

# chicago jewish historical society society news

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER, 1988

## WALTER ROTH CHOSEN TO LEAD SOCIETY FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

### Attorney, Writer, Community Leader Follows Norman Schwartz as President

Leadership at the Chicago Jewish Historical Society changed hands last June as Walter Roth became the fifth person to assume the presidency of the organization.

Roth, a prominent attorney and CJHS board member, was elected by other members of the board on June 3, following the Society's annual brunch. His term extends through June of 1990.

Assisting him will be Burt Robin as vice president and Elaine Suloway and Herman Draznin as secretary and treasurer respectively. Board members elected or re-elected at the brunch meeting are Charles Bernstein, Joseph Minsky, David Passman, James Rice and Dr. Irwin Suloway. Draznin, Roth and Elaine Suloway were also placed on the new board.

#### A Look at Our New President

The new CJHS president is a managing partner of D'Ancona and Pflaum, a distinguished law firm he has been with since



New Society President  
Walter Roth

completing a clerkship to Judge Luther Swigert of the U.S. Court of Appeals. After being graduated from Hyde Park High School and the University of Illinois, he received his law degree from the University of Chicago.

The author of several articles on Chicago Jewish history, President Roth is a longtime CJHS board member. He also served as moderator for the Society's 1980 panel on the 1930's German-Jewish immigration to Chicago, he himself having arrived here from Germany as a boy in 1939.

#### Active as Community Leader

He has a distinguished record of leadership in the Jewish community, having served as an elected officer of Congrega-

Don't Miss the Meeting  
Sunday, October 9

Hear and See Judith Frazin's  
Lecture-Slide Show

"Climbing Your Family Tree"

At Temple Shalom  
See Page 3 for Details

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## President's Message

### What We Do And What We Need To Do

I have accepted the position of President of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society with a great deal of pleasure and anticipation. The many activities of the Society, I am certain, will continue to make our organization a most vital and exciting venture.

A predecessor of our Society existed in Chicago for a number of years, with Julius Rosenwald as its first president. That organization published a spectacular book in 1924 under the editorship of H. L. Meites entitled History of the Jews of Chicago. Known as the Jewish Historical Society of Illinois, the organization did not survive the depression of the thirties.

#### A New Group Is Born

The present Society was incorporated eleven years ago by a group of enthusiastic volunteers who had worked on a very successful exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, which dealt with Jewish life in Chicago. A ten-year history of the Society has been compiled in a new publication under the direction of Irwin Suloway and will soon be available to our members and the public generally.

The mission of a local Jewish historical society such as ours is to preserve the continuity of the timeless web which is the history of our people. We do this in a number of different ways. First there is the quarterly publication of our Society in which we publish memoirs and articles about Chicago's past. We also tape oral histories of persons who have contributed to the building of our community. These histories are transcribed by us for preservation and future use by scholars. Each year we conduct bus tours of the Chicago area, mount exhibits and hold public meetings so as to make our membership more knowledgeable about their past.

In addition, several of our members research the many inquiries received from persons seeking information about their Chicago ancestors. In this regard, our foremost researcher is Norman Schwartz, our most recent past president. No one can match his enthusiasm and willingness to assist and do research for the numerous information seekers who come to us. Norman has assured me that he will continue his

many activities and for this we are grateful.

#### Other Tasks Remain To Be Done

There are, of course, many other things that need to be done. Chicago needs a greater commitment of resources so as to preserve its Jewish roots. As the year progresses, I hope to share with you some of my thoughts and dreams in this regard.

In the meantime, I wish to send you my best wishes for the New Year, with health and happiness for all of you.

--Walter Roth

### New CJHS Leaders [cont'd]

[Continued from previous page]

tions Habonim and Rodfei-Zedek and as president of the Midwest Council of the American Jewish Congress, the American Friends of Hebrew University and the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Married to Dr. Chaya Horowitz Roth, a clinical psychologist, he is the father of three children and lives in the Jackson Park Highlands in South Shore.

Roth succeeds Norman D. Schwartz, who completed his second two-year term as president in June.

#### Other Board Members Continue in Office

Continuing board members Leah Axelrod, Sol Brandzel, Dr. Irving and Marian Cutler, Clare Greenberg, Janet Hagerup, Joseph Levinson, Mark Mandle, Elsie Orlinsky, Moselle Schwartz, Milton Shulman and Shirley and Sidney Sorkin joined with past presidents Muriel Rogers, Dr. Adele Hast, Rachel Heimovics and Norman Schwartz complete the CJHS leadership team for 1988-89.

