



# chicago jewish history

## The Fall Book Issue



**New! Reprint of an Important CJHS Reference Work**  
**SYNAGOGUES OF CHICAGO**

Edited by Irving Cutler, Norman D. Schwartz,  
and Sidney Sorkin. Project supervised  
by Clare Greenberg, 1991.

The publication is a compilation in two sections of information on local synagogues, based on listings in Chicago city directories (1839 through 1928-29) and Chicago classified telephone directories (1929-30 through 1992). The information for the sections was entered into a computer database from microfilm prints of the directories located in the Chicago Municipal Reference Library (then in City Hall, now in the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center, Fifth Floor, 400 South State Street).

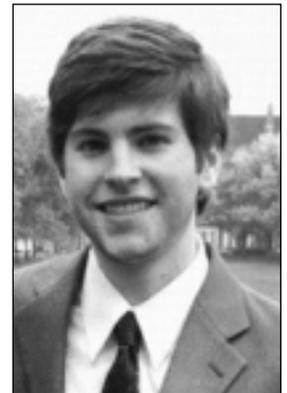
**Reprinted in three easy-to-use spiral-bound parts**

CJHS Members \$90 / Non-Members \$100  
*Shipping & Handling included*

**Order from the Society office. See details on page 11.**

**Save the Date! Sunday, March 23,**  
**Author Alex Garel-Frantzen:**  
**“Gangsters & Organized Crime**  
**in Jewish Chicago”**

The next open meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society will take place on Sunday, March 23, 2:00 p.m., at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 North Sheridan Road, Chicago. General admission is \$10 per person. Members of the CJHS and members of Emanuel Congregation, Free.



Our guest speaker will be Alex Garel-Frantzen, whose book, *Gangsters & Organized Crime in Jewish Chicago* (The History Press, 2013), concerns the early years of the twentieth century, when the harsh environment of the Maxwell Street immigrant ghetto produced a proliferation of Jewish gangsters involved in everything from labor racketeering to “white slavery.”

Garel-Frantzen is a student at the University of Illinois College of Law, where he is a juris doctor candidate set to graduate in 2015. He has won awards for his research and writing, and is a member of the *University of Illinois Law Review*.

His research for the book was based on contemporary newspaper articles and editorials in the *Chicago Tribune* and the Yiddish language press, as well as studies by historians, sociologists, and reformers. His idea for the project was sparked by memories of that colorful era as related to him by his grandfather.

A book-signing and social hour with kosher refreshments will follow the program. For further information phone the Society office at 312-663-5634.

## President's Column



Edward H. Mazur

### "THANKSGIVUKKAH"

This year, Hanukkah was different from any Festival of Lights in our lifetime. The first candle was lit on Wednesday, November 27, the evening before Thanksgiving. What fun, what significance! According to the experts in such matters, the two holidays will not occur together again for over 70,000 years.

General George Washington, after victory in the Battle of Saratoga, proclaimed a day "for Thanksgiving and praise" on December 18, 1777, which fell during Hanukkah.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared that the national holiday of Thanksgiving would fall on the last Thursday in November, and in 1888, Thanksgiving occurred during Hanukkah.

In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt changed the day of Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday of November, not necessarily the last Thursday, as a move intended to extend the holiday shopping season.

This year, President Obama held two Hanukkah receptions at the White House. Menorahs of historical significance were used.

*The Forward* reported on December 6, 2013: "A 'menurkey'—a menorah in the shape of a turkey—was featured at both receptions, and its creator, 10-year-old Asher Weintraub of New York City, was a guest at the first reception, as was Dana Gitell, the Boston mom who coined the term 'Thanksgivukkah' and who trademarked it."

### GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

We are a volunteer organization with leadership that can be characterized as "not having all the time, but having all the heart" to work at achieving our mission. Some of our officers and Board members have been active since our beginnings; others have joined us recently. Our two newest Board members are Marvin Dickman and Joan Pomaranc. Please read about them on the facing page.

We remember those who are no longer with us. Our Society is saddened by the passing of one of our founders and stalwarts, Sidney Sorkin. Please read our memorial tribute to him on page 19.

On a personal note, my family missed one of our patriarchs at our Hanukkah/Thanksgiving gathering. My uncle Bebe, Dr. Bernard Hankin, died at the age of eighty-five. A graduate of Schley Grammar School, Tuley High School, and the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Bebe was a pediatrician who practiced until three weeks before taking ill. Many members of our Society, their children, and grandchildren, were patients of "Dr. Bebe."

