr. Stephen J. Whitfield, Associate Professor of American Studies, Brandeis University, will make two appearances: Saturday morning, October 23, at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Rd., Highland Park; and 3 P.M. Sunday, October 24, at the opening meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, at the Park Synagogue, 16th floor, Radisson Chicago, 505 N. Michigan Ave.

Chicagoans Serve on Executive Council

Chicago area members of the AJHS executive council are: Robert L. Adler, Charles R. Feldstein, Rachel B. Heimovics, Philip M. Klutznick, Norman Korff, Rosemary Krensky, Elsie Sang and Morris Soble.

AJHS is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts, in a building that includes a museum, library and archive.

For information about membership in or programs of the American Jewish Historical Society, call Rachel Heimovics, 831-2548.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION HONORS CJHS FOUNDER SCHWARTZ

Moselle Aison Schwartz, a founder of CJHS and an active leader in the organization ever since, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award by her alma mater, National College of Education. The award, presented at the Spring Commencement in June, was given for her outstanding contributions to inner city education in Chicago.



Moselle Aison Schwartz
Honored for
Distinguished Service

A first-grade teacher at the Dumas Public School for nineteen years, Ms. Schwartz, in addition to being an outstanding teacher, has gained fame for her selfless contributions to the physical, social, and emotional well-being of her students.

The mother of two physician sons, Ms. Schwartz is married to Norman Schwartz, also a founder and current treasurer of the Society.

Congratulations, Moselle, for the fine work both at Dumas School and for the Society. Your recognition by National College reflects glory upon CJHS as well.

I.J.S.

TYPEWRITER FUND BENEFITS FROM MEMBER'S CONTRIBUTION

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society wishes to acknowledge a sizable contribution from Beulah Bamberg toward the purchase of an electric typewriter for the Society office. Mrs. Bamberg, a longtime member, has made a substantial cash donation in addition to an old electric typewriter which can serve as a trade-in.

More contributions are needed, however, to cover the cost of this necessary item of equipment. If you can help, call our president, Rachel Heimovics, at 831-2548. Gain an additional deduction for your 1982 income tax and help to preserve Jewish history in Chicago.

CHICAGO WOMAN'S AID MARKS ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PHILANTHROPIC, CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVORS

JEWISH WOMEN'S GROUP STARTED TO ASSIST MICHAEL REESE PATIENTS

One cold November day in 1882 a group of young Jewish women met in K.A.M. Temple. They sensed there were needs to be met beyond the confines of their daily lives and formed themselves into the Young Ladies Aid Society. An immediate and apparent need was to try to make life more comfortable for patients at the then new and nearby Michael Reese Hospital. And so was born a valuable service organization known today as Chicago Woman's Aid.

Next month Chicago Woman's Aid will be marking one hundred years of unfaltering support to the local Jewish community and Chicago in general.

Organization Expands, Becomes Citywide

From a handful of young women meeting in south-side congregations, the organization has grown into an organization of about one thousand women of all ages meeting in their Michigan Avenue headquarters. From there they conduct a broad program of cultural, educational, and social activities as well as a wide spectrum of philanthropic endeavors both Jewish and non-denominational in scope.

Woman's Aid has not aggressively advertised its many contributions or courted mention in local "gossip" columns but has been content to do its good work quietly, serene in the knowledge that virtue is its own reward. However, Society News takes this opportunity to commend the group publicly and to call attention to just a few of its activities during the past century.

Broadens Scope of Philanthropies

In the earliest years patient needs at Michael Reese were paramount, with flowers, magazines, and hospital equipment being provided; but within the first ten years contributions to the broader local Jewish community began, especially to the immigrants pouring into the city before the turn of the century. Early recipients included the Jewish Training School, the Industrial School, the Maxwell Street Settlement, the Home for the Jewish Friendless, and the Chicago Hebrew Institute. In the decades that followed



literally dozens of Jewish communal organizations have benefited from Woman's Aid, many of them on an ongoing basis.

Adds Cultural, Educational Activities

In the early years of this century the group assumed its present name, broadened its original purposes to include the fostering of art, music, literature, and education as well as its original philanthropic aim, and moved downtown from the south side. Woman's Aid as we now know it had essentially been formed by 1925.