### CJHS To Participate in Observance Of Sidney Hillman Centennial

At the summer board meeting the Chicago Jewish Historical Society voted to become a co-sponsor of a program and exhibit marking the centennial of the birth of Sidney Hillman. The observance will probably take place at Hull House some time next year.

Hillman, a Jewish immigrant whose career as a major American Labor leader began in the Chicago clothing trades, also achieved prominence as a civic and political statesman during the first half of this century.

## FALL SPEAKER WILL DISCUSS "CLIMBING YOUR FAMILY TREE"

Slide-Lecture Program on Genealogy  
Set for October 9 at Temple Shalom

### TEN-YEAR HISTORY OF SOCIETY TO BE MAILED TO MEMBERS SHORTLY

An attractive booklet detailing the Society's first ten years of activities is in the final stages of printing and should be ready for distribution to all members in good standing within the next month.

Titled The Chicago Jewish Historical Society: A Ten Year History 1977-1987, the publication is an oversized, lavishly illustrated record of the Society's meetings, tours, publications and exhibits as well as its leadership throughout the decade. The group's major efforts taking oral histories and collecting for the Chicago Jewish Archives are also detailed, and an organizational history is provided along with messages from the Society's four past presidents.

#### Project Underwritten by Alfred Gruen

The history was prepared by Irwin Suloway working with a committee consisting of Leah Axelrod, Ruth Brandzel, Walter Roth, Moselle and Norman Schwartz and Sidney Sorkin. Both Sorkin and Charles Bernstein also wrote portions of the publication.

Publication and distribution of the history was made possible by the generosity of Alfred Gruen, whose Marco-Gruen Print Communications contributed design, layout and printing services.

A special mailing of the history should go out to each member during September. Additional single copies of the publication are available from the CJHS office at \$3.00 each.

### December Meeting To Look Back Fifty Years to Kristallnacht in Chicago

The Society's winter meeting on December 18 will be looking back fifty years to when the scourge of Adolf Hitler, though not yet anywhere near its worst, had already sent chills through the Jewish world. Particularly shocking was the near-pogrom of Kristallnacht in November, 1938, when Jewish communities throughout Germany were simultaneously attacked and vandalized.

By then Chicago had already had a sizeable influx of Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany; and the meeting, to be held at Temple Emanuel, will feature a personal

A lecture-slide presentation titled "Climbing Your Family Tree: The First Steps" will be featured at the Society's fall meeting to be held on Sunday, October 9, at Temple Shalom. The speaker will be Judith R. Frazin, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, and her talk will inform listeners about researching their family background.

A social hour at 1:00 PM will precede the presentation, scheduled for 2:00 PM. The meeting, in the social hall at 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, will, as usual, be open to all without charge.

#### Speaker Compiles Enviably Record

Mrs. Frazin, a teacher of Spanish, has been doing genealogical research for eighteen years, during which time she has traced some of her paternal ancestors back to 1745, re-established contact with "lost" branches of the family and, in the process, has acquired a wide reputation as a genealogist. She has spoken at and led genealogical groups throughout the local area and the Midwest and is described as a dynamic individual with a dynamic presentation to make.

In addition to writing a genealogy column in The National Jewish Post and Opinion, Mrs. Frazin has prepared specialized guides and forms designed to assist individuals interested in learning about their family's roots.

#### Question Period Will Follow

Mrs. Frazin will be introduced by Vice President Burt Robin, who arranged the program. A brief question-and-answer period will follow her presentation. Walter Roth, the Society's new president, will be presiding at his first open meeting. Shirley Sorkin will be in charge of social hour refreshments.

remembrance by one of these refugees, Martin Mainzer, of "Kristallnacht in Chicago--1938." It promises to be both informative and memorable.

See the next issue of Society News for further details, but reserve that Sunday afternoon now.

# HOW CONGREGATION DEVELOPED FROM A BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

## 80-Year-Old History Records Change Into B'nai Jehoshua Congregation

Jewish congregations in the Chicago area were started in a number of ways, perhaps in just about every way possible. Some were started as extensions of a dominant personality in the community, frequently a rabbi. Others started as focal points for landsmen who had come from a particular place to Europe. The first Jews in Chicago were looking for a place to bury their dead or to pray. Of course as soon as a few synagogues were in existence, the "break-aways" were formed by disgruntled members of earlier ones. Yet others grew out of benevolent societies which provided the mutual aid so important to strangers in a new land.

It was this last-mentioned kind of group which ultimately gave birth to one of Chicago's older Reformed congregations, Congregation B'nai Jehoshua, which now exists as part of B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in Glenview. Although known to older Chicagoans as "that Bohemian congregation on Ashland Avenue," and distinguished by the loyalty of its members long after Jews had left the area around its building on Twentieth Street and Ashland Avenue, where it remained until the mid-sixties, less was known about how the congregation began.

