



chicago jewish history

Sunday, December 10—Save the Date! CJHS Presents “From Balaban & Katz to the Last Independent: Chicago’s Jewish Movie Theater Owners”

Richard Stern, whose family for forty years owned Chicago’s first fine art theater, the Cinema Theater at Chicago and Michigan Avenues, will be the featured speaker at the next open meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, on Sunday, December 10. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m., after a social hour and refreshments at 1:00 p.m., at Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. Admission is free and open to the public.

An uncle of Richard Stern married a sister of Sam Katz, one of the founders of Balaban & Katz. Through this connection, Richard’s family got into the movie theater business. His father, uncles and cousins were all in the business, and among them owned many different well-known theaters in many neighborhoods in Chicago and the suburbs. Richard began managing his father’s theaters while in his early teens. In recent years, he was known for the high-quality but not widely distributed Jewish-themed movies which he screened at the Wilmette Theater (which he recently sold).



Paradise Theater, 231 North Crawford (now Pulaski Road), ca. 1928. Postcard.

Mr. Stern will discuss the matrix of his own and several other Jewish families who owned both chains and individual movie theaters. He will also discuss the changes in the industry which encouraged consolidation and brought an end to the small chains and independent owners. Finally, he will touch on businesses which were adjunct to the theater business, such as the movie distribution business and the concession business.

The Temple Sholom parking lot is south of the temple, on Stratford Street, facing the temple entrance. For further information phone the Society office at (312) 663-5634.



Xavier Cugat: Caricature of Danny Newman, 1951.
Collection of Mr. Newman.

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Walter Roth

GUS RUSSO'S "SUPERMOB."

It is often said that certain opinions are best left unexpressed. This is my thinking about Russo's latest book, *Supermob: How Sidney Korshak and His Criminal Associates Became America's Hidden Power Brokers*, which was reviewed in the *Chicago Tribune* on Sunday, September 24.

The review features a large picture of Sidney Korshak above this caption: "Exposing the Kosher Nostra: Author Gus Russo...describes a band of Jewish lawyers, politicians, and businessmen who acted as cat's paws for some of the Outfit's most serious scams...suggesting a gang of white collar kingpins as ruthless and tightly knit as a Mafia family."

All of the numerous Jews discussed by Russo grew up in Chicago. They are all now deceased, thereby protecting the author from any libel suits by these individuals.

I attended the author's personal appearance at Border's on North Michigan Avenue, where he discussed and signed his book. It consists of over 600 pages of anecdotes about Sidney Korshak and numerous other persons of the Jewish faith who were part of a "Supermob" that existed in Chicago and subsequently headed west to exert their power in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. In his book, Russo often refers to these Jews as Russian-born, or Ashkenazim. He also includes many references, innuendos, and pejorative adjectives that appear to be applicable to this select group of Jews. I had difficulty understanding his need to include the names of so many well-known Jewish politicians, lawyers, and businessmen, attributing to them participation in Korshak's supposed "Supermob."

I agree with the opinion of Rich Cohen in his review in the *New York Times Sunday Book Review* (September 24), that in making his case, "Russo deploys some very old notions of Jewish double-dealing and conspiracy, without which his larger ideas about Korshak and the world would fall apart."

At his book-signing, Russo rejected any idea that he harbors any anti-Jewish feelings. When asked about his use of "Ashkenazim" as a label for Russian Jews, he made it clear that he was unaware that the word referred to Jews from northern and central Europe, as well. (In fact, "Ashkenaz" is the Medieval Hebrew word for Germany.) Cohen writes in his review, perhaps unfairly, that Russo must have thought "Ashkenazim" was some type of secret cult.

In a letter to the editor of the *New York Times*, published on October 15, Russo refutes Cohen's "outlandish conclusions," noting that he spoke to many Chicago Jewish scholars for his book (although he does not identify any of them by name). He concludes: "Others who found no code words for anti-Semitism in *Supermob* include my Jewish lawyer, my Jewish manager, and my Jewish literary agent." Yes, some of his best friends are Jews. This old adage illustrates my difficulty in writing in detail about *Supermob*. ❖



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Year-End Review: CJHS Public Programs and Tours in 2006

PROGRAMS—Free and Open to the Public

CJHS Program Chairman Charles B. Bernstein planned and chaired Sunday afternoon open meetings of great interest to our community. On March 26, the subject was “History in the Making: The New Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.” Our guest speaker was Richard Hirschhaut, Project and Executive Director of the institution. This meeting was held at the current IHMEC facility in Skokie.

A capacity crowd attended the June 4 program at the Bernard Horwich JCC. “The Jews of Marshall High School” was a “reunion” featuring notable alumni speaking on the period from the late 1930s to the late 1950s. Seymour Persky, Izzy Acker, Irv Bemoras, and Ronnie Orzoff Robbins offered their recollections—inspiring (the rise from poverty through ambition and education) and exciting (championship basketball).

Past President Adele Hast pinch-hit as chair of the open meeting on September 17 in the chapel at Temple Sholom. President Walter Roth spoke on two chapters of his book, *Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past*, in a program marking the publication of the paperback edition. He discussed “Meyer Levin’s *Compulsion* Trial and Ben Hecht’s *Zionist Pageants*.” Hecht and Levin are Mr. Roth’s literary heroes, and his articles about those two great Chicago-bred Jewish writers can be found in past issues of *CJH* on our web site, www.chicagojewishhistory.org.

In a brief business meeting before the program, Dr. Hast conducted the election of members to the Board of Directors. Charles B. Bernstein, Herman Draznin, Janet Iltis, Seymour H. Persky, Walter Roth, and Dr. Milton Shulman were re-elected to three year terms.

As part of the Chicago Architecture Foundation’s “Learning from North Lawndale: Past, Present + Future” project, CJHS presented Dr. Irving Cutler in a narrated slide show, “Remembering North Lawndale,” on October 29 at the ArchiCenter on Michigan Avenue. Audience members who had lived in Lawndale added their recollections. CJHS Tour Chair Leah Axelrod expertly coordinated this joint CAF-CJHS program. Before and after the program we viewed the excellent CAF Lawndale exhibition in the atrium.

Our last public program of 2006 will be held on December 10. (See front page description of the event.)

TOURS—at Reduced Rates for Our Members

“Jewish Life in The Loop” was our first tour of the year. On July 23, Herb Eiseman guided a sizeable group on an afternoon walk, starting in the Asher Library at Spertus Institute, where Research Librarian Dan Sharon described his treasure-trove of study materials. The new Spertus building under construction next door will offer state-of-the-art facilities. (CJHS Past President Norman Schwartz tells us there are forty-three main points of Jewish interest in in downtown Chicago. The tour covered as many as possible in the allotted time.)

