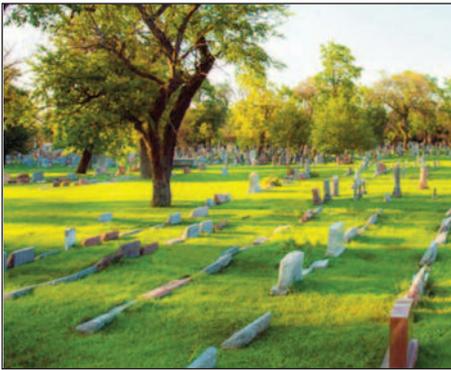




CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY

COMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES!



CJHS GUIDED TOUR

*Historic Waldheim Jewish Cemetery
and Forest Home Cemetery*

SUNDAY, JULY 31

Reservation Form Enclosed – Sign Up Today

CJHS OPEN MEETING

“The Jews of Von Steuben High School”

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

2:00 p.m., Temple Beth Israel, 3601 Dempster Street, Skokie

SEE
PAGE 15
FOR MORE
EVENTS



Photograph by Andy Romanoff

This is the latest in the Society’s popular series of historical programs about Chicago Public High Schools that had large Jewish student populations. Past programs covered Roosevelt, Marshall, Hyde Park, Austin, and Sullivan.

A panel of distinguished Von Steuben alumni from various decades will participate. A social hour with kosher pastries will follow the program. General admission \$10 per person at the door. CJHS members and TBI members Free.

CJHS CONCERT – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Cantor David Berger of KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation and Choir

The Seymour H. Persky Memorial Concert. Program and venue to be announced.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Edward H. Mazur.

So many timely announcements, interesting inquiries, and potential articles kept coming to our editor in the past few months, she was overwhelmed, and the publication of the spring issue of *Chicago Jewish History* was delayed until now—early summer. The President's Column, as originally written, began with Passover greetings (now out of date) and continued with warm memories and fresh considerations of this family holiday (always welcome), so here goes:

In observation of Passover we are required to remove chometz from our homes. At the Mazur household we do this by contracting to sell our chometz through our shul, the Lake Shore Drive Synagogue—Shomrei Israel, 70 East Elm Street.

Passover always conjures up memories of my childhood, when my family lived in the Humboldt Park neighborhood—not only the seders led by Zayde Jacob Kleinbort (the only grandparent that I knew), but also my father's annual pre-seder ritual, grinding horseradish on the back porch or in the basement of our apartment building. My mother would then add beets and various secret ingredients. The end product was as strong, I believe, as any of today's illegal stimulants!

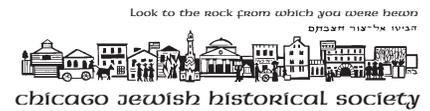
Our seders never began until after eight o'clock, because Zayde would go to shul and then walk from the Meor Chayim synagogue on Rockwell just south of Augusta Boulevard to our home. We would be joined by Uncle Norman, Aunt Thelma (truly the best voice in the family—she even studied with the legendary Bialystoker Rosa Raisa), cousins Neil and Barry, and my older brother, Sander.

The seders were held in our dining room, which also served as the bedroom for my brother and me, on the two sections of a studio couch. We would push the couch aside, bring in kitchen chairs, and also huge pillows for Zayde. Then the seder would begin: a trilingual ritual in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Yinglish. I probably never made it through the entire seder without falling asleep. Was it the effect of four cups of wine? In my dreams! I imbibed maybe four glasses of Old Colony pop.

This year, several days before Passover, my daughter Amanda phoned to tell me that at her supermarket in Highland Park, among the many Kosher for Passover products was—sushi! (Amanda has now taken on the seder hostess role superbly filled for many years by her mother, my wife, Myrna.) I know that we are grateful to some courageous Japanese diplomats for the lifesaving help they gave to Jews fleeing the Holocaust, but I found this development to be incredible. Following up on Amanda's discovery, I drove up to Mariano's on Touhy Avenue in Skokie to see for myself what unusual delicacies could be added to our Pesach table.

The crowd was five deep around the Kosher for Passover sections. People were shouting, gesticulating, and filling their shopping carts. If my mother were alive, she would have been in her glory. She would have driven the

Continued on Page 15



2016

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Chicago Jewish History

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Send submissions to Editor, electronically (preferred) or via standard mail. Enclose SASE.

CJHS members... YASHER KOACH!

To all our activists, achievers, and honorees... the Hebrew phrase means "More Power to You"

The Illinois State Historical Society presented a Lifetime Award to Board Member and Tour Chairman, **Leah Axelrod**, at the ISHS Annual Awards in Springfield on April 23. She is a longtime ISHS Director.

Illinois Heritage, the journal of the Illinois State Historical Society (May-June 2016), notes Leah's award and features a report on a tour that she guided on April 1 for them. Titled "Immigrant to Elite," it was a coach trip, an all-day exploration of historic sites in Chicago neighborhoods that included snacks and meals at various ethnic restaurants. The visitors from around Illinois were as delighted as we Chicagoans were when Leah shepherded us down to Springfield last fall for the "Lincoln and the Jews" exhibition.

Leah Axelrod has served as president of My Kind of Town Tours and Events for forty years and as a Board member of the CJHS for almost as long. We are so lucky to have a distinguished travel industry professional as our tour chairman.

Jewish Child & Family Services presented **Dr. Irving Distelheim** its What's Possible Award at the JCFS "Striking Event," Sunday, June 26, at Pinstripes in Northbrook. The award states: "As a young man, a scholarship from Jewish Children's Bureau allowed Dr. Distelheim to continue his education and help support his family during the Great Depression. He became a decorated medical officer in World War II, a successful dermatologist, art critic, and gallery owner. His hard work, determination, and achievement exemplify the unlimited potential each individual has within."

Board Member **Patti Ray** recently returned from Israel where she worked on arrangements for the first Loyola University Chicago academic courses (on Judaism and Israeli literature) to be taught in Israel, at The Hebrew University. Patti is gratified that LUC is not just cooperating with her initiative, but is enthusiastic about it.