### AN ELEVATOR TO SHUL

One of our Society's most popular publications is the book, *A Walk to Shul: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way*, by Bea Kraus and Norman D. Schwartz. Recently, on Sunday afternoon, November 3, I took an elevator to *shul*.

*Continued on page 18*



### Officers and Board of Directors 2013-2014

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### Chicago Jewish History

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Editor/Designer: Bev Chubak  
Editorial Board: Edward Mazur, Burton Robin, Milton Shulman.

Send all submissions to Editor: electronically to e-mail address or via standard mail to street address. If manuscript is sent via standard mail, enclose SASE.

## Election of Members to Our Board of Directors

At the CJHS open meeting on Sunday, December 1, before Ron Grossman's talk, Nominations Chairman Herbert Eiseman conducted an election of members to a three-year term on our Board of Directors.

*Nominees included these current Board members:*

**DR. CAROLYN EASTWOOD** taught Anthropology for many years at Roosevelt University in Chicago and the College of DuPage in suburban Glen Ellyn. She is the author of the award-winning book, *Near West Side Stories: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood*. Carolyn won the Chicago Jewish Historical Society 1991 Doris Minsky Memorial Award for her study, *Chicago's Jewish Street Peddlers*, and later served as CJHS secretary. Carolyn lives in Glen Ellyn.

**HERBERT EISEMAN** is a certified member of the Chicago Tour-Guide Professional Association (CTPA). He gave the popular, slide-illustrated CJHS lecture, "Jewish Merchant Princes of State Street," and guided our summer bus tour of South Side Jewish Chicago. Herb is a member of the Board of Directors of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation. He makes his home in Chicago's East Lakeview neighborhood.

**CLARE (CHAIKEY) GREENBERG** is a West Side-born Yiddishist, Labor Zionist, and arts enthusiast. Chaikey served as director of the Newspaper Division of the Municipal Reference Library in City Hall from 1957 until her retirement in 1990. There she established and built the clip file into a unique resource for information seekers (including CJHS historians). *The Chicago Jewish News* named her a Jewish Chicagoan of the Year 2006. Chaikey is a member of Temple Beth Israel in Skokie. She lives on the North Side of Chicago.

**DR. EDWARD H. MAZUR** has served as President of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society since Fall 2010. He has a BA and MA from UIUC and a PhD from the U of C in Urban History and Politics. He is professor emeritus of the City Colleges of Chicago. The author of *Minyans for a Prairie City: the Politics of Chicago's Jewry, 1850-1940*, he has published articles on ethnicity,

urban history, politics, and transportation. He serves on the Boards of the Illinois Historical Society, World Chicago, and the City Club of Chicago. A model train enthusiast, he is the president of the Lionel Operating Train Society (L.O.T.S.). Ed and his wife Myrna live on the Near North Side of Chicago.

**BURTON ROBIN** is a founding member of the CJHS and a former vice president. He is a retired Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Physical Science at Kennedy-King City College of Chicago and a retired producer of Opera Society programs for seniors at the Chicago Cultural Center. Burt is a valued proofreader for the Society quarterly. He and his wife Suzanne are members of Congregation Rodfei Zedek. They live on the Near North Side of Chicago.

*New nominees to the Board were:*

**MARVIN DICKMAN** is "actively retired" after a lengthy career as a CPA in Chicago. During his working years his activities included membership and presidency of the Chicago Board of Jewish Education; membership on the national board of the UAHC (now the URJ); membership on the Boards of Overseers of the Hebrew Union College with particular involvement with the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives; and board service for Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute. Post-retirement, Marv earned a Master's degree in the Humanities (concentrating on Jewish Studies) at the University of Chicago, and taught American Jewish History, primarily the colonial period, at JCCs, Elderhostels, and other educational venues. Marv and his wife Susie live in Highland Park.

**JOAN POMARANC** is Director of Programming for AIA Chicago, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects. As an architectural historian, she is on the Issues Committee of Landmarks Illinois, and on the Chicago Advisory Committee of Partners for Sacred Places. Joan is a Board member of KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation where she is active on its various committees. Joan holds a degree from the University of Chicago. She lives in the South Loop.