Dr. Irving Cutler conducted our “South Side Jewish Roots” bus tour on August 20. He guided the driver down streets filled with Jewish memories—from the old Maxwell Street Market area (now gentrified) south through the Grand Boulevard, Washington Park, Kenwood, Hyde Park and South Shore neighborhoods—to a stop at the formerly restricted South Shore Country Club, now the Chicago Park District’s South Shore Cultural Center, and open to all.

Michael Reese Hospital, once a great Jewish institution, and many former synagogue buildings were pointed out. As the tour bus passed the University of Chicago, Dr. Cutler indicated the apartment building where, many years before, as a newlywed student, he had lived with his wife Marion.

Our group took a walk through the Jewish section of historic Oak Woods Cemetery, and also viewed the massive Civil War burial place of Confederate POWs

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**A stop on our “South Side Jewish Roots” Tour:
The sanctuary of K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation,
1100 East Hyde Park Blvd. Photograph by Laurence Stern.
Digital image: Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute.**

“Ladies and Gentlemen...”

You are attending a performance at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. It is the opening night of a new production with a cast of world-famous singers. The house lights have dimmed, and the atmosphere is electric with anticipation. Then a stocky, bespectacled man steps out of the wings. He waits for

the groans of the audience to subside and speaks in a loud, clear voice: “Ladies and gentlemen, our tenor (or soprano—fill in the famous name) is indisposed and cannot go on. In his (or her) place we will hear the brilliant young American....” Groans, murmurs, laughter, then quiet resignation. Danny Newman steps back into the wings, and the overture begins.

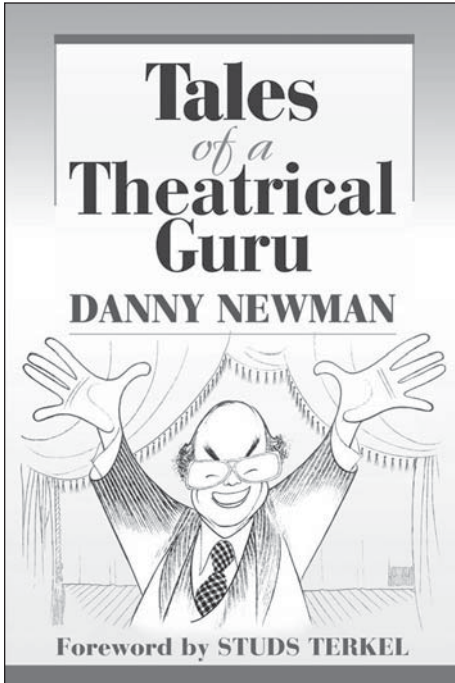
In his new memoir, *Tales of a Theatrical Guru*, Danny Newman writes: “For more than four decades I made the clarion, unamplified, onstage announcements in our 3,600-seat Civic Opera House that so entertained both orchestra and audience. On one occasion readers of Claudia Cassidy’s *Chicago Tribune* “On the Aisle” column were amused by her waggish review of a “performance” of mine: ‘Last night...the difference between Danny and the singers was that *him* you could hear!’”

Danny Newman is a legendary press agent and the longtime publicist for the Lyric Opera. His amazing seven-decade career began when he was a fourteen-year-old on Chicago’s Jewish West Side, going door-to-door selling season subscriptions for a local theater company. A child actor himself, he had already developed a spellbinding spiel. In 1977, he would actually “write the book” on the subject: *Subscribe Now!: Building Arts Audiences Through Dynamic Subscription Promotion*—now in its tenth printing. As press agent for Harry Zelter’s Allied Arts Corporation concert series (see sidebar), Mr. Newman made sure that “Subscribe Now” appeared in every advertisement tagline. He helped build the young Lyric Opera’s financial strength through prepaid subscriptions, and in the off-seasons served as an audience development consultant to hundreds of professional performing arts organizations on five continents.

In *Tales of a Theatrical Guru*, he brings together thirty-three profiles of key figures he has encountered in the entertainment world. The list of notables includes Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Milton Berle, Jimmy Durante, Laurel & Hardy, Sally Rand, Sam Wanamaker, George Balanchine, Samuel Goldwyn, Carol Channing, Yul Brynner, Richard Tucker, Leontyne Price, Jussi Bjoerling, Tito Gobbi, and Maria Callas.

There are also portraits of his late first wife, Yiddish theater star Dina Halpern (“She had a voice like an Amati cello!”). A classically-trained artist, descendant of a Jewish theatrical dynasty in Poland, she introduced Danny to the Yiddish language and culture. Dina died in 1989 after more than forty years of marriage. The Dina Halpern/YIVO Memorial Collection of Yiddish Literature can be found at the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center. In 1994, Danny married widow Alyce Katz. She, too, is Polish-born, and he writes poignantly about her early life in the Holocaust and post-war period.

Danny Newman no longer makes his announcements for Lyric Opera. An illness left him mute for a while, and now if he were to speak from the



Dina Halpern in the title role of Philip Yordan’s *Anna Lucasta*, Chicago’s longest-running-ever Yiddish stage hit, 1949.

Photo from Mr. Newman’s collection.



Tenor Placido Domingo joined Alyce and Danny Newman at the opening night cast party for Lyric Opera's *Girl of the Golden West* on October 17, 1996. Domingo sang the leading tenor role in that Harold Prince-staged production.

Photograph courtesy of Lyric Opera of Chicago.

stage, he would need a microphone. No amplification for him; no computer or electric typewriter, either. He is content to peck away with two fingers on his manual typewriter.

Danny's "voice" is mellow and his "touch" is firm in his delightful memoir. Buy it now!—*Bev Chubat*

TALES OF A THEATRICAL GURU.

By Danny Newman. Foreword by Studs Terkel. 2006. University of Illinois Press. Music in American Life Series. 256 pages, 55 photographs. Cloth \$29.95

150 YEARS OF OPERA IN

CHICAGO. By Robert C. Marsh.

Completed and edited by Norman Pellegrini. 2006. Northern Illinois University Press. 330 pages, 93 illustrations. Cloth \$45.00

Robert C. Marsh (1924–2002) served for thirty-five years as music critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Norman Pellegrini served for more than forty years as program director of Chicago fine arts radio station WFMT. This broad and engaging overview is supplemented with a list of professional opera performances in Chicago from 1850 to 2005.



Harry Zelzer: Chicago's Impresario

Harry Zelzer (1897-1979) was an independent concert manager in Chicago. He personally evaluated talent, negotiated contracts, and presented the artists. Over the years, he bested one after another of his competitors in the business. By the 1950s, it was a fact of musical life in Chicago that any concert artist had to appear under the aegis of Zelzer's Allied Arts Corporation, in one of his subscription series, in order to achieve box office success.