Board Member **Herbert Eiseman** recently returned from Israel where he worked at Tel Hashomer Hospital assembling medical kits as a volunteer with Sar-El, the National Project for Volunteers for Israel (see www.sar-el.org). Herb tries to spend some weeks each year donating his efforts to free IDF soldiers from mundane tasks. This year, he brought along his younger daughter and treated her to a week of sightseeing, including a climb of Masada, before beginning his work.

After his service Herb visited the parents of **Roey Gilad**, the popular Consul General of Israel to the Midwest, for dinner at their home in Tel Aviv. Herb presented Roey's mother with one of our attractive, sturdy, teal blue CJHS Logo tote bags (one of four he brought along to distribute to Israeli friends).

We regret that Roey Gilad's four-year tour in Chicago is ending. He and his wife Nitza represented Israel so well, and they became active participants in our local Jewish community life.

On May 12, Board Member **Dr. Irving Cutler** led a JUF WCC (Women's City Council) Mini Mission on his famous "Chicago Jewish Roots" tour to our historic neighborhoods and sites.

And for something completely different...on another day, Irv spoke with a group of ex-convicts at a meeting in the original Sears Tower on Arthington and Homan in the Lawndale neighborhood, Irv asked them if they had ever shopped at the retail store in the Tower. One fellow did remember *shoplifting*.

On Sunday, July 10, Hebrew Theological College hosted a celebration of the launch of Board Member **Zev Eleff's** two books. See details on pages 6 and 7.

JUST ANNOUNCED!

Board Member **Zev Eleff** has been named to the Fifth Annual "Double Chai in the Chi: 36 Under 36" list of young Jewish movers and shakers in Chicago, sponsored by the JUF.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

Asher Bronfeld
Skokie, IL

Jay & Marcia Doniger
Northbrook, IL

Robert Eppenstein
New York, NY

Michelle Field
Highland Park, IL

Paula J. Hyman
Skokie, IL

Gary Missner
Chicago, IL

Michael Witkovsky
Middleton, WI

Lennie & Jessica Weiss
Lincolnwood, IL

Chicago Metro History Fair 2016 Lincoln Park High School Students Win CJHS-Sponsored Award for Chicago Jewish History



Daniel Marroquin, Katharine Padilla, Alice Tran, Jessica Flores.
Chicago Metro History Fair Finalists Award Ceremony, May 15, 2016,
Chicago History Museum. Photo by Steven Weichao Xu.

These four Lincoln Park students won the CJHS award for their documentary, *The Exchanges of Maxwell Street* in which Ms. Flores narrates a pictorial history of the famous market from its Jewish immigrant beginnings and heyday, and its role as a performance space for African American blues musicians, to its takeover by the University of Illinois, to its move to Jefferson Street where a Latino market is now held on Sundays. Their sponsor was history teacher Sandra Koehler. The CJHS was represented by Board Member Joan Pomaranc.

The Chicago Metro History Fair challenges Chicago area students to become historians. Individuals or teams pursue historical questions that are meaningful to them, conduct research, and present their work in the form of a research paper, exhibit, documentary, website, or performance. Superior high school projects advance from regional competition to the Chicago Metro Finalists Competition. The best of these projects advance to the Illinois History Expo (as our awardees did), and eighteen high school projects represent Illinois at the National History Day competition.

The Chicago Metro History Fair and the Chicago Jewish Historical Society were both founded in 1977, and we have supported the Fair informally since then. Past Presidents Norman D. Schwartz and Adele Hast personally presented cash awards for projects with Chicago Jewish content, and the Society continued to do so from time to time, until this year, when we joined other local cultural institutions as active sponsors and established the Award for Chicago Jewish History.

Philadelphia, PA National Museum of American Jewish History Honors Julius Rosenwald “The Great Unsung Philanthropist”

The *Only in America*® Gallery / Hall of Fame at the museum illustrates the choices, challenges, and opportunities Jewish Americans encountered on their path to remarkable achievement. Julius Rosenwald is the 2016 inductee and 19th member. He joins:

Irving Berlin	Golda Meir
Leonard Bernstein	Jonas Salk
Louis Brandeis	Menachem Mendel Schneerson
Albert Einstein	Rose Schneiderman
Mordecai Kaplan	Isaac Bashevis Singer
Sandy Koufax	Steven Spielberg
Estée Lauder	Barbra Streisand
Emma Lazarus	Henrietta Szold
Isaac Leeser	Isaac Mayer Wise

Visit the museum website: www.nmajh.org
At present, the NMAJH has almost no Chicago content (yes, Golda Meir did reside here for a while). *Rosenwald*, the recent documentary by Aviva Kempner, which focuses on the Rosenwald schools for African American children in the segregated South, seems to have inspired interest in the man as a Jew in his time. Historian Hasia Diner's book, *Julius Rosenwald*, in the Jewish Lives series, will appear in November 2016.

SEEKING INFORMATION AND A PHOTO

Medical historian seeks information about Mortimer Frank, M.D. (1874-1919)

I am director of the Center for History Of Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. I have attached the obituary of this physician. [available on request from the CJHS]. I am trying to get more information about him, his life, and especially a photograph of him. I do not know if he was Jewish.

Robert Feibel, M.D.
feibel12@gmail.com
(314) 991-5225

Dr Frank was indeed Jewish. There is an entry for him in *History of the Jews of Chicago*, edited by J. L. Meites (1924), on page 357 in the “Arts” section.

“MORTIMER FRANK, a prominent oculist until his death, was best known as a writer, not only upon medical topics, but upon the history of his profession and other subjects....”

TWO INQUIRIES... and one long answer



Rambam Day School, June 1959. Collection of Asher Bronfeld.

Do you have information about my Jewish Day School in the Austin Neighborhood?

Rambam Day School (1954-1968) was initially located at 5608 West Adams in an old converted mansion. It served both a traditional day school program for grades 1-6 and also an afternoon Hebrew School for those attending public schools. Some of the students were from Austin but many came from the Lawndale area and some from as far away as the South Side. Near the end of its run, it moved and shared space at Congregation B'nai Israel of Austin at 5433 West Jackson. It closed permanently soon after. I am looking to interview people who attended the school during those years and am also looking for archival material (photos, newspaper clippings, annual banquet books, etc). In the attached class photo I am the one who did not get the memo about wearing a white shirt that day!