All of the nominees were elected by acclamation.

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### Corrections and Clarifications

*CJH* Summer 2013, President's Column, page 2: Dr. Mazur, in his memorial salute to Ruth Rothstein, quoted her remark on a very busy day, "I have so much on my *tish* (plate) today." Ernie Smolen e-mailed us to quibble with that translation, reminding us that the Yiddish word for "plate" or "dish" is *teller*. Rothstein certainly meant "desk" or "worktable" rather than plate. In Jewish life a full plate is to be anticipated, enjoyed down to the last latke, and promptly refilled with a second helping and a third—or at least with the offer of a nice piece of fruit.

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# CJHS members... YASHER KOACH!

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

■ Our office received this e-mail from Agudas Achim Synagogue:

"Nearly 2,000 individuals, many from out-of-state, visited our synagogue during the Open House Chicago event held on the weekend of October 19th and 20th. Rabbi Lefkowitz and his sons, Moshe and Levi, saw to it that the synagogue was as clean as possible. Special thanks to **Mike Supera** of Supera Asset Management for sending a crew to clean up the front of the building, including our gardens. They look beautiful."

*Yasher koach* to Mike for phoning our office to volunteer his services.

**Carey Wintergreen**—*yasher koach* for promptly connecting Mike with Rabbi Lefkowitz!

■ **Beverly Siegel** wrote an article in the October issue of *JUF News*—

"Influencing perception, making change in Chicago's 'Jewish stronghold,'" about the ongoing community efforts at reviving commerce on Devon Avenue between California and Kedzie.

Her husband, **Howard Rieger**, is involved in the effort. He says: "Chicago's Jewish community as a whole has a big stake in preserving West Rogers Park because we have an investment in schools and social service agencies here that would be impossible to recreate."

Rabbi Leonard Matanky of Congregation K.I.N.S. of West Rogers Park is quoted as commenting: "A neighborhood is not just its residential base. It needs commercial streets that match it."

■ **Ethan Bensinger's** documentary film "Refuge: Stories of the Selfhelp Home" has been licensed by American Public Television and was

broadcast nationwide on PBS in November. It will be aired again in April 2014. There is now a comprehensive study guide to the film that can be downloaded free at [www.refugestories.com](http://www.refugestories.com).

■ **Elise Ginsparg** organized and chaired the Sixteenth Annual Night of Knowledge at Congregation Yehuda Moshe in Lincolnwood, on *Motzaie Shabbat*, November 16. Her well-chosen roster of speakers attracted a capacity crowd. There were two sessions, with four lectures in each time slot. Themes ranged from "Strategies for Healthy Living" to "The Rise of Radical Islam."

**Mark Mandle** lectured on "West Side vs. South Side – Which was Better?" at the Night of Knowledge and again at a meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois on Sunday afternoon, November 24, at Temple Judea Mizpah in Skokie.

## 100 Years Ago

The blood-libel trial of Mendel Beilis, which occurred in October 1913, was one of the great legal dramas of the twentieth century. Beilis, a Jew, was arrested in 1911 by the Tsarist Russian secret police in Kiev and accused of ritually murdering a Christian boy and using the boy's blood to bake matzah for Passover. Jailed for over two years while awaiting trial under horrible conditions, Beilis heroically resisted all pressure to implicate himself or other Jews. In 1913, after a dramatic trial that riveted the Jewish people and much of the rest of the world, Beilis was acquitted by an all-Christian jury.—[www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com)



During the trial, the *Chicago American* printed an "extra" front page mostly in Yiddish under the banner headline "Chicago's Protest Against Tsar," and featured a photograph of Jane Addams. *History of the Jews of Chicago*.

## “The Monuments Men” Movie to Open Feb. 7

George Clooney’s movie “The Monuments Men” is scheduled to receive its local premiere on February 7, 2014. It is the tale of a band of art historians, museum curators, and academics racing to rescue works of art looted by the Nazis. The film was adapted from Robert Edsel’s nonfiction book, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*.

There are Jewish, Chicago, and Chicago Jewish Historical Society connections to the story.

The leader of the rescuers was James Rorimer (1905-1966), a descendant of the Jewish Rohrheimer family of Cleveland, OH, and later President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His daughter, Ann Rorimer, is an art historian and independent curator, and a member of the CJHS.