He never wrote a memoir, nor did he have one ghost-written—as did his mentor, the impresario Sol Hurok. So it was left to Sarah Schectman Zelzer (1909-1998), his wife and business partner, to write it. Her memoir, *Impresario: The Zelzer Era, 1930 to 1990*, written with Phyllis Dreazen, was published in 1990.

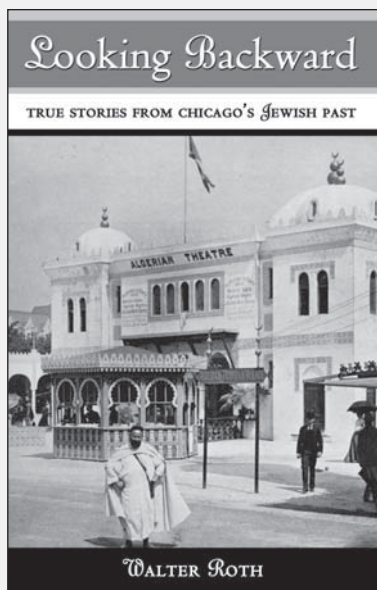
How is it that the "Zelzer Era" lasted eleven years after Harry's death?

In 1977, the Zelzers had dissolved Allied Arts Corporation and created Zelzer Management as a part of the Orchestral Association. This merger had long been a dream of Harry's. Sarah writes: "He may have been convinced that only large organizations could exist in the future, and/or he may have been acting out of respect and affection for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

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Walter Roth Looks Back at Chicago's Jewish Past

LOOKING BACKWARD: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past. By Walter Roth. 2002. Academy Chicago Publishers. The unknown story of Jewish participation in Chicago's great fair of 1893 is only one of the fascinating nuggets of history unearthed and polished by Walter Roth in the pages of *Chicago Jewish History*. Now, for the first time, the material has been collected in a single volume, chronicling events and people from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. Illustrated. 305 pages. Cloth \$27.95; paper \$16.95. *Widely available at retail bookstores and online.*



AN ACCIDENTAL ANARCHIST. By Walter Roth and Joe Kraus. 1998. Academy Chicago Publishers. The story of young Lazarus Averbuch's fatal 1908 encounter with Chicago Police Chief George Shippy. Paper, 211 pages. Illustrated. \$16.95. *Widely available at retail bookstores and online.*

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

By Walter Roth. 1980. Text of speeches at a CJHS symposium held at Congregation Ezra-Habonim in 1979. Paper, 24 pages. Illustrated. \$4.00. Price includes postage. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605-1901.*

CJHS Publications: References & Quarterlies

HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF CHICAGO.

Edited by Hyman L. Meites; new introduction by James R. Grossman; foreword by Thomas R. Meites and Jerome B. Meites. 1990. Facsimile of the original 1924 edition. Includes special supplement excerpts from the 1927 edition and biographical references and index.

Out of print. *Copies can be found at the Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago Public Library, 400 South State Street, and the Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 618 South Michigan Avenue.*

SYNAGOGUES OF CHICAGO. Edited by Irving Cutler, Norman D. Schwartz, and Sidney Sorkin. Project supervised by Clare Greenberg. 1991. Computerized compilation of synagogue listings in Chicago city and telephone directories since 1851. Includes every year's complete listings; a one line summary of each congregation; its active years; street address; name of rabbi; and name of president if available.

Out of print. *Copies can be found at the Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago Public Library, and the Asher Library, Spertus Institute.*

THE CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: A Ten Year History. Edited by Irwin J. Suloway. 1988. Paper, 24 pages. Illustrated. \$4.00. Price includes postage. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605-1901.*

CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY: INDEX 1977-2002.

Compiled by Adele Hast. 2002. Covers the first 25 years of our quarterly publication. Paper, 23 pages. \$4.00. Price includes postage. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605-1901.*

CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY: SINGLE ISSUES—1977 TO PRESENT.

Each 12 to 16 pages, grayscale. Illustrated. Each \$4.00. Price includes postage. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605-1901.*

CJHS Monographs: Minsky Prize Winners

Doris Minsky was a founder, director, and officer of the Society. The Fund was established in her memory for the purpose of publishing monographs on the history of the Jews of Chicago. Submissions were judged, and cash prizes awarded, by the CJHS Publications Committee.

1. CHICAGO JEWISH STREET PEDDLERS.

By Carolyn Eastwood. **MEMORIES OF LAWDALE.** By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. 1991. Paper, total 103 pages. Illustrated. Distributed by Academy Chicago Publishers, (312) 751-7300, www.academychicago.com. Also available from the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. See special offer below.

2. THE CHAYDER, THE YESHIVA AND I.

By Morris Springer. **MEMORIES OF THE MANOR.** Eva Gross. 1993. Memoir of the Jeffrey Manor neighborhood. Paper, 95 pages. Illustrated. See special offer below.

3. THE CANTORS: Gifted Voices

Remembered. By Bea Kraus. 1996. Author of two books on South Haven, and with Norman D. Schwartz, *A WALK TO SHUL*. Paper, 85 pages. Illustrated. See special offer below.

4. MY FATHER, MYSELF. By Rabbi Alex J. Goldman. 1997. A son's memoir of his father, Yehudah D. Goldman, America's oldest practicing rabbi. Paper, 120 pages. Illustrated. See special offer below.

5. THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR CHILDREN. By Myron H. Fox. 2001. Dramatic tale of Chicago Taxi Wars. Paper, 160 pages. Illustrated. See special offer below.

Special Offer! Supplies Limited!
ALL FIVE MINSKY PRIZE BOOKS
\$15.00

Price includes postage.

Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605-1901.

CJHS Lawndale Book & Romance DVD/Video/Book

A WALK TO SHUL Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way



Bea Kraus & Norman D. Schwartz

A WALK TO SHUL: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way. By Bea Kraus and Norman D. Schwartz. 2003. Paper, 159 pages. Illustrated. With detailed map. \$19.95. *Bariff Shop for Judaica, Spertus Institute; Museum Store, Chicago History Museum; Rosenblum's World of Judaica.* Also available by prepaid check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605-1901. \$19.95 + 3.00 s/h

DVD: ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE—100 Years of Jewish History in Chicago, 1833-1933.

Beverly Siegel, Executive Producer-Director. 1997. 30 minutes. \$29.95. **Special Offer:** DVD and program book for *The Romance of A People*, the Jewish Day pageant at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Paper, 72-page facsimile plus 8 pages of new material. \$39.95. *Ergo Media, Inc. Order online at www.ergomedia.com.*

VHS VIDEO: ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE.