Asher Bronfeld
abronfeld2@gmail.com
(847) 791-3038



B'nai Israel of Austin and Addition. They are no longer Jewish congregational buildings. Photo courtesy of Spertus Institute.

Who was Chicago's first Jewish alderman?

This simple question led to interesting research.

The inquiry from Eric Hopp of Skokie was published in *CJH* Winter 2016. We answered: Henry Greenebaum, and added some other prominent names. Now, thanks to President Ed Mazur's memory, input from Jerry Levin, Michael Rosenberg, and Judy Gutstein, and an intense Google search by our editor, we have amassed quite a list of Jews who have served and currently serve as aldermen. Special thanks to Research Librarian Lesley Martin at the Chicago History Museum, who had at hand the list of city officials compiled by the Municipal Reference Library, and provided us with any missing years and wards for the names we supplied.

Jacob Arvey	(24th)	1923-1941
Ralph Axelrod	(46th)	1979-1983
Lawrence Bloom	(5th)	1979-1997
Hyman Brody	(39th)	1935-1937
Chris Cohen	(46th)	1971-1977
Leon Despres	(5th)	1955-1975
Sidney Deutsch	(24th)	1953-1957
Edwin Eisendrath	(43rd)	1987-1993
Milton J. Foreman	(4th)	1899-1901
“ “	(3rd)	1901-1911
Henry Greenebaum	(6th)	1856-1858
Leonard J. Grossman	(5th)	1927-1931
Solomon Gutstein	(40th)	1975-1979
Barnet Hodes	(7th)	1931-1935
Louis London	(24th)	1941-1953
Burton Natarus	(42nd)	1971-2007
Martin Oberman	(43rd)	1975-1987
Jerome Orbach	(46th)	1983-1987
Ivan Rittenberg	(40th)	1979-1983
Jacob Rosenberg	(2nd)	1876-1878
Thomas S. Rosenberg	(44th)	1959-1968
Edward S. Salomon	(6th)	1861-joined Army
Esther Saperstein	(49th)	1975-1979
Philip Shapiro	(39th)	1959-1965
Helen Shiller	(46th)	1987-2011
Debra Silverstein	(50th)	2011-current
Seymour Simon	(40th)	1955-1961
“ “	(40th)	1967-1974
William Singer	(43rd)	1969-1975
Michele Smith	(43rd)	2011-current
Jack Sperling	(50th)	1967-1973
Bernard Stone	(50th)	1973-2011
Paul T. Wigoda	(49th)	1959-1974

Report: Sunday, June 5 The CJHS at The Greater Chicago Jewish Festival

No rain! This year, the biennial Greater Chicago Jewish Festival in the Cook County Forest Preserve, Morton Grove, was blessed with sunny and temperate weather. The thousands of visitors enjoyed the music, food, fun, and information.

As a co-sponsor, the CJHS was given an information table, and we were lucky to be located in a prominent spot. We had a great number of visitors, ranging from those who'd never heard of us to our loyal, longtime Society members.

We engaged people in a little historical quiz, with a display of portrait photos of famous Jewish Chicagoans captioned with their main achievements, asking our visitors to supply their names. Included were Alderman Henry Greenebaum, "King of Swing" Benny Goodman, opera star Rosa Raisa, Illinois Governor Henry Horner, boxing champ and war hero Barney Ross, and Nobel Prize-winning author Saul Bellow.



Only the distinguished visage of Greenebaum, Chicago's first Jewish alderman, drew a complete blank.

Thanks to Jerry Levin and Mark Mandle for hosting our table all day and serving as quizmasters, and to Alissa Zeffren for helping out.

Report: CJHS Open Meeting, Sunday, May 22 "A Realistic Rendezvous? Chicago's Rabbi Oscar Fasman and New York Orthodox Judaism"



Rabbi Dr. Zev Eleff.

The auditorium of Hebrew Theological College, 7135 Carpenter Road, Skokie, was the scene of our open meeting on Sunday afternoon, May 22. Zev Eleff, Chief Administrative Officer of HTC, an award-winning scholar of American Jewish history, and a member of the CJHS Board, was the speaker. Eleff's two new books contain rare archival sources, and he began his presentation with two fascinating ones: first, a 1928 article in the *Sentinel*, announcing a debate to be held in New York between seminarians from Chicago's Hebrew Theological College and Yeshiva College of New York. A photo of the HTC representatives shows five boys, including Oscar Z. Fasman, smartly dressed in evening clothes and yarmulkes. The *Sentinel* anticipates that "this debate will tend to bring the two institutions close in spirit, as the aim of both is to strengthen Judaism in America." Eleff's next source was an admiring report on the event in *The Day*, the national Zionist daily, reprinted in the HTC 1929 yearbook, commenting on the importance of the event and the excellence of the participants (and their haberdashery) "Who said that one can't study the old tomes of the Talmud and immerse oneself in everything Jewish and not be modern?"

Oscar Z. Fasman graduated from the Hebrew Theological College in 1929. He then held posts in Orthodox synagogues in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Ottawa, Canada. In 1946, Rabbi Fasman returned to Chicago to assume the presidency of HTC.

Always looking for a strong national merger, he took steps to help unite the two Orthodox communities, HTC and RIETS (Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University). "Yeshiva U Holds Secret Talks with HTC," the *Sentinel* reported in 1950. But Chicago scholars feared "Gothamization," and the Chicago and New York communities developed separately.

By the mid-1950s, the "crabgrass frontier" was the battleground of Judaism, with the growth of Conservative congregations. Graduates of HTC created Traditional synagogues with mixed seating and areas for parking cars. In 1958, HTC settled on a seven-acre campus in Skokie. Zev Eleff distributed a source sheet containing excerpts of Rabbi Fasman's articles and correspondence, and other documents that reflect his views of the issues. in the northwest suburbs.

Continued on page 10



Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman.
(1905-2003)

Rabbi Saul Silber
Memorial Library, Hebrew
Theological College.

documents... **NEW BOOKS** ...research**MODERN ORTHODOX JUDAISM:****A Documentary History.** By Zev Eleff.