Chicagoan Seymour Pomrenze (1916-2011), was the uncle of CJHS Board member Chaikay Greenberg. “[He] served as the first director of the Offenbach Archival Depot in 1946. He was instrumental in the restitution of thousands of looted archives, including those of the Strashun Library in Vilna, Lithuania. The library was the premier Jewish library in Europe before World War II, and luckily survived the Nazi destruction of Vilna. The contents of the library, along with those of the YIVO building in Vilna, were looted for eventual placement in the anti-Semitic “Institute for the Study of the Jewish Question.” Pomrenze oversaw the return of tens of thousands of items from the Strashun Library to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research headquarters in New York.”—  
[www.monumentsmenfoundation.org](http://www.monumentsmenfoundation.org)

## Sandra Holubow and Judith Roth *Unforgettable Places, Memorable People* Exhibition through January 24, 2014



(From left) Sandra Holubow, *Promenade*, 2013, collage, 22 x 36 inches.  
Judith Roth, *Marge in Purple Sweater*, c. 1990, oil on linen, 60 x 52 inches.

### Oakton Community College, Koehnline Museum of Art 1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL

A fascinating side-by-side look at works by contemporary Chicago artists Sandra Holubow (member of the CJHS) and Judith Roth. Roth’s paintings and drawings focus on the individual from head to toe, while Holubow’s collages and paintings examine the collective aspects of community.

**Museum Hours: Monday–Friday 10-6; Saturday 11-4**  
[www.oakton.edu/museum](http://www.oakton.edu/museum)

### Berit Engen *Woof and Drash*

#### *Weaving the Jewish Experience*

#### Exhibit through February 23, 2014

Berit Engen began weaving as a child in Norway, and now practices this ancient craft of entwining woof (horizontal threads) with warp (vertical threads) from her home in suburban Oak Park. Engen’s miniature tapestries are modern-day commentaries (in Hebrew *drash*) on the engaging, joyous, and at times challenging aspects of Jewish living.

#### Meet the Artist Sunday, Feb. 23 at 2 pm

Meet weaver  
**Berit Engen**  
Learn about the process,  
technique, and  
inspiration behind her  
unique tapestries.  
No reservations needed.  
No charge.

#### Spertus Institute for Learning and Leadership

610 South Michigan Avenue, Lobby Gallery

**Exhibit Hours: Sunday-Wednesday 10-5; Thursday 10-6; Friday 10-3.**  
Closed to the public Saturdays and Jewish and secular holidays

**Report: CJHS Bus Tour  
Sunday, October 6:  
“Jewish Milwaukee”**

At the Jewish Museum Milwaukee we were reminded how important Golda Meir is to the city where she grew up. There is a section devoted to her, and a Marc Chagall tapestry includes her image.

(The University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Golda Meir Library is southeastern Wisconsin’s largest academic research library.)

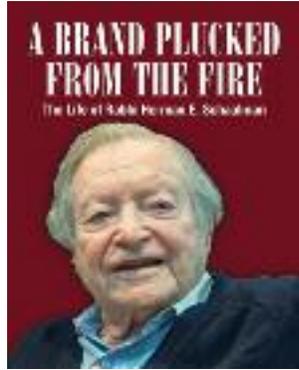
We were guided through the JMM, viewed the special exhibit, “Push Carts to Professionals” on the development of the city’s Jewish businesses and featured Manpower, the firm that provides staffing services and employment opportunities worldwide. We enjoyed a kosher lunch and went on to the Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear, where we wandered through a delightful collection of memorabilia from the early decades of the 20th century. Our last stop was north of the city at Congregation Emanu-El B’ne Jeshurun, where Rabbi Berkson invited us into the magnificent sanctuary, with its abstract elements designed by artist Tobi Kahn.

Thanks to CJHS Tour Chair (and Milwaukee native) Leah Axelrod for an interesting day! ❖



**Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear.  
839 North 11th Street, Milwaukee.  
chudnowmuseum.org**

**Report: Edgewater Historical Society/CJHS  
Open Meeting Sunday, October 13:  
“A Conversation with Rabbi Herman Schaalman and  
His Biographer, Richard Damashek”**



Over 125 attendees gathered in the sanctuary of Emanuel Congregation, 5959 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, for this event. Bob Remer, president of the EHS, opened the meeting, and our president, Ed Mazur, introduced the speakers and conducted the Q&A. Lotte Schaalman, the rabbi’s wife of 72 years, was present.