See DVD. \$29.95 + 3.00 s/h. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society.*

THE ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE. Program

Book. See above. \$15.00 + 3.00 s/h. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society.*

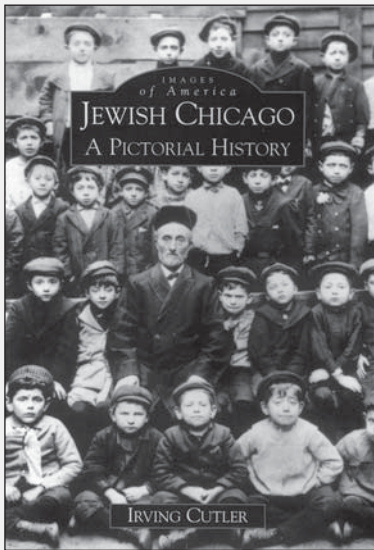
Special Offer: ROMANCE VIDEO and

Program Book. \$39.95 + \$3.00 s/h. *Prepay by check to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society.*

Irving Cutler's Popular Urban Studies

CHICAGO: Metropolis of the Mid-Continent. New—Fourth Edition. By Irving Cutler. 2006. Southern Illinois University Press. Dr. Cutler skillfully weaves together the history, economy, and culture of the city and its suburbs with a special emphasis on the role of the many ethnic and racial groups that comprise the “real Chicago.” 447 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$52.00, paper \$22.95

THE JEWS OF CHICAGO: From Shtetl to Suburb. By Irving Cutler. 1996. University of Illinois Press. Vividly told history of Chicago's Jewish community, by a founding Board member of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. 368 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$29.95



JEWISH CHICAGO: A Pictorial History.

By Irving Cutler. 2000. Arcadia Publishing. Images of America series. A sentimental snapshot of the city's Jewish community. 230 photographs and maps. 126 pages. Paper \$18.99

URBAN GEOGRAPHY. By Irving Cutler. 1978. Charles E. Merrill Publishing. A general study of cities in the United States and some of their major characteristics. 120 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$18.50

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHICAGO. Edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff. 2004. The University of Chicago Press. The encyclopedia's “Jewish Community” entry is by Dr. Irving Cutler. 1152 pages. Color insert; illustrations; maps. Cloth \$65.00

Dr. Cutler's books are widely available through retail booksellers and online vendors.

WOMEN BUILDING CHICAGO, 1790-1990: A Biographical Dictionary. Edited by Adele Hast and Rima Lunin Schultz. 2001. Indiana University Press. Of the over 400 individual entries, forty are Jewish women. 1,088 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$75.00

NEAR WEST SIDE STORIES: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood. By Carolyn Eastwood. 2002. Lake Claremont Press. Four extraordinary “ordinary” people try to save their neighborhood and the market at its core. One of them is clothier and jazz musician Harold Fox, designer of the first zoot suit. 355 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$17.95 *Also available on CD or audio-cassette from Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, 18 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 806, Chicago, IL 60603.*

THE OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOD AND DRINK IN AMERICA. 2004. Oxford University Press. The “Street Vending” entry is by Carolyn Eastwood.

A TIME TO REMEMBER: A History of the Jewish Community in South Haven. By Bea Kraus. 1999. Priscilla Press. Covers the 1920s through the 1950s, when this town on the Lake Michigan shore was home to a thriving Jewish summer resort community. 287 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$24.95 www.KrausBooks.com

A PLACE TO REMEMBER: South Haven—A Success from the Beginning. By Bea Kraus. 2003. Priscilla Press. Companion to *A Time to Remember*. Ranges from early America to the present day. 316 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$24.95 www.KrausBooks.com

THE FLORIDA JEWISH HERITAGE TRAIL. By Rachel B. Heimovics and Marcia Zerivitz. 2000. Florida Department of State. 44 pages. Fully illustrated. Paper \$10.50 each for one or two copies if purchased from: *The Jewish Museum of Florida, 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139-6965. (305) 672-5044.*

BRIDGES TO AN AMERICAN CITY: A Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften 1870 to 1990. By Sidney Sorkin. 1993. Peter Lang Publishing. A thorough study of the hundreds of service organizations, named after their Old World origins, that were a significant part of the immigrant experience. 480 pages. Cloth \$35.00 *Buy from Mr. Sorkin (847) 541-2188.*

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT TEMPLE SHOLOM. By Norman D. Schwartz and Rolf Achilles. Photographs by Rich Master. Design by Dianne Burgis. 2001. Temple Sholom of Chicago. Full color monograph describes and documents the twelve sets of beautiful windows. 20 pages. Paper \$5.00 *Buy from Temple Sholom (773) 525-4707.*

CANDLES BURNED IN CHICAGO: A History of 53 Memorial Commemorations of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The Midwest Jewish Council. Kenan Heise, editor; N. Sue Weiler, contributing editor. 2004. Author House. The stirring memorial gatherings mounted by a group of Jewish Chicagoans and their friends from 1944 to 1996. 132 pages. Paper \$18.00 *Make checks payable to: The Midwest Jewish Council, P.O. Box 59032, Chicago, IL 60659-0032.*

PRAIRIE DIRECTORY OF NORTH AMERICA: U.S. & Canada. By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. 2002. Lawndale Enterprises. The first-ever guide for visits to the prairie, an ecosystem unique to North America. Fifty pages are devoted to Illinois. 352 pages. Paper \$19.95 *P.O. Box 561, Wilmette, IL 60091-0561; www.Lawndaleenterprises.com.*

MINYANS FOR A PRAIRIE CITY: The Politics of Chicago Jewry 1850-1914. By Edward H. Mazur. 1990. Garland. 428 pages. Cloth \$75.00 *Out of print.*

THE ETHNIC FRONTIER. Holli and d'A Jones, editors. 1984. Eerdmans. The "Jewish Chicago: From Diversity to Community" entry is by Edward H. Mazur. 422 pages. Paper \$19.95 *Out of print.*

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN MAYORS, 1820-1980. Holli and d'A Jones, editors; Edward H. Mazur, contributing editor. 1981. Greenwood Press. 441 pages. Cloth \$49.95 *Out of print.*

CHICAGO'S GREAT WHITE CITY: A Postal History Panorama of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. By Dr. Harvey M. Karlen. 2004. Berk-Hill Publishers. The author is a member of the Philatelic Writers' Hall of Fame. 283 pages. 480 black and white illustrations. Hardcover \$50.00 + 4.00 s/h. *Berk-Hill Publishers, P.O. Box 833, Oak Park, IL 60303.*