Foreword by Jacob J. Schacter.

2016. Jewish Publication Society. Paper, 570 pages.

16 images. An extensive collection of primary texts documenting the Orthodox encounter with American Judaism that led to the emergence of the Modern Orthodox movement. Zev Eleff combines published documents with seldom-seen archival sources in tracing Modern Orthodoxy as it developed as a structured movement, established its own institutions, and encountered critical events and issues—some that

helped shape the movement and others that caused tension within it.

— *JPS*

WHO RULES THE SYNAGOGUE?
Religious Authority and the Formation of American Judaism.

By Zev Eleff. 2016.

Oxford University Press.

344 pages, 14 illustrations.

Hardcover and Kindle.

Early in the 1800s,
 American Jews consciously

excluded rabbinic forces from playing a role in their community's development. By the final decades of the century, ordained rabbis were in full control of America's synagogues and large sectors of American Jewish life. How did this shift occur?

Zev Eleff traces the history of this revolution, culminating in the Pittsburgh rabbinical conference of 1885 and the commotion caused by it. Previous scholarship has charted the religious history of American Judaism during this era, but Eleff reinterprets this history through the lens of religious authority. In doing so, he offers a fresh view of the story of American Judaism with the aid of never-mined sources and a comprehensive review of periodicals and newspapers.

Eleff weaves together the significant episodes and debates that shaped American Judaism during this formative period, and places this story into the larger context of American religious history and modern Jewish history. — *OUP*

A CJHS member's important book that did not fit any of our Fall 2015 Book Issue categories

NEED TO KNOW: The Story of a Company:

Leo J Shapiro & Associates. By George Rosenbaum. 2015. grresearch consulting, Amazon Paper and Kindle.

Opinion polling, and more broadly, survey research, expanded quickly in the USA following WWII. Once a largely academic discipline, it increasingly became a source of intelligence to guide decision-making for commercial enterprises as well as not-for-profit institutions. This growing field of study included social scientists such as Ernst Dichter, Hans Zeisel, and Theodore Adorno, who were Jewish refugees. It also included me. I emigrated from Vienna as a child and eventually studied Sociology at the University of Chicago. A good deal of this postwar growth in the survey research field occurred in Chicago.

My first job in 1954 was with Leo J Shapiro, research director at Science Research Associates. The following year Leo and I founded our own company, Leo J. Shapiro & Associates, dedicated to addressing problems using survey research. By that time, qualitative research such as focus groups and case studies were being used, along with measurements produced by population samples.

My book, *Need to Know*, views the 60-year span of survey research through the filter of our company. It is also a tribute to my partner, Leo Shapiro, who died last November at age 94, still engaged in research to the end of his life. Leo's persistent curiosity about the world helped define what we needed to know in order to guide clients. Until the company was sold in 2014 it was the oldest independent survey research firm in the Chicago area, with about 70 employees.

The title *Need to Know* articulates the capacity of survey research to answer questions about the public that decision-makers confront. The book traces the evolution of data acquisition and processing. It provides examples of many different questions addressed by a broad range of clients—consumers, customers, voters, patients, members, employees, students—and what was learned. It depicts the research environment that produced outstanding creativity. The book also defines the professional standards that underlie responsible survey research. — *George Rosenbaum.*

ED MAZUR'S PAGES FROM THE PAST

My source for these selections is the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey Microfilm Collection at the Chicago Public Library Harold Washington Library Center.

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.

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 twenty-two 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.

HEBREW INSTITUTE BUYS SACRED HEART SEMINARY

The Chicago Hebrew Institute has purchased the Seminary of the Sacred Heart building and the ground at the northwest corner of Taylor and Lytle Streets, ...extending to Gilpin Place on the north and Sibley street on the west, at \$110,000. This is one of the historical buildings in the southwestern part of the city. It will now be converted into a Hebrew educational institution. A trust deed has been given back by E.A. Fishkind, president, and Mrs. Julius Stone, to secure \$75,000 for ten years, with

interest at 4-1/2 percent, and another to Frank Harris, trustee, to secure \$15,000 for six months, with interest at 4 percent.

The Jewish Standard,
August 1, 1908

PAINTERS FOR THE HEBREW INSTITUTE

Last Monday a meeting of all painters of the city of Chicago was held at the Hebrew Institute. Dr. Fishkind thanked [them] for their painting the Institute gratis.... An offer of eighty-five days of work for the Institute was the highlight of this meeting. The Painters' Aid Society has taken a very active part in this movement and it is to be hoped that the undertaking will be a success. A committee was sent out to obtain necessary materials. Work will begin in the near future.

The Sunday Jewish Courier,
October 25, 1908

THOUSANDS OF JEWS PARTICIPATE IN DEDICATION OF MARKS NATHAN ORPHAN ASYLUM

The dedication of the Marks Nathan Orphan Asylum began officially at 2 p.m. yesterday. The chairman of the Floor Committee ordered the doors closed due to lack of space, while hundreds remained standing outside.

At 3 o'clock Nicolas J. Pritzker, chairman of the Dedication Committee, opened the meeting, and introduced Rabbi Pinchas Saul Katkoff, who invoked a prayer in Hebrew. Jacob Levi, president of the Home, then read a message to the Chicago Jewish public.

Rabbi Saul Silber of the Ohave Sholom Congregation delivered the keynote speech in Yiddish and Dr. Tobias Schoenfarber spoke in English. H.M. Barnett was urged to make an appeal for the Home, and J. Deneals was the first to purchase

a room for \$325.00; Rabbi Schoenfarber bought another room for \$125.00; Mr. Jacobs bought the third room for \$120.00.

Mr. Barnett distinguished himself as a good auctioneer. He sold the key to the Home to H.R. Tish. A grand sum of \$13,000.00 was donated. The great crowd was then entertained by Cantor Alexandrovitz, and a delicious dinner was served.

