You and your friends are invited to

Our June Open Meeting

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 3, 1979

Spertus College of Judaica, 618 S. Michigan

1:30 PM -- Social Hour

2:30 PM -- Open Meeting and Program:

"The History of Jewish Labor in Chicago"

presented by SOL BRANDZEL
Co-Manager of the Amalgamated Clothing
Workers Union of Chicago

The program will include the showing of
the ACWU film "The Inheritance"
narrated by Robert Ryan with sound by
Pete Seegar and Judy Collins

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SOL BRANDZEL

SOL BRANDZEL is International Vice
President of the Amalgamated Clothing
Workers Union and is Co-Manager of the
Chicago and Central States Joint Board
of that Union. He specializes in
political and legislative work.

Sol has a long labor history and
served as a labor member of the Illinois
State Advisory Commission on Unemploy-
ment Compensation in the 50's. He is
presently a member of the Board of
Directors of the Amalgamated Trust and
Savings Bank of Chicago and the Amal-
gamated Bank of New York. He is also

(continued on page 10, col. 1)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The membership of the CHICAGO
JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY is hereby
notified that the annual meeting of the
members shall be held on June 3, 1979
at 2:30 p.m. at Bederman Hall, Spertus
College of Judaica, 618 S. Michigan
Avenue at Chicago, Illinois 60605.

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

For three year terms:

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

For two year terms:

Jerry Temaner

For one year terms:

Michele Finkelstein
Emma Kramer

Continuing Board Members and their un-
expired terms:

Two year terms:

Leah Axelrod Dr. Edward Mazur
Irving Cutler Elsie Orlinsky
Jack Frost Sidney Sorkin
Mark Mandle Adele Hast

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Dear Friends,

This issue of SOCIETY NEWS is presented to you, our members and friends, with great pride. It has been written to convey not only our activities of the past months and our plans for the future, but also historical information which we feel will be of special interest. The bibliography, prepared by CJHS board member Mark Mandle, is a very important work which we feel will be of great help to families interested in pursuing Chicago Jewish historical information, as well as to Synagogues and other organizations wanting to enhance their libraries. The history of B'nai Zion includes much more than the history of that Synagogue and as such is another article that we believe should be of great interest to our readers.

This month our board of directors acting as a nominating committee, as required by our by-laws, has presented us with a slate of officers and a board of directors. The election of this board will take place at our June 3rd open meeting. I personally appreciate the work of the board in this capacity and am sure that the board which they have nominated will continue to carry on the ideas and the plans initiated during our first two-and-a-half years. Comments about the officers, prior to our official election, would not be proper at this time, but I must mention that I am pleased and hope that we will be able to provide the leadership which our Society wants, as well as the activities in which we are all interested.

Summer Bus Tours - see page 11 - sound very exciting and I'm sure that our members, their families and their friends will once again enjoy the tours being offered. Our tour committee has planned a new tour, the cemetery tour, as well as two tours that are revised versions of previously offered tours, and all promise to be informative and delightful afternoons.

June 3rd - our annual meeting - a must attend for all Chicago Jewish history buffs. Details on page 1 of this Society News. And we can also look ahead to September 16th, 1979 when the Society will have an open meeting with members of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. This special meeting will be held at Cong. KAM-Isaiah Israel and more details will be sent to you. For now I suggest that you mark your calendar. It will be another historic afternoon.

We are very proud of our first cooperative program with the American Jewish Historical Society which will be held on June 5th. See page 10 for details. Admission for this performance is by ticket only. We anticipate further cooperative programs and activities with the American and are very pleased that this special film is being shown in Chicago.

Our officers and board members, both those completing terms as well as those who will continue, all deserve our special thanks. During this past cold and dreary winter many committees functioned, meetings were held (though sometimes postponed) and our activities proceeded. Archivists, oral historians, and the special new audio-visual people all contributed to the feelings of accomplishment which we have come to equate with membership in the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Please call our office, volunteer your time as well as your expertise in one or more of the activities of our Society and continue to enjoy making as well as studying our history.