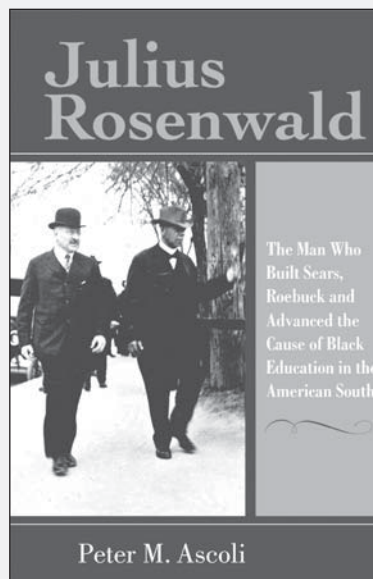
LEGACY: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance. By Werner L. Frank. 2003. Avoteynu Foundation, Inc. A portion of the book deals with the author's immigration to Chicago, and growing up in Hyde Park. 926 pages plus CD. \$49.00 (800) 286-8296 or *www.avoteynu.com.*

THE INVENTION OF THE JEW: Jewish-American Education Novels (1916-1964). By Bernard Sherman. 1969. Thomas Yoseloff. A literary study. 256 pages. Paper \$7.50. *Out of print.*

BREAKING GROUND: Careers of 20 Chicago Jewish Women. By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. 2004. Author House. 137 pages. Paper \$15.50. *Buy from the publisher (888) 280-7715.*

JULIUS ROSENWALD: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South.

By Peter Ascoli. 2006. Indiana University Press. Chicago's Julius Rosenwald was one of the richest men in America in the 1920s, but few people today, other than the older members of the Jewish

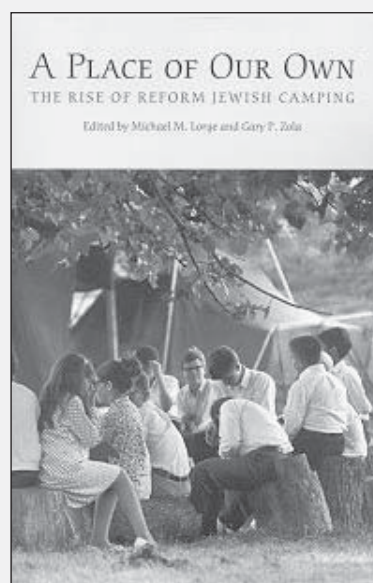


and African-American communities, know the story of his far-reaching philanthropy. Historian Peter Ascoli is Rosenwald's grandson. He tells his grandfather's story with professional skill as well as with insights that only an insider with access to intimate

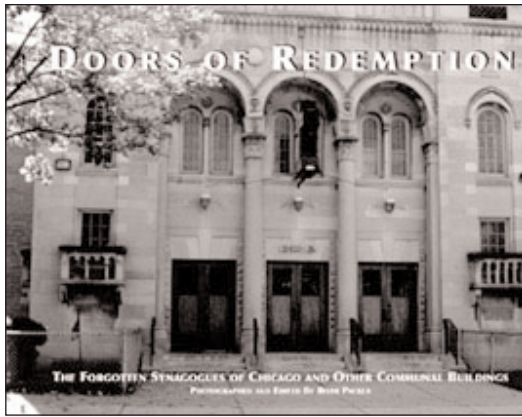
family records and memories could have. 472 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$35.00

A PLACE OF OUR OWN: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping.

Edited by Michael M. Lorge and Gary P. Zola. 2006. University of Alabama Press. While these seven essays have been assembled to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the first Reform Jewish summer camp in the United States—Olin-Sang-Ruby



Union Institute (OSRUI), in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin—they also cover a wide range of topics related to both the Reform Jewish movement and the development of the Reform Jewish camping system in the USA. 240 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$60.00, paper \$25.00



New—DOORS OF REDEMPTION: The Forgotten Synagogues of Chicago and Other Communal Buildings. Photographed and Edited by Robb Packer. 2006. BookSurge. An essential historical record. 282 pages. Spiral-bound \$23.99. *Buy from amazon.com.*

Music—THE ART OF THE YIDDISH FOLK SONG. Sima Miller, soprano; Arnold Miller, piano. Chicago's renowned concert artists. Four CDs each \$15.00; five audiotapes each \$10.00 *Sima Miller, 8610 Avers Ave., Skokie, IL 60076; (847) 673-6409.*

RED SCARE IN COURT: NEW YORK VERSUS THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER. By Arthur J. Sabin. Foreword by Howard Fast. 1999. University of Pennsylvania Press. The author is Professor of Law at the John Marshall Law School. 392 pages. Paper \$26.50

IN CALMER TIMES: THE SUPREME COURT AND RED SCARE MONDAY. By Arthur J. Sabin. 1999. University of Pennsylvania Press. 272 pages. Cloth \$49.95

THE CONVERSO LEGACY. By Sheldon Gardner. 2004. Pitspopy Press. This work of historical fiction for young people takes place in the 1880s. As the Jews in Russia are being massacred in *pogroms*, Samuel makes his way to America, and eventually to La Rosa, New Mexico. 258 pages. Cloth \$18.95, paper \$12.95.

SHORT SEA SAGAS. By Harold T. Berc. 2002. Athena Press. Unusual tales of over two hundred ships—mutinies, unusual sinkings, mystery ships sailing for years without crews, piracy! Concludes with a chapter on the author's own experiences as a U.S. Navy combat officer in World War II. 190 pages. Paper \$17.95

JACK OF HEARTS—A FULL DECK. By Jack W. Ardell. 2004. Family-friendly short stories, poems, and cartoons. 150 pages. Paper \$15.00 *Ardell Art & Craft, 5140 S. Fairview, #8, Downers Grove, IL 60515.*

A STUDENT LOOKS AT THE SIDDUR. By Sender Leib (Sanford) Aronin. 1997. Targum Press. Chidushei Torah on Tractate Berachos. 78 pages. Paper \$6.00 *Out of print.*

Other New Books of Chicago Jewish Interest

BARNEY ROSS. By Douglas Century. 2006. Nextbook/Schocken. This first biography of a Chicago Jewish hero, one of the most colorful boxers of the twentieth century is a galvanizing account of an emblematic life: a revelation of both an extraordinary athlete and a remarkable man. 216 pages. Illustrated. Hardcover \$19.95

THE CHICAGO MOVIE PALACES OF BALABAN AND KATZ. By David Balaban. 2006. Arcadia Publishing, Images of America series. The author—named after his grandfather, one of the seven Balaban brothers who ran Balaban and Katz—grew up on stories of his grandfather and great-uncles. 128 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$19.99

FULL SWING: Hits, Runs and Errors in a Writer's Life. By Ira Berkow. 2006. Ivan R. Dee. The author's improbable journey from Chicago's West Side, and hawking stockings in the old Maxwell Street Market, to a position as a sports columnist and feature writer for the *New York Times* and a share of the Pulitzer Prize. 302 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$26.00