Daily Jewish Courier,
November 18, 1912

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JEWISH SOCIALIST SINGING VEREIN

Great and feverish work is being carried on in the Jewish Socialist Singing Verein, which will soon be transformed into a strong Jewish Socialist "culture center" in Chicago, and at the same time cling to the principles of the Socialist Party. This will call upon new strata and elements who recognize the importance of cultural work, and unite and inspire them to influence the Jewish working masses for our general socialist ideals....

Classes are organized for the purpose of developing singers' abilities, taught thoroughly and systematically by competent teachers, such as Comrade Schaffer, the choir director, and assistant director Dobrow.

A Solo Group is also organized. Those who possess greater musical ability will sing solos at the various undertakings of our radical organizations. The solo group is under the supervision of a special teacher, Alexander Nocurtin.

In addition, lectures will be arranged on other cultural subjects, in Yiddish and in

English, by the best lecturers, such as the noted Morris Rosenfeld, J. Millman, and Solomon Golub. The lectures will be given with musical accompaniment and at popular prices. This is one of our most important tasks—to spread more enlightenment and a truer conception of music to our members.

The finest and greatest thing that the singing society has already accomplished is the organizing of a Jewish Socialist orchestra. Nothing can be undertaken without a musical division. All these classes are controlled by the entire Verein, and anyone who desires instruction must become a member of the Verein at large. Dues are only eighteen cents a week.

The Daily World,
February 22, 1918

MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL STAFF ANNOUNCED

Today is the opening of the Mount Sinai Hospital, at 1579 South California Avenue. It is a Jewish institution and will give free medical care to the Jews of Chicago. The Mount Sinai Hospital has been rebuilt from the Maimonides Hospital, which had been built by Chicago Jews, but had been destroyed by the West Side Jewish politicians, when they could obtain no benefit from it.

The medical staff will be as follows: Surgeons: Dr. Harry Richter, Dr. Alfred A. Strauss, Dr. Victor L. Shraeger; Women's Care: Dr. Share, Dr. Newberger, and Dr. W. H. Rubovitz; Internal Medicine: Dr. John L. Jack, Dr. M. Levinson, Dr. M. Trace, and Dr. George Rubin.

Forward, May 4, 1919

CHICAGO JEWISH SOCIALIST FEDERATIONS SPLIT

The Chicago branches of the Jewish Socialist Federation are not in harmony regarding the question of splitting with the Socialist Party. The North-West Side Branch voted to accept the recommendation of the Executive of the Federation to leave the Socialist Party. The vote, however, was very small, 13 for it and 10 opposed.

On the other hand, the Douglas Park Branch, voted to remain with the Party, but again by a very small total vote: 14 voted to split, and 19 to remain with the Party.

Forward, August 12, 1921

PRESIDENT OF MEXICO WELCOMES RUSSIAN JEWISH IMMIGRATION

To: Mr. Paul Rothenberg
1639 South Sawyer Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

In reference to our conversation regarding the immigration of Russian Jews to Mexico, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Government of which I have the honor to be President, would welcome this immigration. However, I deem it advisable to let you know that if the immigrants are to acquire real estate in the Republic of Mexico, they must become Mexican citizens. Also, the law provides that foreigners are prohibited from buying property within a distance of one hundred kilometers (eight miles) parallel to the border, and fifty kilometers (forty miles) within distance of the oceanfront. In the country, there are several million hectares which can be used for colonization purposes. A large portion of the land can be used for farming. You can rest assured that the immigrants whom I have designated, if they will accept the provisos I have mentioned, and will

abide by the laws of our constitution, concerning the acquisition of property, will enjoy the guarantees of security and protection which are given to all citizens of the Mexican republic.

With my personal greetings,
I am your devoted friend,
Alvaro Obregon,
President of Mexico
Sunday Jewish Courier,
February 18, 1923

Chicagoan Paul Rothenberg had the idea of establishing a colony in Mexico in the early 1920s for East European Jews fleeing from pogroms. Read "The Mexican Adventure of Paul Rothenberg" by Walter Roth, in the Winter 2007 issue of *CJH*.

CONSTRUCTION AT MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

The dedication of the 100 bed unit in May, 1919, was only the start toward the completion of the hospital. This latest unit, when completed, will care for another 300 patients. The present hospital will continue to be used until the completion of the unit, then the old one will be completely remodeled.

It is planned to spend \$850,000 in making Mount Sinai hospital one of the largest and best equipped in Chicago. This is the second great objective of the Associated Jewish Charities of Chicago, when they started to raise a \$2,500,000 building fund. The AJC admitted Mount Sinai Hospital in March 1923 as an affiliated organization. The first objective: the nurses' school. The school for the Michael Reese Hospital has been occupied for some time.

The Reform Advocate,
Week of March 1, 1925



Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman *Continued from page 6*

Rabbi Fasman left HTC in 1964 and joined a small group of laymen to create Beth Torah Congregation, today Congregation Yehudah Moshe, in Lincolnwood, the first mechitza synagogue in suburban Chicago. Two strands of Orthodoxy emerged in the community: the Chicago Rabbinical Council (CRC) and the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) at Yehuda Moshe.

Rabbi Fasman was a very active community organizer, and his efforts were recognized in the Midwest and on a national level. His congregation, which he led for thirty-four years, became the leading Orthodox synagogue in the northwest suburbs.

Zev Eleff concluded by expressing his delight in the affiliation of HTC with the Touro College and University System, with its wide academic resources that HTC can now provide in the Midwest. Eleff may be realizing the national connection that Rabbi Fasman envisioned. ❖



Sam Klowden's "Home Kids" Photographs

The CJHS received a collection of digital scans of photographs with this e-mail message:

I have no information about the event other than my dad, Sam Klowden, was in the Home for Jewish Orphans and took the photos at the reunion held sometime in the 1970s in the Chicago area. The "Aitchkay" banner in the photos stands for Home Kids. The negatives were rescued from a flooded basement in Albany Park many years ago and were rediscovered just last week, and I scanned them into digital images. You are free to donate the files to the Spertus Institute after your use. I would like to know they ring any bells for anyone along the way.

Marc Klowden
mklowden@uidaho.edu
University of Idaho Moscow
Retiree,
Plant, Soil and Entomological Sciences/PSES

Roy Klowden z"l is my uncle. CJHS members Arthur and Judy Klowden are my cousins.