Muriel Robin

SPECIAL NOTE: "CHAGALL in CHICAGO" - on exhibit at the Spertus Museum.

hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am to 5 pm
      Friday            10:00 am to 3 pm
      Sunday           10:00 am to 4 pm            through July 1st
SOCIETY PROVIDES HISTORICAL PROGRAMS TO CELEBRATE SYNAGOGUE ANNIVERSARY

In celebration of the 60th anniversary year of Congregation B'nai Zion, Chicago's first Conservative Congregation, a series of monthly lectures on the history of the Jews in Chicago was offered by the CJHS at the synagogue, located at Pratt & Greenview in East Rogers Park.

Co-sponsored by the Society and the Adult Education Committee of the Congregation, the first three sessions were held on Sunday mornings as part of the synagogue's monthly Men's Club breakfast. The fourth session was the regular bi-monthly open meeting of the CJHS, held at B'nai Zion on a Sunday afternoon.

The programs were the following:
Dec. 10, '78: "Chicago Jewry: From Maxwell St. to Highland Park," an illustrated presentation by Dr. IRVING CUTLER, Prof. of Geography at Chicago State University and a CJHS board member;
Feb. 11, '79: "Zionism in Chicago: A History," by Dr. MILTON D. SHULMAN, Prof. of Management at De Paul University and a member of the CJHS;
March 25, '79: "Chicago's Conservative Bet Din--A History," by Rabbi DAVID CRAUBART, Presiding Rabbi of the Bet Din, Assoc. Prof. of Talmud at Spertus College, and CJHS member; and "A History of Congregation B'nai Zion," by NATHAN HOFFMAN, President of the synagogue.

This programming is an example of the kinds of services the CJHS can provide to the Jewish community. We are ready, willing and able to work with other synagogues and organizations to prepare special programs of historical content. This is in addition to our regular Speakers Bureau which provides names of speakers to any interested party. Just call us at 663-5634 to avail yourselves of our many services.

INFORMATION SOURCES WANTED ON THE JEWISH LITERARY SCENE IN CHICAGO PAST AND PRESENT

Dr. BABETTE INGLEHART, Professor of English and American Literature, is researching the Chicago literary scene for a forthcoming book and would appreciate hearing from anyone with information and/or suggestions. She would like to hear about literary groups, societies, clubs, meeting places (homes, restaurants, cafes, etc.) which served as centers for the Jewish (including Yiddish-language) writers of Chicago from the 19th century to the present.

Please call her at 241-5416 or drop a line to her at 5000 S. Cornell, Chicago 60615.

NOTABLE DOINGS OF SOCIETY MEMBERS

At this year's annual meeting of the American Jewish Historical Society, April 27-29 in Nashville, Tenn., RACHEL HEIMOVICS participated in a panel discussion on "The Theory and Practice of Local Jewish Historical Societies" at the Sunday morning session. Rachel, a founding member of the CJHS, is also a member of the Executive Council of the AJHS.

At the Shabbat evening services of the AJHS annual meeting in Nashville, Dr. JACOB RADER MARCUS celebrated his 2nd Bar Mitzvah on the occasion of his 83rd birthday. Dr. Marcus has been Professor of American Jewish history at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati since 1926 and is the founder of the American Jewish Archives housed at HUC.

Society founding member Dr. S. BERNHARD MINTZ has been asked to write a history of the Midwest Region of the Federation of Men's Clubs. Anyone with information regarding men's clubs of Conservative synagogues in the midwest should contact Dr. Mintz through the CJHS office, 618 S. Michigan 60605, 663-5634.

Congratulations to founding member SALLY GOLDSMITH on being elected president of the Chicago Women's Division of the American Technion Society.
FORM AUDIO-VISUAL COMMITTEE TO PRODUCE TV SPOTS

An audio-visual committee, chaired by RACHEL HEIMOVICS, has been formed to prepare brief audio-visual presentations about Chicago Jewish history/nostalgia for use on TV by the Chicago Board of Rabbis. These spots will probably appear as intermission breaks on the "Some of My Best Friends" program which airs on Sunday mornings on Channel 5. This committee will provide scripts—including narration and ideas and sources for visuals and sounds— films, photographs, slides, archives and audio-tapes. NO VIDEO TAPES MAY BE USED.