### History of Parent Group Turns Up

Recently however the Chicago Jewish Historical Society received for the archives a transcript of a history of the First Hebrew Educational and Charitable Association dating from 1907. The history

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Long before local Jewish historical societies started urging Jews to explore their American past, age-old pride in a persistent if not always glorious history motivated them to record what happened in their own communities. Such old records, where they still exist, provide us today not only with facts but also with important insights into the attitudes and even the character of the chroniclers and their fellow Jews. Such is the chronicle reproduced in this article--a proud history, written eighty years ago, of a benevolent society which evolved into a congregation.

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originally appeared in a souvenir program for a bazaar given by the association in January of that year. In the history, written in the now- quaint language of eighty years ago, the evolution of the benevolent society into Congregation B'nai Jehoshua is clearly if ornately spelled out.

### Found Among Personal Papers

The original bazaar program was found among the papers of a Gus Weil of 1248 Taylor Street, apparently an early member, in March of 1953.

The transcript reproduced below is in almost every detail as originally written. Only the most minor editing was done to make the flow of ideas clearer. Occasional ambiguities, especially the doubt as to whether 1893 or 1895 is the correct starting date for the organization, remain. If any reader can provide further information or clarification, it will be welcomed.

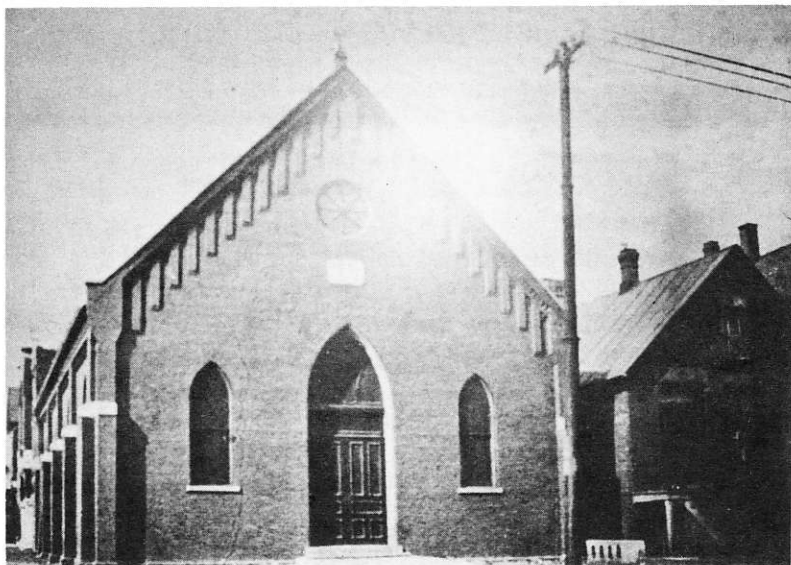
### Needed: A Place To Daven

Remarkable as the achievements are of this small society, just as remarkable were the circumstances which brought about its organization. It was in the summer of 1895 shortly before Rosh Hashona, about the time when every man, woman and child of Jewish faith contemplates with joyous anticipation to again start on their annual pilgrimage toward the temple, that a few men on the Southwest side, realizing the scarcity of synagogues, and imbued with a desire to worship their God in accordance with their conscience, decided to look around for headquarters of their own.

To think was to act. During the month of August of that year a meeting was called at the residence of Mr. Marcus Stein for the purpose of devising ways and means to hold services during the holidays, and upon roll-call about fifteen members were found to be present. It was unanimously agreed to organize The First Hebrew Educational and Charitable Association, to levy dues of twenty-five cents per month and to apply for a charter in Springfield. The charter was issued on the third day of September, 1895.

The officers were to serve without compensation, and at an election the following were elected as officers for the first year: President, Mr. Adolph Ball, who has served during three different terms in that office; Vice-President, Mr. Henry





This former church building and its adjoining cottage, bought by the Association at the turn of the century, served as B'nai Jehoshua's home for sixty years.

--Photo by Norman Schwartz

Scharf; Financial Secretary, Mr. Fred Scharf; Secretary, Mr. Joseph Weisskopf and Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Hubsch.

#### Finding a Location

This much accomplished, the members started out with enthusiasm to make preparations for holding services and with the good fortune which has since come to be proverbial for them, they secured a hall free of charge from Mr. Alois Straka at the corner of Brown [now Sangamon] Street and Twentieth Street. Mr. J. Ascherman tendered his service as cantor. A Sefer Torah (Holy Scroll) was borrowed from Congregation Agudas Achim at a very small expense. Notwithstanding the plain and improvised surroundings, there could hardly have been a congregation anywhere in which prayers were said and thanks given to the Almighty with more fervor and sincerity than in this little society.