The occasion was the Edgewater Historical Society’s Annual Austin Wyman Lecture, which the Chicago Jewish Historical Society co-hosted.

Professor Richard Damashek recently published *A Brand Plucked From the Fire*, a massive and detailed 600-page biography of Rabbi Schaalman, and a book-signing followed the program.

Rabbi Schaalman began the conversation by telling us that that he was a child of a “mixed marriage.” His father’s family in Munich objected to their son’s betrothal to a girl born in Ukraine! In this humorous vein he began narrating incidents in his long and productive life. Rabbi Schaalman turned 97 in April. He is rabbi emeritus of Emanuel Congregation.

When young Herman and four classmates were sent to the United States, to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati to study for the Reform rabbinate, he was at a loss. He had heard of the Roman Cincinnati but had never heard of that American city. Any plans to return to Germany after his ordination were impossible with the outbreak of World War II.

He took his first post in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1941, and married his sweetheart, Lotte. He told us that when he distributed a questionnaire to the townsfolk asking them to name three Jews they knew, the only name they wrote was “Roosevelt.” Our audience gasped at hearing this.

Rabbi Schaalman has been an active part of the Edgewater community since 1955, when he came to Emanuel Congregation, co-founding the Edgewater Clergy and Rabbi Association, a first collaboration of its kind in Chicago, which eventually became the Edgewater Community Religious Association. He reached out to the Catholic clergy which had not been approached before. In a ceremony in November, Rabbi Schaalman was named one of Edgewater’s Living Treasures.

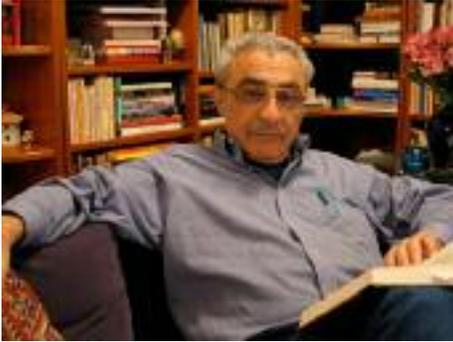
In the 1980s he became friends with Cardinal Joseph Bernardin. So close was their friendship, that when Bernardin was on his deathbed, he asked Rabbi Schaalman to participate in his funeral. Schaalman agreed, and for the first time in history, a rabbi spoke at the funeral of a Cardinal.

Rabbi Schaalman spoke movingly about his own theological views, which have changed over the turbulent years of his near-century, and how the Holocaust caused him to reassess his concept of God.

In his eyes his most significant achievements are his work in establishing the first youth camp of the Reform Movement at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, and serving as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform Movement’s rabbinical assembly with membership worldwide. ❖

**Report: CJHS Open Meeting Sunday, December 1:  
“You Can Go Home Again (Ron Grossman’s  
Love/Hate Affair with Albany Park)”**

On Sunday afternoon of the “Thanksgivukkah” weekend, the CJHS held an open meeting at Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, the exquisite new *shul* in Skokie at the corner of Crawford and Church that has both Ashkenazic and Sephardic sanctuaries. *Chicago Tribune* reporter Ron Grossman regaled the audience of well over a hundred people in the social hall with his memories and his feelings about Albany Park. He lived at Sacramento and Montrose.



What does he love—remembering the cohesiveness of the community; what does he hate—wallowing in sentimental attachment to it.

It was safe to be a rebel in Albany Park. He could play tennis on Yom Kippur. He and his friends could boycott the Bateman Elementary School’s multicultural holiday assembly, listening outside as the

Gentile kids dutifully sang “I Have a Little Draydel.” He could enjoy the foods of other ethnic groups (Italian and Mexican—not *too* rebellious).

He wondered why Chekhov wrote a play about a clothing store in Albany Park, “The Three Sisters.” At the Albany Park Public Library he discovered that Nelson Algren and James T. Farrell experienced what he did, in *other* neighborhoods. The kids who got Wednesday afternoons off for catechism at Our Lady of Mercy—was that a martial art they used to beat up Jewish boys on the way home from *cheder*? The “Von” girls with so many cashmere sweaters—did they have cashmere under their cashmeres?

If you asked a “Von” girl for a date, it was an honor even to be rejected!