AND THEY ALL SANG: Adventures of an Eclectic Disc Jockey. By Studs Terkel. 2006. New Press. The Chicago legend's latest oral history, adapted from interviews he conducted for his WFMT radio show. Subjects include Louis Armstrong, Leonard Bernstein, Big Bill Broonzy, Bob Dylan, Dizzy Gillespie, Mahalia Jackson, Janis Joplin, Rosa Raisa, Pete Seeger, and many others. 336 pages. Paper \$16.95

THE WICKED SON: Anti-Semitism, Self-Hatred, and The Jews. By David Mamet. 2006. Nextbook/Schocken. Using the metaphor of the Wicked Son at the Passover seder—the child who asks, “What does this story mean to you?”—Chicago's David Mamet confronts what he sees as an insidious predilection among some Jews to seek truth and meaning anywhere—in other religions, in political movements, in mindless entertainment—but not in Judaism itself. At the same time, he explores the ways that Jews have long been and still remain wicked sons in the eyes of the world. 208 pages. Hardcover \$19.95

Society Welcomes New Members

Arthur Don, Eric Goodman, Jerry Gosen,
Ned & Joan Lufrano, Cindy Mudrow,
Ira Pruzan, Barbara Render,
Norman Sandfield, and Marc Silver

Year-End Review *continued from page 3*

and the cenotaph commemorating fallen Southerners who had fought for the Union cause.

The tour passed two important side-by-side Hyde Park Jewish institutions—Congregation Rodfei Zedek and Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School. We stopped in at K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation to visit its magnificent sanctuary and handsome Stone Chapel.

The Chicago Architecture Foundation scheduled an Irving Cutler-guided tour, “Visiting North Lawndale with the Chicago Jewish Historical Society,” on October 15. It quickly sold out. A second tour was set for a later date, and that one, too, was fully booked.

LECTURE—CJHS in Suburban Wheeling

CJHS Membership Chair Dr. Rachele Gold spoke on “Chicago Jewry’s Early Years” on November 9 at the Indian Trails Library in Wheeling, in a program organized by Michelle Shapiro, the library’s Program and Special Events Coordinator.

Dr. Gold focused on the period from the arrival of the first Jewish settlers from German lands in the 1840s through the end of the main wave of Eastern European Jewish immigration in the early 1920s.

She highlighted the growth of Jewish neighborhoods and the success of community organization and development in the areas of religion, education, social welfare, culture and Zionism.

Audience members contributed remarks based on family experiences and personal memories of historic Jewish neighborhoods and institutions.

Jewish Centenary Exhibition in Elgin

The exhibition, “Stories of Immigration, Identity and Assimilation: The Jewish Experience in Elgin,” has just opened at the Elgin Area Historical Society and Museum, 360 Park Street. The exhibition is the result of a yearlong research project conducted by the Elgin Area Historical Society and the Seigle Family Foundation. For further information, contact the Museum at (847) 742-4248 or email elginhistory@foxvalley.net.

Impresario *continued from page 5*

and Orchestra Hall. He used to call Orchestra Hall his temple—music was his religion.” Harry enjoyed a partial retirement, but, sadly, just as he and Sarah were completing preparations for a trip to his birthplace in Poland, he died.

Sarah’s relationship with the Orchestral Association deteriorated and then collapsed; she had never been comfortable with the deal. In 1987 she decided to begin presenting concerts on her own at the Auditorium Theatre. Her plan failed, and the final concert under the Zelzer name took place on January 22, 1989.

Sarah recounts anecdotes about some of the colorful artists the Zelzers presented, and she settles some scores. She includes pages of lavish tributes to Harry on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday; one is from our CJHS Board member, Harold T. Berc. Sarah’s list of the names of all of the performers ever presented by Allied Arts is stunning in its length and scope!

Finally, her chapter “Pickets and Bombs” is frank. After WWII, Harry booked some artists who were accused of having Nazi associations (which later proved to be true)—Flagstad, von Karajan, Giesecking, Schwartzkopf. There were protests from the Jewish community, and Sarah tells of her own strong objections. Later, his bookings of artists from the USSR drew protests, as well. “But [Harry] insisted that music should be separate from politics, and he had the courage of his convictions.”—*B.C.*



**Sarah Schectman Zelzer and Harry Zelzer
on their Twenty-Fifth Wedding Anniversary, 1958.**

Photograph by Maurice Seymour.

FROM THE
CHICAGO JEWISH
archives

Mikdosh El Hagro Hebrew Center

by Joy Kingsolver

After more than 50 years, Mikdosh El Hagro Hebrew Center closed in September. A union of Mikdosh El and the Hagro Hebrew Center, this Conservative congregation had occupied the building at 303 West Dodge Avenue in Evanston almost since its beginnings in June, 1955.

There were many Jews living in Evanston in 1955, but little organizational support. There was just one synagogue in the neighborhood: Beth Emet The Free Synagogue, a Reform congregation founded in 1950. But there was plenty of enthusiasm for launching a new Conservative congregation. After a series of organizational meetings, the congregation was formally established on June 29, 1955 and tentatively called the Conservative Congregation of Evanston. David Singman was elected president and Louis H. Lieberworth was chosen as the first rabbi.

Within just a few weeks, the congregation was off and running, with a full slate of leaders, a sisterhood, and the beginnings of a religious school. The first Sunday School classes were held that October. By October 21, 1955, regular services were being held and 150 families were part of the congregation. At a congregational naming ceremony on December 11, 1955, the congregation traded its provisional name for a Hebrew

JOY KINGSOLVER is Director, *Chicago Jewish Archives*. The *Chicago Jewish Archives* is a component of the *Asher Library*, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.



From left: David Singman, first president, and Rabbi Louis Lieberworth at the installation of officers.

Mikdosh El, December 1955. *Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute.*

name, Mikdosh El (Sanctuary of the Lord). The rabbi and officers were installed at this time.

The congregation established a School Board, which began directing educational activities in the fall of 1955. One of the questions they faced was which pronunciation of Hebrew to use: Ashkenazic or Sephardic. The School Board felt strongly that it was important to follow the direction taken by the State of Israel, which had adopted Sephardic pronunciation, but they were also very concerned to have a unified parent body behind them. They polled the parents to be sure of their support, and on May 21, 1956, the religious school adopted the Sephardic pronunciation of Hebrew. The archival collection contains a blank ballot of the type used by parents to vote for either Ashkenazic or Sephardic pronunciation.

Jerome Rabin was appointed cantor in October, 1956. He had trained at the College of Jewish Studies (forerunner of Spertus Institute), which maintained an

Institute of Music geared toward cantorial training. The contract he signed lists his salary as \$20 per service.

Many other activities were begun in these early years, including adult education classes, a Men's Club, and annual Culmination Dinner Dances. In February, 1956, the congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue of America. The first confirmation class was celebrated on June 9, 1957.