About a month thereafter, encouraged and enthusiastic, a Simchas Torah ball was arranged by the Society at which a little money was cleared. With that and the zeal and energy of its members, the cornerstone was laid for the continuance of the Society.

Membership did not increase as rapidly as the Society no doubt deserved, but nevertheless in the following spring, during the Feast of Passover, the group was enabled to rent a hall in the N. E. Church block, at Halsted Street and Twentieth Street, at which place services were always held thereafter whenever occasion required.

#### Starting a Cemetery

At the second election, held in 1897,

Mr. Henry Scharf was elected as President and it was during his term of office that the Society decided to start a cemetery fund for which purpose the following members were elected: President, Mr. Adolph Ball; Secretary, Mr. J. Fleischman and Treasurer, Mr. L. Sonnenshine.

Meetings thereafter were held every second and fourth Sunday. The membership was increasing gradually and a great deal was accomplished under the able leadership of succeeding Presidents, to wit: Mr. Fred Scharf, Mr. J. Huebsch, Mr. Maurice Mandel, Mr. S. Suessland and Mr. Emil Kohn, all of whom rendered grand service to the Society, in as well as out of office. In 1902 Mr. Louis Wurzburg was elected President and by his integrity and impartiality succeeded in being re-elected each year as his own successor up to the present date [1907]. No higher tribute could be paid to his noble work and grand efforts for all sections of this society than is evidenced by his re-election as President for five successive years.

#### Next, a Sabbath School

It was during his term of office that a free sabbath school was organized for children of members, under the guidance of the Rev. Dr. Maurice Weil, to whom also a great deal of credit is due for the success of this Society as well as of the school, and who is ably assisted by Miss C. Arnstein. In May, 1902, through the generosity of the Rev. Dr. M. Weil the Society was endowed with a Sefer Torah, and just one year thereafter on the occasion of their silver wedding, which was celebrated

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## Benevolent Group Evolves into B'nai Jehoshua Congregation [cont'd]

[Continued from previous page]

at Libusa Hall, the Society showed the esteem and honor in which he as well as his wife, Elenora, was held by all the members.

It was on the fifth day of September, 1899, that the Society, through its trustees, who are composed of five gentlemen and two ladies, bought a cemetery in Dunning. It was not only paid for in cash, but a great deal of money was spent in improvements under the able supervision of the cemetery president, Mr. Henry Scharf, who acted as president for several terms as did also Mr. Adolph Ball and Mr. Joseph Huebsch, who with the other trustees deserve the gratitude of the Society for their valuable services.

### Finally the Temple Building

The cemetery being paid for, the Society decided to build a temple, and two lots were purchased for that purpose on Ashland Avenue. After due consideration, however, the project was abandoned, and the opportunity offering itself, the Society purchased instead its present temple with the adjoining hall and cottage, giving as part consideration the two vacant lots. The Society proceeded to remodel this plant and to install the last improvements, including steam heat and electric light, sparing neither time nor money to make the property worthy of the Society.

The Board of Directors consists of Messrs. L. Wurzburg, A. Ball, L. Sonnenshine, J. Huebsch, H. Scharf, L. Lederer, J. Friedman, M. Weil, Secretary, and Emil Kohn, President of the Board of Directors, whose equal is seldom to be found in any Society: conscientious, zealous and always seeking the welfare of the Society, his ambition and pleasures rest all within the Society.

For over three months during the reconstruction of the temple and hall, Mr. Kohn and other directors, together with Mr. M. Weil and the President of the Society, Mr. L. Wurzburg, and the other members attended daily to the supervision of the work. They sacrificed time and leisure and in many instances actually performed manual labor themselves so as to save the expense to the Society. It is mainly due to such sacrifice that the Society has been able to accomplish such good deeds.

### Ladies' Group Started Early

Only a few moments suffices to list some of the events in the history of this Society, but it is beyond imagination and perhaps description to detail the time and labor, the energy and zeal, the sacrifices as well as the money that were spent to accomplish those results. A great deal of credit is due not only to the officers but also to each and every one of the members. Nevertheless, for all that has been done and accomplished, no one deserves more honor and more credit than the Ladies' Society of the First Hebrew Educational and Charitable Association, for without them the leading spirit and the helping hand would have been missing.

As early as the spring of 1896, Miss Babi Ball, Fannie Schwager, Rosie Kohn, A. Scharf and A. Masarek, together with other ladies, discussed the advisability if not the necessity of organizing a Ladies' Society. They met at their respective residences until on the twelfth day of April, 1896, a meeting was held at which not less than thirty-two ladies were enrolled as members. They perfected an organization and the following ladies were elected as officers: President, Rosie Kohn; Vice-President, Josefa Steiner; Secretary, Anna Masarek; Financial Secretary, Babi Ball; Treasurer, Fannie Schwager and Leader, Tillie Friedman.