As it continued its expanding contributions to Jewish philanthropy, it also gave assistance to programs for schoolchildren, scholarships for deserving students, birth control (as early as 1922), art show prizes, senior citizens, help for the handicapped, aid to members of the armed forces, and--coming almost full circle to one of Woman's Aid's earliest activities--assistance for recent Soviet immigrants. Woman's Aid has also been a member and supporter of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society since its inception.

Looking Ahead with Confidence

Aid members enjoy a full calendar of twice-weekly activities of an educational and cultural nature. These frequently feature as speakers persons prominent in community and national affairs as well as educators and religious leaders.

A celebration is scheduled for November 9 under the direction of the centennial chairman, Mrs. Herbert Portes.

Mrs. Julius Sagi, centennial year president, predicts that the group's achievements of the first century, prodigious though they have been, will be exceeded by those of the century to come.

SOCIETY ACQUIRES RECORDS AS HISTORIC CONGREGATION CLOSES ITS DOORS

At the end of July, Congregation B'nai David Shaare Zedek, 2626 W. Foster Ave., closed its synagogue doors for the last time. Our society was on hand a few days before to save archival records of this historic congregation. Among the papers and photographs saved were some dating back to the building of the Humboldt Boulevard Temple, earlier home for B'nai David, dedicated in 1921.

According to The Chicago Jewish Community Blue Book (1917: The Sentinel, Chicago), "Congregation B'nai David Ohave Zedek was formed in 1885 by consolidating two Hungarian chevras, Chevra Osah Chesed ve'Emes and Chevra Sheveth Achim...After consolidation, services were held in the Shober [now Bell] Street shul until September 1903, when a... Temple at 1228-32 N. Claremont Ave. was dedicated."

Becomes Humboldt Boulevard Temple

"In January, 1915, B'nai David congregation, 1218 Wood Street, was incorporated with Ohave Zedek, and the...name [of B'nai David Ohave Zedek was] adopted."

The congregation was known as the Humboldt Boulevard Temple, 1914 N. Humboldt Blvd., until 1959 when it merged with the Budlong Conservative Synagogue and occupied a new synagogue building on Foster Avenue.

In 1977, the remnant of another historic congregation joined B'nai David Budlong Conservative Congregation on Foster.

Logan Square Shaare Zedek, located since the early 1920s at 3125 W. Fullerton Ave., was founded earlier in the century as the first Jewish congregation in the community of Logan Square. In 1977 their beautiful synagogue building, a landmark on Fullerton, was sold and then demolished.

The Years on Foster Avenue

Cantor Moses Rontal, who served as spiritual leader of B'nai David and, later, of B'nai David Shaare Zedek and came to the Humboldt Boulevard Temple in 1948, recently wrote, "When the Budlong Conservative Synagogue merged with the Humboldt Boulevard Temple in 1959, I was part of this merger. At that time, the Synagogue building was not even finished, and I do remember the first Friday Night Service when we still had to walk over the wires....It is not easy to see



Humboldt Boulevard
Temple Sanctuary
Shortly before It Closed

Photos by
Philip Weinstein
Lawrence-Philip Studios

CLASS REUNIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES OF INTEREST TO CJHS MEMBERS

Several reunions and anniversary celebrations of interest to local Jewish people are planned for the near future. Society News thought that the following would be of interest to our members.

Tuley High School classes of 1943-45 will have a reunion on October 30 at the Ramada Inn in Highwood. For reservations call Phyllis Schaffner Shifrin at 529-0083 or David Craith (evenings) at 674-8531.

DePaul University Praetorians, a Jewish social group, will have a reunion for members of the classes from 1938-1968 on October 30 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare. For information and reservations call Ron Orlean at 675-3267.

Von Steuben High School class of 1947 will have a 35th anniversary reunion on November 13 at the North Shore Hilton Hotel. For reservations call Iris Arenberg Wolf at 432-2495. Classmate information should be given to Fran Trackman at 835-1703.

Marshall High School class of 1933 is planning a 50th anniversary reunion. Class members or those with information on members should contact Rose Rosenbaum Fisher at 3216 W. Victoria Street, Chicago 60645.