The Klowden images also include kids at the home and at summer camp. These are some of the images. Can you identify any of the kids?



We asked Marc Klowden to tell us about himself.

We grew up in Albany Park and went to Roosevelt High School. We'll be returning to Chicago this fall for our 50th RHS reunion. [See announcement on page 15]. I received my doctorate at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1976, moved to the University of Georgia in Athens for a post-doc, and took a job as Professor of Entomology at the University of Idaho in 1981. We've been here ever since and are members of a small Jewish community here in Moscow. Our son was bar mitzvahed at Temple Beth Shalom in Spokane. We had to drive three hours round trip every week for his lessons from the rabbi there. It was his choice to accomplish this in order to establish a Jewish identity.

The CJHS knows about the Home Kids reunion.

From the November 1978 issue of our Society journal:

CHICAGO HOME FOR JEWISH ORPHANS HOLDS UNIQUE REUNION

by ADELE HAST

"Our ties here are stronger than in a blood family." SID SAMPSON explained the embraces of long-separated brethren and the joyful shouts of recognition that filled the room. This was a reunion of a special family, the former "home kids" of the Chicago Home for Jewish Orphans, held in Chicago, September 2-3, 1978, thirty-two years after the home had closed. ROY KLOWDEN of Chicago originally planned a small reunion of the local alumni of the home. When RACHEL HEIMOVICS of the CJHS, who assisted with the publicity, placed an announcement of the reunion in Jewish publications throughout the country, responses mushroomed, "I'm coming!" On Saturday, September 2, about seventy-five out-of-towners gathered at 6517 N. California for the first day of the reunion. A banquet the next day, at the Max Dolnick Community Center, 6122 N. California Avenue, brought together three hundred people—"home kids" and their spouses—from the Chicago area and some twenty states. In an emotion-filled weekend, the joyful participants reminisced, sharing their memories with ADELE HAST, MOSELLE MINTZ, and NORMAN SCHWARTZ of the CJHS Oral History Committee....

Read the rest of the report on the CJHS website. All issues of the journal are in the Publication archive in pdf format. www.chicagojewishhistory.org

- The Reunion Report is in the November 1978 issue.
- Sophia Gutt Goodman's story, *Happy and Secure at "The Home" 1927-1938*, is in the Winter 2014 issue.
- Julian Frazin's memoir, *Home, Bittersweet Home, and Hyde Park High School*, is in the Fall 2007 issue.

A German Jewish Immigrant Family History Preserved in Artifacts

The Heimann Family Collection

BY JACOB SLUTSKY

While working at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, I have had the pleasure of processing a collection of hundreds of documents and objects belonging to the Heimann family, who fled Germany for Chicago in 1936. Donated in several batches by Linda Heimann, one of the last surviving family members, the collection weaves together a rich story of their lives in Germany and Chicago. Spending months amidst such material has inspired me to do additional research on the family. Following is a brief, edited presentation of my research findings and an overview of the collection.

The Heimann family had deep roots in the Palatinate region of Germany. Leo (Leon) was born in Niederkirchen on January 1, 1893, one of many brothers and sisters. He spent the majority of his teenage years in New York, living with his sister Bertha and her husband Karl New before returning to Germany around the outbreak of the First World War.

Like many German Jewish men, Leo served in the Imperial German Army during the war, rising to the rank of Gefreiter (roughly equivalent to a corporal) in the 3rd Bavarian Infantry Division. For his service, he earned the Iron Cross, Second Class. In 1920 Leo and his younger brother Robert moved to nearby Kaiserslautern and opened a livestock trading business.

Leo married Erna Elias, of Steinbach-am-Glan, in 1922. They had two sons, Norbert, born in 1924, and Fritz, born in 1927.

Beset by increasing anti-Jewish policy under the Nazi government, the Heimann family was able to immigrate to the United States, leaving Europe from Le Havre, France, on July 2, 1936, aboard the S.S. Manhattan. They settled in Chicago, living at several locations on the 5400 block of South University Avenue in the Hyde Park neighborhood. Erna's mother, Meta Elias, had previously immigrated to Chicago in 1935, and she moved in with them, according to the 1940 census. Erna's sister's family lived on the same block, having come over earlier in 1936. Erna's brother, Siegfried, had come to the U.S. in 1921.

Leo opened a store, the Cottage Poultry and Meat Market, in the nearby Bronzeville neighborhood. The shop was located first at 3829 South Cottage Grove Avenue, then at 3565. The boys attended Kozminski School. In 1938 Fritz contracted an illness and died at the age of eleven. He was buried at Oak Woods Cemetery. Norbert joined the U.S. Army and served in Company C, 316th Engineers Brigade, and saw service in the Mediterranean theater. He followed in the family business briefly, but the meat market was sold in the 1970s. Leo died in 1951; Erna died in 1976.



2014.141.222.6: Advertisement for the Cottage Poultry & Meet Market, 3565 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Bronzeville, found tucked into Erna Heimann's family photo album, undated.

Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Gift of Linda Heimann. Used with Permission.

Norbert married Linda Ross, herself a child refugee from Germany (she and her family left just after Kristallnacht, on November 22, 1938).

Much of the collection had been stored in two suitcases and a number of boxes for decades. The collection consists of over 600 items, most of which are paper-based. A major part of the collection is correspondence, consisting of two primary lots of postcards: Leo's from the WWI years and Erna's from 1908-1915. Leo's postcards are mostly made from photographs of his friends (and possibly family members) in his unit; Erna's postcards include some material sent from a cousin, Minnie Klaus, who was living in New York. Family photographs, of both the Elias family from the first decades of the twentieth century and the Heimanns from the third and fourth decades, comprise another major component of the collection. Many postcards and photographs were in fantastic condition considering their age, by merit of surprisingly ordinary-looking albums.