The Society prospered through the untiring zeal of the ladies. The membership soon doubled and each one was striving to outdo the other. At the next election, as a token of esteem and confidence, Mrs. Rosie Kohn was re-elected as President and she held the office until December, 1898, when Mrs. Ernestine Mandel was elected and was succeeded by that never tiring worker, Mrs. Babi Ball, who held that office for two terms, when in December, 1901, Mrs. R. Kohn was again called to the chair.

### Long-Serving Leaders

In December, 1902, Mrs. Ernestine Mandel was re-elected as presiding officer, which office she occupied with credit to herself and to the benefit and glory of the Society until December, 1905, when Mrs. Bertha Levy was elected to the office. She proved a worthy successor and an able and

## B'nai Jehoshua [concluded]

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conscientious officer. Appreciating the good work which she performed as Secretary as well as her grand efforts for the Society at large, the members elected the present incumbent, Mrs. Anna Kohn, whose work and deeds for the Society are recognized and appreciated by all.

Whatever praises might be said of the members of the Society itself, more than double could be said as to all of the members of the Ladies' Society, for whether at a religious affair or at a meeting, at a festival or at a house of mourning, they are at all times ready and willing to do their duty to the best of their ability. No time is too early or too late, and no work too much to benefit the Society or some sister or brother.

### Young People Organize

Not to be outdone by the older members a few enterprising young ladies and young men with ambition to assist the Society applied to the older Society for a charter, which was granted to them, and on the twenty-fourth day of May, 1903, the "Juniors" organized and elected Mr. Leo Weil as their first president.

The Juniors soon found favor among the younger generation and their membership has increased considerably. The next president was Mr. Arthur Lederer, under whose able management the Society prospered. For the last two years, Mr. M. Rieger has wielded the gavel. He has the welfare of the Society at heart, and he undoubtedly, with the assistance of the members, will accomplish a great deal.

In 1903, an Advisory Board was organized consisting of five members from each section, and Mr. I. Sand was elected as President; and in 1905 and 1906, Mr. Joseph Kohn was elected to act as President.

### Congregational Name Also Used

The first Hebrew Educational and Charitable Association, which consists of the Senior Society, the Ladies' Society and the Juniors, is also known as Congregation "B'nai Jehoshua." While its object is religious and it has established a free sabbath school and also owns a cemetery (Mount Jehoshua) and has other attributes of a

## Society Seeks Landsmanschaften Memorabilia for Exhibit at Spertus

Persons whose shelves, drawers or attics contain memorabilia of any of the various landsmanschaften which used to be so prominent in the area are asked to consider donating or lending such items for possible inclusion in a planned Society exhibit.

Jan Hagerup of the exhibit committee is eager to learn of old photographs, programs, membership materials, by-laws or other materials which could be part of a display on landsmanschaften scheduled for some time next year at Spertus College. She can be reached at 675-3602 (evenings) or 390-6000 (days). Appropriate items will be picked up, safely guarded and returned (if desired) or ultimately contributed to the Chicago Jewish Archives.

Landsmanschaften (singular: landsmanschaft) literally countryman's businesses in Yiddish and German, were organizations of individuals and families who came to America as emigrants from the same region or the same shtetl in Eastern Europe. Usually founded as mutual aid societies or even cemetery associations, scores of them existed in the early years of this century, according to Sidney Sorkin, the Society's expert on landsmanschaften.

They were for decades major elements in the local Jewish social fabric, sometimes developing into congregations and frequently being factors in determining who married whom. Later, as acculturation occurred and immigration stopped occurring, they diminished greatly both in numbers and influence. A few remain more as social groups than as benevolent societies.

The exhibit planned by the Society will thus be highlighting the role of landsmanschaft as yet another institution which served particular needs at a particular time in Chicago Jewish history.

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charity although it does not boast of it.

It pays a death benefit when a member dies or someone dies in the immediate family. It pays a sick benefit in case of a member's sickness, and it accomplishes a great many other things, morally, socially and intellectually. It does all these things for monthly dues kept very small so as to give a poor man the opportunity and advantage of belonging to an organization whose noble ideals and principles appeal to an intelligent community.