No Roosevelt High or Von Steuben for Ron. Since an uncle was an engineer, the family thought that “something with a T-square and a triangle” was best, so he attended Lane Tech and the U of I at Navy Pier.

The genius of Mies van der Rohe did not rub off on him, so he took a sharp turn to the world of the classics at the U of C. In that rarified atmosphere he found “Jews who were not Jews,” at least not the Jews he knew. Their wine was vintage, with labels, not Manischewitz. They studied Philosophy. Ron thought that philosophers were the guys behind the deli counter who commiserated with the kvetchings of their customers. Ron began teaching, first at the U of Nebraska and then at Lake Forest College.

During a Chicago Public Schools racial crisis Ron wrote some articles for the *Chicago Journalism Review* about the affected Gage Park neighborhood that impressed the editors of the *Chicago Tribune*, and he began freelancing for the paper. Eventually he gave up “professing” and became a staff reporter, writing his thoughtful pieces about Chicago history.

MOE BERG. Morrie’s Hot Dog Stand (two Viennas on a slice of French bread) had a baseball card of Moe Berg on the wall. The reclusive third string catcher was a spy for the OSS during World War II. Ron visited the CIA Museum where he got to swing Berg’s bat, wearing white museum gloves. He even attended Moe Berg’s *shiva*. People came from all over. ❖

**Welcome,  
New Members of  
the Society!**

Norman & Nourine Alper  
*Chicago, IL*

Myles Berman  
*Lincolnwood, IL*

Marlene Bressler  
*Wilmette, IL*

Lauren Crawford  
*Chicago, IL*

Richard A. Helman  
*Chicago, IL*

Michael Minns  
*St. Austell, Cornwall, UK*

Rosalind Morris  
*Chicago, IL*

Robert G. Moss  
*Chicago, IL*

Susan Olin  
*Chicago, IL*

Peggy Pascal  
*Winnetka, IL*

Joan C. Pomaranc  
*Chicago, IL*

Richard A. Renner  
*Elgin, IL*

Rosanne Sangerman  
*Chicago, IL*

Lenora Singer Schur  
*Chicago, IL*

Bill & Donna Wittert  
*Northbrook, IL*

*The Society thanks our new members who joined us in our unique mission this Fall. Your memberships extend through December 31, 2014.*

*The Society thanks our current members who have renewed their commitment through December 31, 2014.*



**Left to right: Bottom row, Sarah, Willy, and Anna Singer. Middle: Sophie Kuzminsky, Ida Rovner, Adele and Fannie Kuzminsky. Standing: Isaac Kuzminsky. Chicago, c. 1918. Bev Chubat.**



**Detail, Graduation of English Class at the Chicago Hebrew Institute (C.H.I.), 1920. Anna Singer is seated at lower right. Chicago History Museum, iCHI-17313.**

# Shalom

## COUSIN ANN

Dear Readers,

When I visited the *Shalom Chicago* exhibition at the Chicago History Museum for the third time I got quite a surprise.

Previously, I had looked closely (I thought) at all the material, read the labels, and made notes on subjects for possible future articles in *CJH*. I admired the way various Chicago Jewish families were shown in typical settings.

I had only glanced at the photograph of the C.H.I. English Class, although there was a *huge* enlargement, as well as the original, on display. This time, though, I looked closely, and there she was—my cousin Ann! In one of my most treasured family photographs, taken two years earlier, she is in the same corner of the image.

My maternal grandparents, Reb Shmuel and Leah (Gershman) Kuzminsky, had eleven children; my *zeyde* was a widower with two kids when he married *Bobbe Leah*, and she gave birth to nine more. The family lived in a *shtetl* in Ukraine; the nearest town was Uman.

My mother, Adele, was the middle child. She was a teenager (with a revolutionary spirit) when Reb Shmuel died. The oldest daughter, Pessie, had already married Mayer Singer, had borne three children, and was a widow.

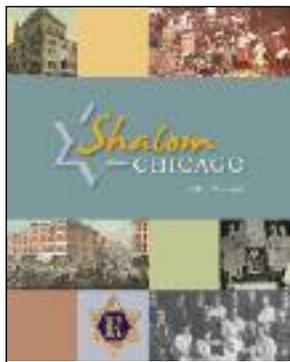
One by one, the unmarried Kuzminskys emigrated to America. The sons and grandson Willy Singer left to avoid service in the Tsar's army; my mother, to avoid the matchmaker.