The most significant development in these early years was the merger in 1958 with the Hagro Hebrew Center. Founded around 1928 by immigrants from Lithuania, the congregation was originally known as Hagro Anshe Wilno (Vilna), and was located at 3901 West Congress Street until 1948. Hagro is a Hebrew acronym for the name of Elijah ben Solomon Zalman (1720-1797), known as the Vilna Gaon, a learned and revered leader, whose influence reached far beyond the Jewish community of Vilna: **HA** (the) **Gaon** (genius) **Rabbi** Eliyahu. (Eliyahu begins with an aleph, which was transliterated as **O** in English.)

The location of the synagogue from 1948-1955 is uncertain, but in 1955, the Hagro Hebrew Center was located at 206-210 South Hamlin Avenue. But by this time, most of the neighborhood's Jewish population had moved north, and maintaining a synagogue on the old West Side was no longer practical. A merger seemed the only solution to a dwindling congregation. The two congregations drew up an agreement that provided for continued services



Groundbreaking for the new building, April 26, 1959. From left: Frank Kaplan, Barney Gordon, Evanston Mayor Kimbark, U.S. Rep. Church, and Rabbi Zaiman.
Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute.

in the South Hamlin building temporarily, but eventually the building was sold. The Hebrew school of the new congregation adopted the name Harris Michle Dick Hebrew School, which had been an established part of the Hagro Hebrew Center for 30 years. Rabbi Solomon Zaiman, too, came from Hagro and signed a lifetime contract with the merged congregation.

Together, the new congregation completed an ambitious building program. For the first year, Mikdosh El had held services in the Dawes School at Dodge Ave and Oakton. In January 1957, they purchased the lot on the corner of Dodge Avenue and Mulford Street for the construction of a school and community center, with room

for a sanctuary to come later. The congregation moved in just in time for the High Holy Days, September 1960. The occasion was marked by the carrying of Torah scrolls from a member's house, where they had been stored, and the lighting of the Ner Tamid. The sanctuary and additional wall were finally completed in 1971.

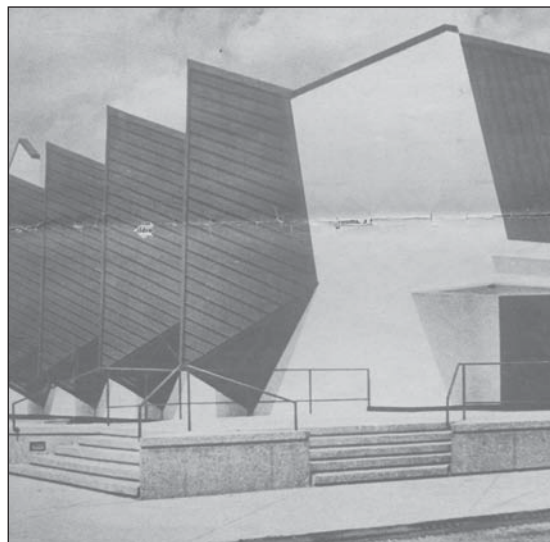
Over the years, the number of members began to dwindle, and in 1985 the building was sold to the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, which had moved several times since its beginnings in Wilmette. Mikdosh El Hagro Hebrew Center continued to hold services in the basement of the building. When JRC decided to raze the building to make way for a new one, it seemed

time for Mikdosh El to finally close. The last services were held in September, 2006. Archival material was donated to the Chicago Jewish Archives and will be open to historians after it has been processed and cataloged. ♦

New Material in the Archives

In addition to the Mikdosh El Hagro Hebrew Center Collection, the Chicago Jewish Archives has received material from several synagogues over the past few months. An extensive collection of material relating to B'nai Yehuda Beth Sholom (Homewood, IL) was received from longtime member Edith Strauss; this ten-box collection has been processed and cataloged. Material has also been received relating to Temple Judea; the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation of Evanston; Congregation Beth Itzhok of Albany Park; and Congregation Beth Eliezer.

The archivist has photographed the exteriors and interiors of Congregation Ner Tamid; the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation building on Dodge Avenue, which is being replaced by a new building; and the Lawndale Missionary Baptist Church on Independence Blvd., which was formerly Temple Judea. The archives is currently closed to the public to allow us to concentrate on cataloging and preparation for the move, but all of this exciting new material will be available to researchers when the archives reopens in the new Spertus building. —J.K



Left: Bringing the Torahs to the new building, September 11, 1960. Right: Mikdosh El Hagro Hebrew Center after the completion of the sanctuary, 1971.
Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute.

ED MAZUR'S PAGES FROM THE PAST

My source for these selections from local Jewish periodicals of the past was the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey Microfilm Collection at the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 South State Street.

In the autumn of 1936 the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey was organized under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of Illinois. The purpose of the Survey was to translate and classify selected news articles appearing in Chicago's foreign language press from 1861 to 1938. The Survey was officially sponsored by the Chicago Public Library and had the support of the Newberry Library, the Chicago Historical Society, and the John Crerar Library. The History departments of the University of Chicago and Northwestern University endorsed the project. Financial curtailments in the WPA program ended the Survey in October 1941. The Chicago Public Library published the work in 1942. The project consists of a file of 120,000 typewritten pages from newspapers of 22 different foreign language communities in Chicago.

Yiddish is the foreign language of the Jewish press in the Survey. English language periodicals are also included, as well as the publications of charitable institutions, communal organizations, and synagogues. In all, 16,298 pages of the Survey illuminate the Jewish experience in Chicago in those years.

DR. EDWARD H. MAZUR, a member of the CJHS Board of Directors, is an urban historian, professor emeritus at City Colleges of Chicago, and consultant to the International Visitors Center of Chicago.

"A MAGNIFICENT PLACE ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE FOR AMUSEMENT. The Jewish people of the Northwest Side, who are true lovers of the movies and have shown a desire to hear artistic music at these performances, are attending the magnificent Crystal Theater, North Avenue near California Avenue. Schaller Brothers built this theater at a cost of over three hundred and fifty thousand dollars. No expense was spared to make this theater pleasant and comfortable for its patrons. The costliest and most complete ventilating system that could be provided, constantly supplies the theater with clean, freshly washed air. The two thousand seats are very roomy and permit a direct unobstructed view of the stage. A twelve-piece orchestra provides a magnificent symphony program as well as the appropriate music for the pictures...."—*Daily Jewish Courier*, June 7, 1918.