A smaller component, but of use for researching the family history, consists of documents, including Leo's German identification papers and Erna's mother's alien registration identification, issued upon her arrival in the U.S. Of most historical value are two items: Leo's birth certificate, at the time of this writing 123 years old, and Erna and Leo's *ketubah*, curiously only in German. The latter is stamped by the Kaiserslautern *Bezirks-Rabbinat*. Another major component of the paper-based element is a collection of hundreds of German banknotes issued from 1906-1923, mostly during the First World War and the hyperinflation crisis of the early 1920s. Of chief interest to researchers should be the 189 *notgeld* notes, each in denominations of less than one Mark. *Notgeld*, or emergency currency, were vouchers issued by towns, districts, and industries in small denominations for local trade as the *Papiermark* became increasingly devalued. These are unique to each town, often containing beautiful artwork depicting a locality or its symbols. Sixty-five coins are also part of the collection, the highest-denomination one being issued in *Provinz Westfalen* in 1923 at 50 million Marks.

A few books round out the paper-based subset, including several German-English dictionaries. The volume I found the most interesting is *Biblische Geschichten für die israelitischen Kleinen* (Bible Stories for Jewish Children) by M. Plaut, published in Frankfurt in 1930. Fritz appears to have used this in Chicago, for it had a card addressed to him in Hyde Park tucked into it. The material-culture components of the collection include the German board game

Mensch ärgere Dich nicht (the German version of Parcheesi), Austrian crystal wineglasses, Leo's five-piece desk set, and a doll. These pieces document the quotidian and bring the Heimanns off the pages of history. They demonstrate their sense of aesthetics, their interests, and their ideas of fun.

Of course, no discussion of this collection would be complete without mention of the pieces I first encountered: three wimpels, belonging to Leo, Norbert, and Fritz. Wimpels were an important part of German Jewish culture, one that has seen resurgence in their diaspora and in progressive Jewish circles. Made from the swaddling-cloths in which a baby boy was wrapped during his circumcision, wimpels were Torah binders embroidered or hand painted with the boy's Hebrew name (sometimes the German name was included, as it was in these three), date of birth on the Hebrew calendar, and a traditional blessing that the Holy One should allow him to grow to Torah, *huppah* (i.e., marriage), and good deeds. When the boy was approximately three (more accurately, when he was toilet trained), he was presented to the community, and the wimpel was wrapped around the Torah on this occasion. It was then used again as a Torah binder at the synagogue for various life-cycle occasions (bar mitzvah, *aufruf*). They contain immensely useful genealogical data, since the Hebrew name includes the patronymic. Norbert and Fritz's were both made by the same artist in Kaiserslautern. While they were typically stored in the synagogue, the fact that this did not happen ensured their survival. The wimpels (and the *ketubah*) indicate a connection to Jewish tradition and life, even if the family does not appear to have been very religious.

The collection is a rich one for researchers or educators exploring a variety of subjects, including twentieth-century German Jewish culture, the experience of residents of the Palatinate during the First World War, German-Jewish immigration, or German art through the *notgeld*.

There are so many stories in the Holocaust that end with the families being wiped out. In having the privilege to tell the Heimanns' story, I get to present one that ends with survival. I hope the collection will continue to be presented in exhibitions and used by researchers for many years to come. ❖

JACOB SLUTSKY is a curatorial assistant at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie. He holds an MA in history from the University of Chicago and a BA from Boston University. Jacob also works at the Chicago History Museum.

Reprinted from *Chicago Jewish History* Fall 2005

Abner J. Mikva: Oral History Program Delights CJHS Audience



Abner J. Mikva z"l

When he was serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, Judge Abner Mikva would sometimes fly back to spend weekends at his summer home in Michiana. It was much more pleasant to read briefs on the Lake Michigan beach than in steamy Washington, D.C. But

sometimes grains of sand would find their way into his papers. Once, when the court was back in session, his colleague Judge David Bazelon saw the beach sand sifting down. "*Shverer arbeter* (hard worker)," he remarked. Judge Mikva told us that this might have been the first time that two Yiddish speakers sat on the same American court.

Judge Abner J. Mikva was the guest speaker at our open meeting Sunday afternoon, September 18, in the sanctuary of K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation, 1100 East Hyde Park Boulevard. The program format was a public oral history interview. President Walter Roth, a longtime friend of Judge Mikva, and our guest sat at a table on the bima. Roth acted as interviewer, and his questions prompted a fascinating narrative.

Abner Mikva was born in Milwaukee into a Leftist Jewish family. His first language was Yiddish, and as a child he was able to read the *Forverts* newspaper to his

grandfather. When Walter Roth asked about his name, Judge Mikva answered that he had actually been named Abraham, but "Ab" was then thought to be a more acceptable American name than "Abe."

Early in his eventful life in public service he learned an essential lesson in Chicago politics. When, on his own initiative, he entered a ward office and approached a veteran local Democratic Party official for a job, he was asked who sent him. "We don't want nobody nobody sent," the pol explained.

This phrase has become part of Chicago folklore. It is the title of an excellent book that recounts the incident, *We Don't Want Nobody Nobody Sent: An Oral History of the Daley Years*, by Milton L. Rakove (Indiana University Press, 1979). Judge Mikva recommended that we read it.

Now in his eighth decade, Abner Mikva is still active in public service. Just this week a *Chicago Tribune* editorial lauded him for his work for the Illinois Gaming Board, overseeing the Emerald Casino license-revocation hearing:

"Congratulations to Abner Mikva for a fine job. The arguments by Emerald lawyers that Mikva is biased against the casino firm are laughable. Mikva, a former congressman, former judge, and former White House chief of staff, has long been recognized as one of the most honest and independent people in the state—and he proved it once again with his work here...." ❖

Abner J. Mikva died on July 4, 2016, at age 90. His death was announced by the Mikva Challenge, a program that he helped to found, along with his wife, Zoe. The program empowers high school students, teachers, and schools across Chicagoland to be active participants in the political process.

Mikva served as White House Counsel from October 1, 1994 until November 1, 1995. Prior to his appointment to that post by President Bill Clinton, he served as Chief Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, nominated by President Jimmy Carter. His appointment was confirmed by the Senate on September 25, 1979. He became Chief Judge on January 21, 1991.

Before his appointment, he was elected to Congress for five terms, representing districts in Chicago and the northern suburbs. He began his political career in 1956 in the Illinois House of Representatives, where he served five consecutive terms.