## ERROR IN ARTICLE ON HANNAH SOLOMON YIELDS NEW INFORMATION

### Pioneer Leader Had Children Who Followed in Her Footsteps

Society News strives, in its role as a fledgling journal of Chicago Jewish history, for the accuracy of a scholarly publication even though it publishes only articles which will appeal to the general reader. On the whole, our record for accuracy is good, but occasionally there is a slip-up and an error of fact appears in its pages. But not for long! An eagle-eyed reader soon sets up straight.

#### Error in Article on Mrs. Solomon

Such was the case with the article on Bernard Horwich and Hannah Greenebaum Solomon which appeared in the June, 1988 issue. The article stated that Mrs. Solomon had no children when in fact she had three. The error, the result of editorial ignorance and not the fault of the author, Mark Mandle, was very soon called to our attention both by Mrs. Solomon's grandniece Mrs. Leon Despres and by Mrs. Arnold Shure, who had known Mrs. Solomon.

The communications from these two Society members not only corrected the error but also included information about Hannah Solomon's descendants which demonstrates that her example of civic involvement is still being followed by them, although, unfortunately for us, not in the Chicago area.

#### Interesting Information Communicated

We think our readers will be interested to learn of these continuing achievements by descendants of the Greenebaums and Solomons--two pioneer Chicago Jewish families.

Marion Alschuler Despres, Mrs. Solomon's grandniece, daughter of a distinguished Chicago architect and wife of a distinguished Chicago political leader, writes:

...I would like to correct one important statement about my great-aunt, Hannah G. Solomon. Along with her distinguished career, she produced three children. The oldest, Herbert, died at 18 and is buried in Jewish Graceland Cemetery, close to his parents' graves.

Hannah's daughter, Helen, married Emile Levy, a native of New Orleans. They had one daughter, Frances Hannah.

After two memorable trips to Europe with her grandmother, Frances Hannah married Philip Angel of Charleston, West Virginia. Philip was a leading lawyer in Charleston, and Frances Hannah became a moving force in Charleston's cultural and civic life. She was, and continues to be, a strong supporter of the National Council of Jewish Women. Her two sons and their families, in Charleston and Atlanta, carry on the family tradition of civic and cultural involvement along with their other activities.

Frank Solomon, Hannah's youngest child, married Helen Blum of New York and had three children. The oldest, Elizabeth, herself a Ph.D. in psychology, is married to Dr. James Birren, a pioneer in geriatric psychology and a founder of the Ethel Andrus Institute at the University of Southern California. They too have three children. Frank Solomon's second child, Henry, is married to Gail and is living and working in Washington, D.C. His third child, Frank Jr., has two children and lives and works in San Francisco.

So, far from having no children, Hannah left a living legacy, not only in the National Council of Jewish Women, but also in a large and growing group of descendants who are gifted and good citizens.

#### A Look at the Later Years

Frieda G. Shure commented further on Helen Levy, on Mrs. Levy's daughter and on Mrs. Solomon's later years.

Mrs. Solomon indeed had a daughter, Helen Levy, apparently widowed at an early age. The two widows lived together on Hyde Park Boulevard. Mrs. Levy, like her mother, was a cultured and concerned woman. She was for many years a secretary of [Chicago] Woman's Aid. She too was involved in community affairs.

Mrs. Levy also had a daughter, Frances Hannah. She survives them, living in West Virginia, and has, we think, several sons. She is a recent widow, having been married to Philip Angel, a lawyer. Mrs. Angel has been very active for many years in the National Council of Jewish Women, perhaps even on a national level.

For many years it was a tradition for both Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Levy to hold



## Society Welcomes New Members

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society welcomes the following members who have joined during the past few months. Their membership is proof of their interest in preserving the history of Jewish Chicago and their desire to become a part of that effort.

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs Arthur R. Baer          | Paul Hyman Meyer       |
| Feuer Library of Cong. KINS | Clarence Naken         |
| of West Rogers Park         | Clare & Dan Nimer      |
| Lawrence Fisher             | Mr&Mrs James P. Rice   |
| Joan A. Frazen              | Barbara Rose           |
| Merrill Freed               | Aleck & Evalyn Saidel  |
| Florence Garfinkel          | Len H. Schmelkin       |
| Grace Garfinkel             | Benjamin Schmidt       |
| Mr&Mrs David A. Grossberg   | Dr Edwin H. Sonken     |
| Franklin Horwich            | Sylvia B. Stone        |
| Theodore Horwich            | Ted Thau               |
| Ted R. Jadwin               | Esther Tovian          |
| Joyce Deborah Meyer         | Arthur & Lila Weinberg |
|                             | Laure Weinstein        |

--Marian Cutler  
Membership Chairman

## Inspired by CJHS Example, Local Labor Zionists Establish Archives

Inspired by the activities of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, the Labor Zionist Alliance of Chicago has established an archives committee to collect, preserve and make available materials dealing with the history of Labor Zionism in Chicago. The committee has already begun its work under the chairmanship of Fagel Unterman, who is a Society member. Secretary is Clare Greenberg, a CJHS Board member.