A Roosevelt High School alumni newsletter has been initiated by A.L. Klein, assistant principal. To be on the mailing list call 675-5174.

Chicago Woman's Aid is celebrating its 100th anniversary this fall. Interested individuals may call Henrietta Gross at 784-5388. See another page for more information about this unusual organization.

The Ruth Lodge for Crippled Children will be celebrating its 60th anniversary on October 23. Information may be obtained from Hannah Zwang at 427-5863.

Society News plans to list regularly reunions and anniversary celebrations of Jewish interest. Send information to Dr. Irwin Suloway, Editor, at 3500 Lake Shore Drive (60657) or call 348-2800.



Humboldt Boulevard Temple
Exterior View in 1952

the doors now closing on our beloved Synagogue, and it is not easy to have to say good-bye to friends you were close to for so many years."

News of the closing of this congregation came to the Society's attention within weeks of the final date. Fortunately we were able to secure and protect for future generations records of the many contributions made by B'nai David Shaare Zedek through the years to the Chicago Jewish community.

Adding to the Archives

Members of CJHS are urged to notify the Society whenever significant anniversaries or, alas, dissolutions of communal organizations occur so that we might acquire for our archives valuable records of Jewish life in Chicago. Call Elsie Orlinsky at 643-9666.

CHICAGO AREA'S FIRST RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION MARKS COMPLETION OF EIGHTEEN EVOLVING YEARS

HOW ANSHE EMET STUDY GROUP BECAME AN EVANSTON SYNAGOGUE

Chicago's first congregation representing the Reconstructionist branch of Judaism has recently completed eighteen years as a formal congregation. Although its roots go back almost thirty years, the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, 2525 Hartrey in Evanston, was organized in 1964.

A relatively unknown congregation representing a relatively unknown branch of the religion, the Jewish Reconstructionist synagogue has a history both interesting and enlightening. (For an admittedly inadequate summary of what Reconstructionist Judaism is, see the separate article accompanying this story.)

Students of Mordecai Kaplan

The nucleus of the present-day congregation was part of a study group led by Rabbi Ira Eisenstein of Anshe Emet Congregation during the period 1955-59. This group studied the philosophy expressed by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, who then represented the liberal wing of Conservative Judaism. In the years that followed, Rabbi Kaplan's philosophy was formalized into a separate branch of our religion, and the nucleus developed, almost reluctantly at times, into the formal congregation it now is.

The reason for this reluctance is the emphasis placed upon having clusters of family groups, rather than a congregation, provide worship and education, which the early study group fostered and which continued for several years before any congregation was formed. These groups--Havarot in Hebrew--continue to be an important part of the congregation's activities.

Congregation Created in 1962

When the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, or JRC as it is known, was formed in 1964 under the presidency of Max M. Grossman, it was so family-oriented and family-run that there was no intention of having a rabbi and certainly not a full-time rabbi. Instead,

religious services and educational programs were planned and conducted by groups of members of the congregation.

At the first High Holy Day services study sessions rather than sermons were the highlights. By the end of 1965, a school was begun, a bar mitzvah celebrated, a players group formed and a woman president elected. About thirty families were involved, and activities centered in various locations in Wilmette.

Many Founders Leave

By 1968 the JRC was reduced to twelve families as many left looking for a more formalized structure, a more traditionally organized school or the services of a full-time rabbi. These twelve themselves undertook to restructure the congregation and the school, engage a part-time rabbi, and to attract larger membership. A constitution was adopted and a rabbi was employed in 1979 when the group moved to larger quarters in the Chute School in Evanston. At that time there were some sixty members.

Unfortunately, differences of opinion among the membership--always an activist and highly motivated group--led to non-renewal of the rabbi's contract and the loss both of permanent rabbinic affiliation and of many members. For those who remained, the seeds of today's JRC were being planted.

Emphasis upon Lay Participation

With emphasis upon lay participation and thematic services, stability and growth marked the next few years as visiting interns from the new Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia served the group for periods of time. The second intern, Arnold Rachlis, is spiritual leader of JRC today.