Abner Joseph Mikva was born on January 21, 1926, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he attended public schools. He attended Washington University in St. Louis, where he met his wife. He received his law degree from the University of Chicago in 1951, then served as a law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justice Sherman Minton, after which he returned to Chicago, where he practiced law and began his political career.

Mikva was the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards for public service. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama in 2014.

He is survived by his wife, Zoe, and daughters Mary, Laurie, and Rachel; and by seven grandchildren.

AN EXHIBIT... A MOVIE... A REUNION...

Edgewater Historical Society Exhibit “Edgewater Beach Hotel, 100 Years Later”

Through June 4, 2017.

The year-long exhibit celebrates the one hundred year anniversary of the opening of the iconic hotel on the lakefront. Built in 1916, with an addition in 1924. Demolished in 1970-71. The display includes images from the many postcards of the hotel and artifacts such as the tableware, dishes and promotional items with the hotel logo.

Edgewater Historical Society & Museum

5358 North Ashland Avenue
Open Sat-Sun 1-4 p.m.
Admission Free.

A Co-Presentation of Cinema/Chicago and the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest

Film “Kidon”

Wednesday, August 10, 6:30 p.m.

Like an Israeli version of *Oceans 11*
crossed with a spy spoof...

Hebrew and French with subtitles
(2013, 97 minutes, Israel/France)

Admission Free

Chicago Cultural Center
78 East Washington Street

Claudia Cassidy Theater, 2nd Floor North

Roosevelt High School Class of January-June 1966 50th Anniversary Reunion September 10, 2016

Tuscano’s Restaurant
Schiller Park, Illinois
\$75 per person

Organizers:

Jacky Wolf and Arnie Sandler
(jackywolf@aol.com)
(gdhndsman@aol.com)

See Facebook Page

“Roosevelt HS Class of 1966 50th”

Spertus Institute Lobby to be transformed “From Commerce to Culture” Ground Level Arts Lab to open September 18, 2016

In the space formerly occupied by gift shop, the new programmatic space will feature a semi-permanent display of art, artifacts, and archival materials from the Spertus Institute’s collections. Details at www.spertus.edu.

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Continued from Page 2

employees up the proverbial wall with her questions about freshness, weight, the correct amount of fat on the meat, the clarity of the eyes of the fish, and ultimately, the name of the rabbi who gave the *hechsher* to the product.

More childhood memories: our regular fishmonger happened to be our next door neighbor in Humboldt Park, Mr. Cutler, who for many years operated the St. Louis Fisheries on Lawrence at St. Louis. He was a good neighbor, but he probably headed for the back room every time my mother came to shop. I wonder how many aspirins he and his staff took before the Passover holiday. Since my mother did not drive, nor did my father until he was in his late fifties, Mr. Cutler would do us the favor of bringing our fish order to us when he shut the store and came home to his family. I wonder what tales he related to them after contending with the likes of Rena Mazur.

Jenna Weissman Joselit, who teaches Jewish history at The George Washington University, has found evidence that Jews took Passover vacations as early as 1915. The trend has exploded in the last two decades.

Today, if you wish, you can find Passover packages

that will take you far away from Chicago and provide gourmet Kosher-for-Passover food and recreation for upwards of \$5,000 per person. Reading Jewish periodicals and surfing the internet you can find ads for sunny resorts competing for Passover patronage with offerings ranging from light entertainment to education—from magician The Amazing Kreskin to Jewish reggae singer Matisyahu to former U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut to Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks of the UK.

Families are increasingly spread throughout the country, so Passover is an opportunity for a carefree gathering at a resort or on a cruise. And mothers, many who have employment outside the home, can share relaxed pleasure with the family. Jewish day schools are closed for the holiday, so children need not miss classes.

Many in our community believe that no Jewish holiday separates the haves from the have-nots more than Passover. Many of us encourage families spending lavishly to give proportionately to charity. I like to sit down with my two grandchildren, eleven-year-old Alden Lily (Chaya Davida) and nine-year-old Dempsey Harrison (Dovid Herschel) and ask them what is proper for people to do during Passover in regard to those less fortunate. I am amazed by their expressions of concern and generosity, and proud that they know the importance of giving rather than receiving. ❖

Look to the rock from which you were born

הביטו אל-צור חצבתכם



chicago jewish historical society

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Our History and Mission

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1977, and is in part an outgrowth of local Jewish participation in the United States Bicentennial Celebration of 1976 at an exhibition mounted at the Museum of Science and Industry by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the American Jewish Congress. Two years after celebrating our "double *chai*," the Society's

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

unique mission continues to be the discovery, collection, and dissemination of information about the Jewish experience in the Chicago area through publications, open meetings, tours, and outreach to youth. The Society does not maintain its own archives, but seeks out written, spoken, and photographic records and artifacts, and responsibly arranges for their donation to Jewish archives.

Tribute Cards for Celebrations or Memorials The card design features the Society's handsome logo. Inside, our mission statement and space for your personal message. Pack of five cards & envelopes \$18.00. Individual cards can be mailed for you from our office at \$5.00 per card, postage included. Mail your order and check to the CJHS office, 610 South Michigan Avenue, Room 803. Chicago IL 60605-1901. You may also order online at our website.

**Visit our website — www.chicagojewishhistory.org
Pay your membership dues online via PayPal or credit card,
or use the printable membership application.**

Inquiries: info@chicagojewishhistory.org

All issues of our Society periodical from 1977 to the present have been digitized and posted on our website in pdf format. Simply click on "Publications" and scroll down through the years. There is an Index to the issues from 1977 to 2012.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons and organizations, and includes:

- A subscription to *Chicago Jewish History*.
- Free admission to Society public programs. General admission is \$10 per person.
- Discounts on Society tours.
- 10% discount on purchases at the elegant Spertus Shop.
- Membership runs on a calendar year, from January through December. New members joining after July 1st are given an initial membership through December of the following year.

Life Membership	\$1,000
Annual Dues	
Historian	500
Scholar	250
Sponsor	100
Patron	65
Member	40
Student (with i.d.)	10



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