Uncle Max (not pictured) came over in 1908, my mother in 1910, Sophie in 1912, Isaac and Willy soon thereafter. Then World War I broke out. The feisty Pessie, her two daughters, and Fannie traveled across Siberia and northern China to Yokohama, sailed to Seattle, and were reunited with the others in Chicago.

Their lovely young cousin Ida Rovner joined them in the group photograph (singles only!) that they sent to *Bobbe Leah* and their older and younger siblings back in the Old Country.

*Bev Chubat*

## the book section



### SHALOM CHICAGO.

By Olivia Mahoney. Chicago History Museum, 2013.

Handsome catalog based on the exhibition on view at the Museum from October 21, 2012, to September 2, 2013. Illustrations include rare portraits, documents, photographs, costumes, religious objects, and works of art that

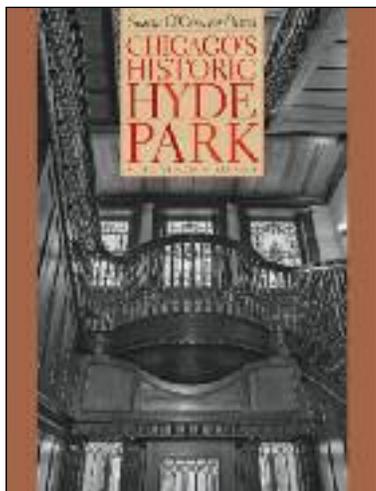
together create a lasting record of the exhibition and the Chicago Jewish community's rich history. The publication was made possible by a generous gift from Thomas R. Meites and Jerome B. Meites. 168 pages. Paper.

### CHICAGO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY: From Fur Trade to E-Commerce.

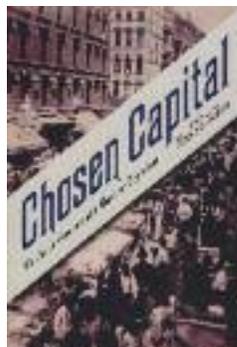
Edited by Janice L. Reiff. The University of Chicago Press, 2013. Drawing on the *Encyclopedia of Chicago*, Reiff has compiled and updated essays covering our city's most historically famous—and infamous—companies, and asks if Chicago is the Silicon Valley of the Midwest. Illustrated. 377 pages. Paper.

**CHICAGO'S HISTORIC HYDE PARK.** By Susan O'Connor Davis. The University of Chicago Press, 2013. With a Foreword by John Vinci. A biography of this distinguished neighborhood, from house to home, and from architect to resident, describing Hyde Park–Kenwood's most celebrated structures from the time of Lincoln through the racial upheaval and destructive urban renewal of the 1940s, 50s, and 60s into the preservationist movement of the last thirty-five years.

504 pages. Illustrated with 343 halftones and eleven line drawings.

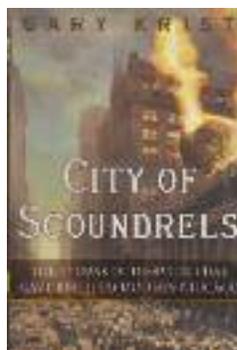


### Some New Books of Special Interest



### CHOSEN CAPITAL: The Jewish Encounter with American Capitalism.

Edited by Rebecca Kobrin. Rutgers University Press, 2012. Groundbreaking collection of essays on historically Jewish niches in the American economy: the garment industry, scrap and secondhand goods, liquor, and the business of race music; and on the reshaping of Jewish religious culture: the marketing of Cantor Yossele Rosenblatt and the development of machine-made matzah (this by Jonathan Sarna). Illustrated. 311 pages. Paper.



### CITY OF SCOUNDRELS: The 12 Days of Disaster That Gave Birth to Modern Chicago.

By Gary Krist. Broadway, 2013.

Cameos and profiles give an intricate account of the volatile summer of 1919. Illustrated. 347 pages. Paper.

**JEWES AND THE MILITARY: A History.** By Derek J. Penslar. Princeton University Press, 2013. A comprehensive and comparative look at Jews' involvement in the military and their attitude toward war from the



1600s until the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. Confronts the myths and realities of Jewish draft dodging, Jews' reaction to facing their coreligionists in battle, the effects of WWI on Jewish veterans, and Jewish participation in the Spanish Civil War and WWII. Culminates with a

study of Israel's War of Independence, which drew on the military expertise and financial support of the global Jewish community. Illustrated. 376 pages.