Producer Marty Zitlin has cleared the use of audio-tapes—as long as the audio tapes were made for archival purposes, such as our oral histories.

The A-V committee is comprised of LEAH AXELROD, IRV CUTLER, MICHELE FINKELSTEIN, JUDAH GRAUBART, ROY KLOWDEN, RENEE MATTHEWS, ED MAZUR, NORMAN SCHWARTZ, BARRY SEROTA, SID & SHIRLEY SORKIN, JERRY TEMANER and others. So far their meetings have been very exciting and it has been difficult not to get sidetracked into verbal journeys into Chicago's past, the connections and associations, the humor and the scandals. Everyone has had fascinating chapters of Chicago Jewish history to offer.

The members of the A-V committee bring together a wide variety of talents and experience. Two members have very special expertise to help these productions. Jerry Temaner is a professional film producer. He has offered to help in overseeing these presentations. Barry Serota is advising on available Jewish music and recordings. In addition, Rachel Heimovics, who is a professional writer, has offered to help anyone wishing to work on a script with the writing, if so desired.

The scripts can be on any subject pertaining to Chicago Jewish history. There is no deadline. The committee hopes that a wide segment of our member-

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK IN TV?

Anyone wishing to participate in the creation of the Chicago Jewish historic briefs for TV (see accompanying article) should contact Audio-Visual Committee chairperson RACHEL HEIMOVICS at 831-2548 for placement on the mailing list for meetings of the A-V committee of the CJHS, or just to get further information.

DO YOU HAVE PICTURES TO LEND?

The CJHS wants to see your home movies and still photographs. The Society would like to borrow and possibly copy films and photos that show Chicago Jewish scenes, such as family and community celebrations, synagogues and other Jewish buildings, and streets from neighborhoods where large numbers of Jews lived.

"We are seeking all kinds of visuals—but we are especially interested in finding 16-mm films," MURIEL ROBIN, Society president, said. The Society is preparing short nostalgic and historic presentations for television. "Color and black and white photographs and slides would be appreciated. And postcards, too," said Robin.

Although the Society wants merely to borrow the visuals, pictorial donations would be gratefully accepted and placed in the Chicago Jewish Archives at Spertus College of Judaica.

Some specific pictures needed are the following:
--Stores and corners on Roosevelt Rd. from Kedzie to Crawford, vintage 1920-1940;
--Famous Jewish restaurants, city-wide, vintage 1920-1940;
--Division St. scenes from Damen to Kedzie, 1920's & 1930's;
--Albany Park in the 1920's & 1930's.

Ship will contribute scripts or material for scripts on an ongoing basis.
... B'na'i Zion has been in Rogers Park for 60 years. Let's look at Rogers Park. In 1830, Philip Rogers purchased 1600 acres of land from the government, an area larger than present day Rogers Park, and gave this community its name. Farmers began to settle along Ridge Avenue, but the community grew very slowly until 1890. In 1893 Rogers Park was annexed to Chicago, and the North Shore Electric Railroad extended the Clark Street Car through Rogers Park. The Northwestern Elevated Line was extended to Howard St. in 1907 and the Jesuits established Loyola University in 1909. These actions provided the stimulus for growth in Rogers Park. Many second and third generation Irish families moved into the area. In 1915 the area north of Howard St. and south of the cemetery, known as Germania, seceded from Evanston and joined Chicago. During the decade from 1910 to 1920, the population of Rogers Park swelled from 7000 to 27,000. Single family homes gave way to larger apartment buildings, apartment hotels and kitchenette apartments, chiefly along the lake. A few Jewish settlers moved into this predominantly German-Irish community during this decade starting as early as 1910. These Jews represented the vanguard of the socially mobile East European Jews who were already moving from the West Side into various communities in Chicago.