Lay operation of the congregation continued to be the rule. Shabbat services included musical programs, multimedia presentations, and sit-down discussion groups. The amount of Hebrew liturgy used varied from service to service as different groups developed them. Holidays were celebrated with drama and modern dance. Volunteer work was

RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION —

(Continued from the preceding page)

the modus operandi.

In 1972, with membership up to 76 families, Rabbi Rachlis, still a rabbinical student, was chosen to conduct High Holy Day services, and the tradition of an annual Kallah was begun. Social action programs, always important to the group, were expanded. The following year, although the congregation became further formalized by joining a synagogue council and the Board of Jewish Education, it was decided to stabilize growth (then about 85 families) to prevent impersonalization and not to hire a rabbi.

Decision to Employ a Rabbi

These decisions were not written in stone, however, and with school population and membership on the wane again, by 1975 concerns grew about the viability of an essentially all-volunteer organization. After often heated discussions lasting many months, it was decided to offer the position of part-time rabbi to soon-to-be ordained Arnold Rachlis.

This represented an important turning point in the history of a congregation which, after years of teaching and learning from one another, was now reaching for professional leadership. To insure the participatory nature of the JRC, the rabbi's contract uniquely required that lay members lead half the Shabbat services. The commitment to this philosophy still exists.

Rabbi is Now Full-Time

In 1977 the rabbi's position became full-time, and growth made necessary the closing of the school to new children. The following year membership had reached 160 families. In 1980 the congregation moved to its present home in Evanston, which it shares with Covenant United Methodist Church.

Today, with over 200 member families and 175 children in its school, the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation continues along its distinctive way with its unusual degree of lay participation and involvement. The Chicago Jewish community is the richer for it.

A SHORT (AND INADEQUATE) LOOK AT RECONSTRUCTIONIST JUDAISM

Two years ago in the Sentinel, Rabbi Arnold Rachlis explained the beliefs of Reconstructionist Judaism. The following excerpts from that article are presented in an inadequate effort to provide our readers with a limited understanding of this branch of Judaism.

Reconstructionism has been considered controversial at times because of the religious humanism it espouses. At the same time Dr. Charles Liebman, an Orthodox Jew and sociologist, describes Reconstructionism as representative of the actual beliefs of most American Jews.

Defining God

Reconstructionists believe that God is a term that we use to describe those things within us that make us loving and caring people. God is that power within us that we perceive through reason, experience and intuition --that urges us toward self-fulfillment and ethical behavior.

While many traditions are preserved on a congregational level (Shabbat, kashrut, wearing of kipot, etc.), no rabbi, teacher, or text can or should command a particular ritual behavior or theological position for any individual. Rather, each person is actively urged to study the tradition and then to select those mitzvot that are personally and spiritually meaningful.

Making Educated Decisions

What is important is that each Jew acquires a mature and sophisticated level of knowledge of Judaism so that his/her choices will be informed and educated.

What is essential is not how observant one is at a given point in life, but how those decisions were made.

Additional information is available in the form of a free pamphlet, "The Reconstructionist Movement: Theory and Practice," distributed by the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation at 432 Park Avenue South, New York 10016.

LOOKING BACK AT FIVE YEARS OF JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

Having completed its first five years, the Chicago Jewish Historical Society can look back at more than twenty-five public programs which focused on various aspects of local Jewish history past and present.

The programs, attended by thousands, were the foundation upon which interest and membership in the Society were built. And all of them were developed under the leadership of Charles B. Bernstein, a founder of the organization and its first program chairman. The Society owes him a public vote of thanks, and this retrospective summary is an effort to pay that debt.

Many Outstanding Guest Speakers

Unfortunately space will not permit the printing of the names of the almost fifty program participants, but they have included many persons prominent in local religious, business, political, cultural and social life as well as scholars and writers. To mention a few would be unfair to the others.

As the list of program titles indicates, their appeal has been wide, and we expect that future programs will be similarly attractive to our membership.