Anyone who knows of any available information or materials relating to the early history of the Labor Zionist movement in Chicago is requested to call Mrs. Unterman at 465-0875.

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Sunday afternoon teas, to which guests of specific interests were invited. My husband and I had the privilege of attending one of those affairs. It was complete with silver service, white gloves and old-world formality.

It is comforting for this harried editor to know that whenever the seemingly inevitable error creeps into Society News, he can rely on one (or several) of its knowledgeable readers to help keep the record straight. We are grateful for such assistance.

--Irwin Suloway

## Society Completes Another Successful Season of Summer Bus Tours

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society had three excellent summer tours this year. Two were new tours: a Maxwell Street walking tour and a different look at Jewish westward population movement that has ranged from Ashland Avenue to Lombard in the west suburbs. The Society also repeated its perennial favorite, the well-known tour of Chicago Jewish roots. The three tours provided participants with some new perspectives on Chicago Jewish history.

The summer started with Dr. Irving Cutler's tour of Chicago Jewish roots on July 3. This tour was again an early sell-out. It included a visit at the glorious old Anshe Sholom Synagogue at Ashland and Polk (now St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church) as well as glimpses of dozens of former synagogue sites on the West Side.

### Walking Tour of Maxwell Street

The second tour was the Society's first walking tour ever. It focused on a one-street neighborhood: Maxwell Street. Guides Walter Roth, Sol Brandzel and Leah Axelrod skillfully described the neighborhood and its history. The group was addressed by a local merchant, saw two synagogues (now churches) and visited the Hull House Museum. The museum proved fascinating. Starting in the morning, this tour included lunch nearby.

The last bus tour was a pioneering look at a Jewish west side and west suburban area many people were unaware of. The group visited River Forest, Oak Park, Westchester and Lombard and learned that they have Jews and even synagogues. Irwin Suloway and Leah Axelrod gave a delightful polished commentary with help from Elaine Suloway and Mark Mandle.

### Unusually Impressive Synagogue

I was particularly impressed with West Suburban Temple Har Zion on Harlem Avenue in River Forest. The synagogue has beautiful stained glass windows designed by William Gropper, a distinguished building designed by Richard Bennett and notable sculpture by Milton Horn.

As usual, Leah Axelrod, the Society's longtime tour chairman, did an excellent job of overall planning and attention to detail, thus insuring yet another successful tour season.

--Mark Mandle

## EXPERIENCED TOUR-TAKER LOOKS BACK AT 11 YEARS OF SOCIETY EXCURSIONS

### Certain Tours Taken or Led Stand Out in Writer's Memory

By Mark Mandle

Tours have become a trademark of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. While some local historical societies offer an annual tour or periodic tours, our society has faithfully offered three summer tours for over a decade.

Taking these tours has enriched my life and expanded my horizons. I grew up on the South Side in the 1960's. I seldom ventured to "foreign" Jewish areas like the North Side or the suburbs. The West Side was no longer a viable Jewish community at that time. By taking many tours, I have come to better understand the development of Chicago as a Jewish city and to learn of its suburban Jewish neighborhoods.

#### Supplementing Book Knowledge

As I grew up, I became familiar with Rabbi Morris Gutstein's A Priceless Heritage: the Epic Growth of Nineteenth Century Jewry, H. L. Meites' History of the Jews of Chicago and the Sentinel's histories of Chicago Jewry. Participating in the tours has complemented these written sources by providing a visual panorama of the past and present. I have visited large, mainly Jewish neighborhoods and isolated pocket communities. I have explored various dimensions of Jewish existence--synagogues, commercial districts, residential housing, mikvot and even cemeteries.

I have fond memories of the tours I have taken, but two tours stand out in my mind: a tour of the South Side led by Rachel Heimovics in 1977 and the Southwest Side

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Although many of the Society's summer tours are repeated because of insistent demand, more than a dozen different ones have been given during the past eleven years. These have involved areas in Chicago, in the suburbs and as far afield as Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Ligonier, Indiana. Probably no one other than the tour chairman has attended more than Mark Mandle, a charter Society member, a board member and former officer. Here he reminisces about his career as a tour-taker and tour leader, for he has led several. Mr. Mandle is an information specialist at Crain Communications.  
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Veteran tour-taker (and leader) Mark Mandle with the Society's long-time director of tours, Leah Axelrod.

--Photo by Moselle Schwartz

tour which I led a decade later.