It was at the close of this decade when a relatively small number of Jews living in a sparsely settled Rogers Park recognized the need for a place to worship. Generally, 1919 was an optimistic time for those Jews who were able to leave the West Side and re-locate in Rogers Park. 1919 was a good year. The Peace Treaty to end the War to end all wars was ratified by all the major parties and signed. The Communist International was organized in Russia. An airplane had successfully flown the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. The Prohibition Amendment had just become effective. And Jack Dempsey had defeated Jess Willard to become the heavyweight champion of the world and inaugurate the golden decade of sports. This then was the backdrop of those times.

Three men, affectionately known as the three musketeers, Herman Spivak, Edward Steif, and Joseph Friedman, met at the home of the latter and planned the organization of this Congregation. At that time services were being conducted at the home of Joseph Friedman on Saturday mornings. With Herman Spivak as its first president and Joseph Friedman as vice president (he later became the second president), the congregation was started with a membership of sixteen families. At that time Rabbi Abraham L. Lassen was in Chicago to present a speech at a Zionist convention. He was a rabbi from Evansville, Indiana, where he had been for a number of years. Rabbi Lassen had been born in Russia, received rabbinic training there, and when he came to the United States in 1900 he attended the Jewish Theological Seminary where he was ordained and received a Doctorate in Hebrew Literature. The three musketeers prevailed upon him to become our first Rabbi, truly an inspiration.

Rabbi Lassen not only set the standards for Conservative Practice for our congregation, but he established the Central Body of Conservative Jewry in the Midwest. I quote from the Sentinel, "History of Chicago Jewry": "The organizing force to set up the Midwest Office for Conservative Jewry in Chicago was Rabbi Lassen. The first president in 1925 was Charles Olliff. The second president was Thomas Piser. The office was forced to close in 1931 because of the depression. When it re-opened in 1935 its new president was Samuel Wol-
berg." These three men were our first, third and eleventh presidents respectively, which indicates the influence that our congregation had on the early years of the formation of the United Synagogue of America, and the obvious role that Rabbi Lassen exerted on its beginnings.

But let us return to 1919 for a moment. The founding 16 members, their leaders and Rabbi Lassen decided to purchase a little wooden Episcopal church building at 1715 Lunt Ave., which had been known as St. Paul by the Lake. It was soon converted and became the first home of B'nai Zion. It was the first synagogue in Rogers Park. Temple Mizpah, which was organized shortly after B'nai Zion, did not have a building of their own until the mid 1920's. Though the wooden structure was adequate, the facilities could hardly be called commodious. The school rooms were in the basement, always damp and poorly lit. Rabbi Lassen struggled with all of the inconveniences, preached in the sanctuary, taught classes in the basement, and was assisted by his new wife Ann who taught the Sunday school. But as the membership grew, 85 families in the second year and 150 families by 1924, it became apparent that a larger building was needed. In 1926, the present site at 1447 Pratt, the building that is contiguous to the one we are in, was purchased during the term of our third president, Thomas Piser, whom I mentioned previously. A home that was located on that site and was razed to build the synagogue, was the home of the same Jess Willard who gave up his heavyweight crown to Jack Dempsey. The new building was constructed, and dedicated on September 8, 1928. The depression and its problems started one year later.

Rogers Park, in the meantime had grown in population from the 27,000 of 1920 to almost 60,000 in 1930. For the next fifty years, until the present time the population has not varied more then about 2000 up or down. However, the Jewish population had grown to about 10,000 in 1930 and doubled to approximately 20,000 by 1946. Though the Jewish population has also remained relatively stable its age median has increased from the 20's to where it now stands at about 60 years of age.