"TWELFTH STREET TODAY BECOMES ROOSEVELT ROAD. Today Twelfth Street becomes Roosevelt Road. A huge parade will take place along the entire length of the street. All businessmen and residents of Roosevelt Road are requested to hang out the American Flag, to close their stores at four in the afternoon, and to participate in the celebration. About six p.m. a parade of automobiles will follow in a long procession from Twelfth Street north to Madison Street, east on Madison to Ashland Avenue, south on Ashland to Twelfth Street, and west on Twelfth to Independence Boulevard where marchers will assemble around a grandstand

especially constructed there. Many speakers and representatives from the Mayor's office, and probably the Mayor himself will address the assemblage."—*Daily Jewish Courier*, July 2, 1919.

"GIGANTIC CROWD AT THE FIRST JEWISH WRITERS' BALL. The spring ball of the J.L. Peretz Writers' Union, the first undertaking of the Jewish newspapermen of Chicago, was a great success, to judge by the gigantic crowd that gathered at the West Side Masonic Temple on Saturday night. As soon as the hall was opened, it was immediately filled, and the police had to close the doors. Thousands of people, even those who had tickets, but came late, could not get in. As always happens, the ball committee of the Union could not have foreseen that such a huge crowd would attend, and, therefore, it did not rent a larger hall, which could easily have been filled. The hall was too crowded to maintain proper order and the program could not be carried out as was originally planned."—*Daily Jewish Courier*, April 3, 1922

"THE CULTURE CENTER. ... In Chicago there existed for a number of years a Jewish Culture League, which was neither Jewish, nor cultural, nor a league; it was an organization run by our pseudosocialists. The Jewish Culture League existed quietly for a number of years, until recently it breathed its last. On the grave of the Culture League there has arisen a new organization, a chatter house, which has become the cultural fortress of our pseudosocialists. This Jewish inn

was recently opened at 1431 Sawyer Avenue. The inn is the center of the poets from the Young Chicago group, from the artists' group, and from the group of young radical Jews. However, our pseudosocialists have had bad luck with their new organization, because idle chatter is not culture. [They] have decided that they need a few billiard tables to entice the people to visit their Center. The Culture Center has thus become an ordinary poolroom. Our pseudosocialists hope to convert the youth to culture via the pool tables, and yet people say that there are not enough fakers in this world."—*Daily Jewish Courier*, Jan. 10, 1924

“FRIENDS OF BEZALEL SOCIETY ARE TRYING TO CREATE A MARKET FOR BEZALEL WORKS OF ART IN CHICAGO. A short time ago, upon the initiative of Professor Boris Schatz, a Society of Friends of Bezalel was formed in Chicago, whose purpose was to create here a market for the Bezalel works of art. The director of this society is the well-known civic worker, Mrs. Eli Daiches, 5480 South Shore Drive. When Professor Schatz was here last, he left for sale a number of art plates with rare ornaments, priced at \$4.50, \$15 and \$50. The money from these articles is being used for the rehabilitation of the Bezalel School in Jerusalem. Everyone interested in the Bezalel articles is requested to contact Mrs. Daiches.”—*Forward*, January 12, 1932.

“STRIKING HEBREW TEACHERS. We are pleased to note that the striking Hebrew teachers of the Moses Montefiore Talmud Torah are back on the job. While we realize the hardships the Kehillah has undergone to be able to finance these institutions of learning, it did not augur well for them to permit the oldest Talmud Torah in Chicago to be forced to close its doors, because of inability to pay its teachers, who have gone for months without receiving their salaries. The time has come when something definite must be done in connection with the struggling Talmud Torahs, and the matter should be presented in a forcible manner to the Jewish Board of Education. Talmud Torahs are just as important as Sunday schools and they should be supported.”—*Chicago Jewish Chronicle*, June 9, 1933. ❖



Bikkurim Festival, Douglas Park, 1939.
Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute.

CORRECTION

What a Difference a Date Makes!

Many thanks to all who wrote in to correct my reading of the date in the Bikkurim Festival photo published in the Spring 2006 issue of *CJH*. Yes, you are all right—the date on the photo is 1939, not 1959. This makes much more sense historically, since we all know that the Douglas Park neighborhood was no longer Jewish by 1959. Such an event in that area so late was very puzzling to us; the error can be blamed on a combination of the archivist's bad eyesight and a difficult-to-read Art Deco typeface.

Having the correct date in hand, we were able to uncover some details about the festival. The Festival of First Fruits, or Hag HaBikkurim, was an annual event sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education, beginning in 1936. In 1939, the festival not only re-enacted the biblical festival of Shavuot, but also presented in dramatic form the work of the Jewish Welfare Fund. A procession was followed by a pageant representing the Redemption of the Captives (Pidyon Shvuyim). During this festival, with some 3,000 children participating, \$2,000 was presented to the Keren Ami fund to aid European Jewish refugees.

The festival was directed by a veritable “who's who” in Chicago Jewish education. The pageant was written by Ben Aronin. Nathan Vizonsky rehearsed the actors and dancers. Hyman Reznick was in charge of the music. Todros Geller directed the artistic effects.

The festival shown in the photograph may have been the last one to take place; the festival does not appear to have been held the following years. This photograph represents a fascinating moment in the history of Jewish Chicago, one that turned out to be fleeting. —*Joy Kingsolver*

About the Society

What We Are

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1977, and is in part an outgrowth of local Jewish participation in the American Bicentennial Celebration of 1976. Muriel Robin was the founding president. The Society has as its purpose the discovery, preservation and dissemination of information concerning the Jewish experience in the Chicago area.

Tribute Cards for Celebrations/Memorials

The card design features the Society's logo, our mission statement, and space for a personal message. Purchase from the Society office at (312) 663-5634.

Remember the Society

Name the Chicago Jewish Historical Society as a beneficiary under your Last Will, Living Trust, IRA or other retirement account. Any gift to CJHS avoids all estate taxes and can be used to support any activity of our Society that you choose—publication, exhibition, public program, or research. For information please call the Society office at (312) 663-5634.

What We Do

The Society seeks out, collects and preserves written, spoken and photographic records, in close cooperation with the Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. The Society publishes historical information, holds public meetings at which various aspects of Chicago Jewish history are treated; mounts appropriate exhibits; and offers tours of Jewish historical sites.

Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons and organizations and includes a subscription to *Chicago Jewish History*, discounts on Society tours and at the Spertus Museum store, and the opportunity to learn and inform others about Chicago Jewish history and its preservation.

Dues Structure

Membership runs on a calendar year, from January through December. New members joining after July 1 are given an initial membership through December of the following year.

Life Membership	\$1000
Annual Dues:	
Historian	500
Scholar.....	250
Sponsor.....	100
Patron.....	50
Basic Membership	35

Make checks payable to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, and mail to our office at 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Dues are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

www.chicagojewishhistory.org

The Society is now online! Browse our web site for information about our upcoming programs. Read past issues of *Chicago Jewish History*.

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Look to the rock from which you were born
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