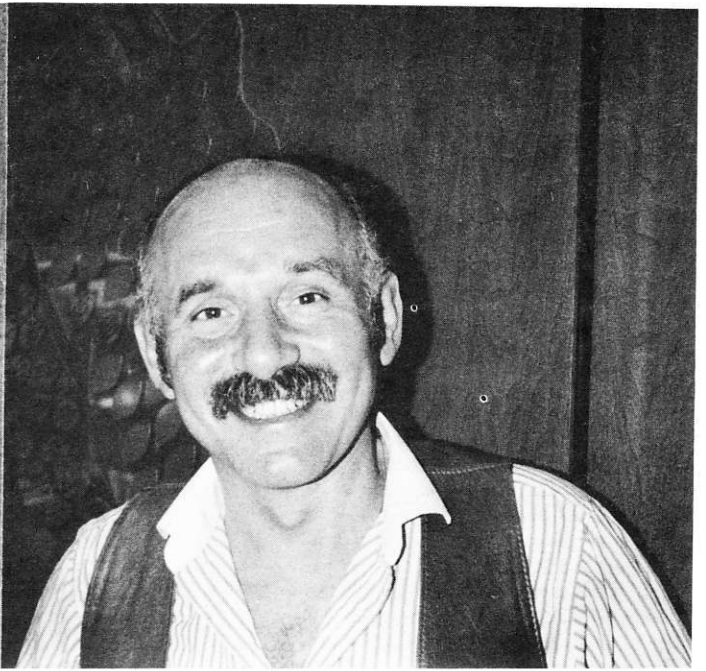
#### South Side Tour Proves Memorable

Ms. Heimovics' tour was very moving. We covered one hundred years of experience in a few hours. Walking through the nineteenth century KAM Temple on Indiana Avenue (now the Pilgrim Baptist Church) and then the current KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation was very exciting. However, the climax came when we came to 71st Street and entered the South Shore area. The tour group included many people who had lived in South Shore. These people took over the tour, sharing their experiences of the past in unforgettable fashion.

#### How New Tours Develop

Last year I developed a tour of my own. I researched an area that few people associate with Jewish settlement, the Southwest Side of Chicago, and pulled together the story of four synagogues. It was fascinating to learn about small, determined groups of Jews who created communities against great odds. It was exhilarating leading the tour--sharing my knowledge and also learning from the perceptive questions of the tour participants.

Taking summer tours has been a wonderful and enjoyable learning experience for me. It can be for you too. Please keep next year's Chicago Jewish Historical Society's summer tour schedule in mind when summer comes along.



Entertainers Jeff Klepper and Syd Lieberman at Members Brunch

--Photos by Moselle Schwartz

## JEWISH SONGS AND STORIES FEATURED AT JUNE MEMBERS ONLY BRUNCH

### Record Crowd Hears Klepper, Lieberman Perform; Board Elected

A record number attended the Society's annual members only brunch last June at A. G. Beth Israel Congregation. As usual, the food was good, plentiful and, because subsidized by the Society, a bargain. But the real attraction that Sunday was clearly the program.

An entertaining variety of song and story, both humorous and moving, was provided by Cantor Jeff Klepper and Storyteller Syd Lieberman. Klepper, of Congregation Beth Emet in Evanston, is a young man with an excellent voice, whose manner, delivery and warmth added immeasurably to a variety of Yiddish and Hebrew songs. His guitar playing added to his performance.

#### Stories Blend Humor, Pathos

Syd Lieberman, a schoolteacher better known for his storytelling abilities, has the personality and appearance to complement his repertoire of Jewish stories in which the humor was more than once intermingled with pathos. The total effect of the two performances was indicated by the appreciative applause.

The short business meeting that followed the brunch and preceded the program was the last presided over by retiring

President Norman Schwartz. It consisted chiefly of a report of the nominating committee and the election of members to the board of directors. Chairman Sol Brandzel gave the report and the election followed. Results are detailed elsewhere in this issue.

#### President-To-Be Introduced

Also introduced was Walter Roth, recommended by the nominating committee for election by the board of directors as the Society's next president. He spoke briefly of his hopes for the organization's future.

The program was arranged by Burt Robin, who presented the performers. Meal arrangements were capably handled by Hospitality Chairman Shirley Sorokin. Free bus service was provided from the Loop to the congregation at 3635 West Devon.

The tradition of closing each year with a members only brunch began in 1984 as a gesture of appreciation to those who not only attend meetings but also support the organization financially. Next year's members' brunch will be the sixth of the series.

--Irwin J. Suloway

Mechanical difficulties prevented us from completing this issue in the usual manner. In order to get this issue to its readers on time, we have had to use different equipment while our regular machine is being repaired.