The depression years were accompanied by financial problems experienced by everyone. Rabbi Lassen continued at his duties even though B'nai Zion was unable to pay him any salary for almost an entire year. However we survived and as the depression waned we continued to grow. In 1945 Rabbi Henry Fisher was brought to B'nai Zion from Rochester, N.Y., and Rabbi Lassen was elected Rabbi Emeritus. And we continued to grow. By 1948 we reached 850 families and by 1950 we had almost 1100, with about 1100 school children. It was apparent that we needed more space, primarily school rooms. The property on which this building is standing was purchased and this with its nine school rooms upstairs was dedicated in 1949. This building is the Wolberg Community Center and this hall is called Oliff Auditorium. Both names were mentioned previously. And as times change, so does our congregation. In 1964 Rabbi Fisher was elected Rabbi Emeritus after eighteen years. After he moved to California, our congregation was served by Rabbis Morris Fishman and David Lincoln. And now our present Rabbi, David Salzman, who has been with us for six years.

And as times change, so do the needs of the community. The Depression presented our first challenge and we became much more a Community Center for both the Jews in Rogers Park, and yes even the non-Jews. During World War II we re-acted to the needs of the war effort. During the period of tremendous growth we increased our facilities to accommodate the surging membership. Now we are dramatically serving the needs of the senior citizens in our midst and responding to the requirements of the great influx of Russian Jews in Rogers Park. Yes! We believe that we will always be here in Rogers Park, where we started, where our ties are and where the community needs us.
CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHY

This is a general bibliography which includes books on Chicago history and American Jewish history in addition to those directly concerned with Chicago Jewish history. I have not included Ph.D. dissertations, and have been selective in the magazine articles I listed. Major collections of Judaica can be found at Spertus College's Asher Library in Chicago and Hebrew Theological College in Skokie. Spertus' Library houses the Chicago Jewish Archives which has material on synagogues, rabbis, and organizations. Spertus' Library also has a special Chicago collection on Chicago Jewry. Other libraries with significant collections on Chicago Jewry are Chicago Public Library main branch (presently at 425 N. Michigan), Northwestern University Library, University of Chicago Regenstein Library, Highland Park Public Library, and Skokie Public Library. Individual synagogues may have large libraries or archival collections. Chicago's best synagogue libraries are the Beth El and Solel congregational libraries—both located in Highland Park.

Your synagogue library should own all the books on Chicago Jewry in this bibliography which are in print. Your public library should own at least Gutstein. It could also own Berkow, Bernheimer and some of the recent biographies.

-- MARK MANDLE
Chief Librarian of Richton Park
CJHS Board Member

Books:

Chicago History

Community Area Data Book for the City of Chicago. Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry. Also known as Local Community Fact Book: Chicago Metropolitan Area. Contains 1970 Census Data for 75 community areas.


Chicago Jewish History


The Lakeville Studies; under the direction of Marshall Sklare and Benjamin Ringer, v. 1 Jewish Identity on the Suburban Frontier, v. 2 The Edge of Friendliness. New York, Basic Books, 1967. Lakeville is really Highland Park. The research was done in 1957.

Meites, H. L. (ed.). History of the Jews in Chicago. 1924. Excellent history filled with pictures that you must look at.


Chicago Jewish Biography


Horwich, Bernard. My First Eighty Years. 1938.


**American Jewish History**


**Magazine Articles**


Rosenthal, Erich, "This was North Lawndale." *Jewish Social Studies*, April, 1960, p. 67-80.

**Membership Information**

Membership in the CJHS is open to all.

The dues categories are the following:

- $5.00 Students & Senior Citizens
- 10.00 Contributing Membership
- 25.00 Sustaining Membership
- 50.00 Patron Membership
- 100.00 & up -- Sponsoring Membership
- 25.00 Minimum contribution for synagogue and organization membership

To become a member, or to increase your membership contribution, send your check to the Treasurer, Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605.
TEVYE, the 1939 classic Yiddish language film—now restored and resubtitled in English—will be presented at the Art Institute of Chicago, Tuesday evening, June 5. This Chicago premiere of the restored TEVYE is sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society with the cooperation of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

TEVYE, directed by and starring the famous actor, Maurice Schwartz, was produced in 1939 in Jericho, New York. This film is a moving adaptation of Sholem Aleichem's familiar story in which one of the daughters, Khave, falls in love with the intellectual son of a Russian peasant. Their courtship and marriage pit Tevy's affection for his daughter against his deep and ultimately triumphant loyalty to tradition. The Film Daily review of December 28, 1939 proclaimed, "Splendidly produced Yiddish film is first rate vehicle for Schwartz."