1977

Creating a New Jewish Historical Society
Treasure Hunting for Chicago Jewish
Archives

How to Research Your Genealogy
The Genesis of Chicago Jewry
Jewish Workers in Chicago

1978

Who Stole the Organ from Leibman Adler's
Shul? A Slide History of The Chicago
Jewish Community

Remembrances of Early Chicago Zionism
The Adler and Rosenwald Families,
Benefactors of Chicago

My Memories of Yiddish Theater in Chicago

1979

Past, Present, and Future: Highlights on
Chicago Cantors

The Conservative Bet Din of Chicago
The Jews in the Labor Movement: America
and Chicago

An Afternoon at KAM-Isaiah Israel Temple
The German-Jewish Emigration of the
Thirties: Its Impact on Chicago

RECENT SOVIET IMMIGRANTS PUBLISH DUAL-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

Just as earlier Jewish immigrants to the U.S. started several newspapers, usually in Yiddish or German, the current wave of immigrants from the Soviet Union has resulted in a local newspaper, Neighbor, published both in Russian and English editions.

Edited by Boris Vinokur, the newspaper is published from office space provided by the Bernard Horwich Jewish Community Center. The Russian language edition appears twice monthly and the English edition is a monthly. Subscription information is available at 761-9100, Extension 52.

While basically secular in content, Neighbor does contain news of Israel and topics of particularly Jewish interest.

1980

Metro History Presentations: A Potpourri
of Chicago Jewry

A View of Chicago's East European Jewish
Community in 1900

Meet the Society's Authors

The Politics of Jewish Chicago: Issues
and Personalities

From Mariampole to Chicago: 100 Years of
Vereins

1981

Metro History Fair Presentations Includ-
ing A Synagogue That Would Not Die
Ghost Town: The Englewood Jewish Community
Sixty Years with the Mishpoche, Jewish
Family Clubs

Crannies, Grannies, and Corners: Search-
ing for The Chicago Jewish Source Book
From Rabbinic Commentary to Humboldt's
Gift (Chicago Writers)

1982 Thus Far

The Adventures of a Soldier-Rabbi
Jewish Music in Chicago: A Diamond
Jubilee

Summaries of many of the programs were published in issues of the Society News, but as longtime members know, a program missed is usually a unique opportunity for education and enjoyment lost.

I.J.S.

IN SEARCH

CAN YOU
HELP US?



This photograph of four Chicago rabbis was taken prior to 1920, probably at a summer resort in or near Benton Harbor, Michigan. We are sure of the identity of Rabbi Ezriel Epstein (second from right) of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol, on Douglas Blvd. and St. Louis Ave., and of Rabbi Schach (right) of a congregation on Sawyer Ave. Can you identify the other two rabbis or tell us more about Rabbi Schach? (Photo donated by Judge Samuel B. Epstein)

CJHS SEEKS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT OLD PHOTO

A rare old photograph of four Chicago rabbis of the first part of the century has been donated to CJHS by Judge Samuel B. Epstein. He was able to identify fully his father, Rabbi Ezriel Epstein, longtime rabbi of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol, dean of local Orthodox rabbis and head of Merkaz Harabonin until his death in 1938.

He also identified a Rabbi Schach of a Sawyer Avenue congregation. The Society is seeking more specific information on Rabbi Schach and the congregation he headed as well as identification of the other two rabbis. We have some reason to believe that the person on the left in the photograph is a Rabbi Finkelstein.

Anyone able to provide further information is requested to send this information to the CJHS office at 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 60605.

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES

Two sets of important local Jewish records were received by CJHS for placement in the Chicago Jewish Archives of Spertus College. These are records of local activities of the American Jewish Congress over a 25-year span and records of Congregation B'nai David Shaare Zedek.

Among the AJC records are correspondence, business papers and programs of the Nineteen Fifties and Sixties and legal files from the years immediately following World War II. They include accounts of much of the social action work undertaken at that time.

Referred to elsewhere in this issue, records of B'nai David Shaare Zedek Congregation, the successor to Humboldt Boulevard Temple and Logan Square Shaare Zedek, cover mainly the late Fifties and early Sixties. In addition to photographs of demolished synagogue buildings, they include bylaws, bulletins, bar mitzvah lists, yahrzeit lists, names of congregation officials, correspondence and even paid bills.