The screening is for members of the two organizations and invited guests. Dina Halpern, actress of international Yiddish-speaking stage, will introduce the film. The screening will highlight the American Jewish Historical Society's efforts to preserve Yiddish cinema classics.

TEVYE is one of a collection of Yiddish films that have undergone extensive sound and picture restoration. The film is part of the Rutenberg and Everett Yiddish Film Library of the American Jewish Historical Society which contains 37 titles, the largest extant collection of Yiddish films in the world.

The restoration project was undertaken by the American Jewish Historical Society with assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Film Institute and Brandeis University. Most of the films in the collection were originally made on nitrate stock, an unstable material. The original nitrates have been donated to the Library of Congress for preservation.

The Yiddish films (16mm and 35mm) are available for rent from the Rutenberg and Everett Yiddish Film Library. Rental fees are adjusted according to use. For information, write Yiddish Film Library, Lown Building, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA., 02154. The telephone number is (617)-899-7044.

(continued from page 1)

a Director of several insurance companies operated by the Union in connection with its welfare program. In Chicago, he heads the Day Care Center, Retiree Center and Prepaid Legal Program of the Union. He is a Director of the Southeast Chicago Commission and also serves as Chairman of the I1L Committee on Health Security. In addition, he is a member of the Cook County Community College Board of Trustees.

He was the honoree in November, 1977 of the Chicago Trade Union Council for Histadrut, and last fall he and his wife Ruth were one of three Chicago land couples honored by the American Jewish Congress.

Sol and Ruth are founding members of our Society and have served actively on our Board since its inception.

(continued from page 1)
CJHS 1979 SUMMER BUS TOURS

The Society is pleased to announce three exciting bus tours of historical Jewish sites in Chicago for the summer of 1979. A tear-off reservation form is at the bottom of the page. Tours are on air-conditioned coaches. All tours are on Sunday afternoons. Departure time is 12:30 p.m. from the Horwich J.C.C. at 3003 W. Touhy Avenue. The tours will conclude at approximately 5:00 p.m. at the same location.

1. June 24, 1979 - "CHICAGO JEWISH ROOTS" - Dr. Irving Cutler
   A sentimental journey to Maxwell Street, Lawndale, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Albany Park, and West Rogers Park, with a number of stops at places of Jewish historical significance.

2. July 29, 1979 - "CEMETERY TOUR" - Dr. Edward Mazur, Rachel Heimovics, and Charles B. Bernstein
   A guided visit to the graves of some of Chicago Jewry's famous pioneers, including stops at Mount Mayriv and Rosehill Cemeteries. This is a brand new tour this year.

3. August 26, 1979 - "JEWISH SITES IN HISTORICAL CHICAGO" - Leah Axelrod
   Featuring highlights of Chicago Jewish history, this tour is geared for young people as well as adults and is a perfect format for a family excursion together into our Jewish community's past. A minimum age of ten is recommended.

ALL TOURS BEGIN AT 12:30 p.m. AT THE HORWICH J.C.C., 3003 W. TOUHY AVENUE

CHARGES:  CJHS Members - adults $5.00  Non-members - adults $8.00
          - children $3.00  - children $4.00

Check must accompany each reservation. Please send your check to:
For information phone:  CJHS office - 663-5634  Mrs. Leah Axelrod
                        or Leah Axelrod - 432-7003  2100 Linden
All reservations will be acknowledged.

TOUR RESERVATION FORM

NAME ____________________________________________  Member, Chicago Jewish Historical Society
ADDRESS __________________________ PHONE __________
CITY _______ STATE _______ ZIP ________________ *Dues included in tour check.

Reservations for ___ adults June 24 tour
          ___ children " " 
          ___ adults July 29 tour
          ___ children " " 
          ___ adults Aug. 26 tour
          ___ children " " 

Non-members joining at this time may enjoy members' rates for these tours. See membership schedule in SOCIETY NEWS.

Total amount enclosed $____

June, 1979