**Books are now available in various formats and at various prices—from e-tailers, at bookstores (if you are lucky enough to find one), and on loan from public libraries—so the only publications in this issue with listed prices are those published by the Society and available for purchase from our office.**

## our publications

**HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF CHICAGO.** Edited by Hyman L. Meites. The Chicago Jewish Historical Society's 1990 facsimile of the original 1924 edition and supplementary excerpts from the 1927 edition. With a new introduction by James R. Grossman. Foreword by Thomas R. Meites and Jerome B. Meites. Hundreds of biographical entries; synagogue and organization histories; index. Illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings. 856 pages. **Limited Edition, Sold Out.** Reference copies at the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 South State Street, and Asher Library, Spertus Institute, 610 South Michigan Avenue..

**DVD: ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE: The First 100 Years of Jewish Life in Chicago: 1833-1933.** Beverly Siegel, Executive Producer-Director, 1997. Rare film footage, vintage photos, sound recordings, and informative interviews combine to tell the story of the building of Chicago's Jewish community and its impact on the City of the Big Shoulders. Highlighted is the role of the early German-Jewish settlers in the development of some of the city's major cultural institutions, the arrival of Jews from Eastern Europe, and the founding in Chicago of several national Jewish organizations. One of the most moving segments is actual film footage of the Jewish community's spectacular pageant, *The Romance of a People*, presented on Jewish Day at the 1933 Century of Progress. Color and B&W. Running time 30 minutes. DVD \$29.95

**ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE: DVD and PROGRAM BOOK.** In the year 2000, the Society published a facsimile of the 72-page souvenir program for the Jewish Day pageant *The Romance of a People*. Includes program notes, names of the participants and sponsors, and lots of ads. Walter Roth's eight-page essay adds a historical perspective. 80 pages. Paper.

**Special Offer!** DVD and Program Book \$39.95

From Ergo Home Video. [www.jewishvideo.com](http://www.jewishvideo.com)

**ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE: PROGRAM BOOK.** 80 pages. Paper \$18. Includes postage. Prepay by check to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 610 South Michigan Avenue, Room 803, Chicago IL 60605-1901. Also available at the Spertus Shop, 610 South Michigan Avenue

**A WALK TO SHUL: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way.** By Bea Kraus and Norman D. Schwartz. 2003. **Sold Out — 2nd Edition to come!** Reference copies at Spertus Institute and Chicago Public Library.

**THE GERMAN-JEWISH EMIGRATION OF THE 1930s AND ITS IMPACT ON CHICAGO.** Publications Committee Chairman: Roberta L. Bernstein. Edited by Curtis C. Melnick. 1980. Report of the CJHS symposium held at Congregation Ezra-Habonim on November 18, 1979. Illustrated. 24 pages. Paper \$4.00\*

## CJHS Minsky Fund 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.*

### Volume One: 1991

**CHICAGO JEWISH STREET PEDDLERS.** By Carolyn Eastwood. A valuable study by an eminent urban historian and CJHS board member. Illustrated with drawings. And **MEMORIES OF LAWDALE.** By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. Illustrated with photos. Total 103 pages. Paper. \$5.00\*

### Volume Two: 1993

**THE CHAYDER, THE YESHIVA AND I.** By Morris Springer. Recollections of Hebrew school and the Hebrew Theological College. And **MEMORIES OF THE MANOR.** By Eva Gross. Reminiscences of growing up Jewish in Chicago's Jeffery Manor neighborhood. Illustrated. Total 95 pages. Paper. \$5.00\*

### Volume Three: 1996

**THE CANTORS: Gifted Voices Remembered.** By Bea Kraus. Chicago was well-known for her fine congregational cantors and the world-famous vocal artists engaged for the High Holy Days. Illustrated. 85 pages. Paper. \$5.00\*

### Volume Four: 1997

**MY FATHER, MYSELF.** By Rabbi Alex J. Goldman. A son's memoir of his father, Yehudah D. Goldman, America's oldest practicing rabbi. Illustrated. 120 pages. Paper. \$5.00\*

### Volume Five: 2001

**THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR CHILDREN.** By Myron H. Fox. A riveting account of Chicago's bloody Taxi Wars of the 1920s and the author's research into the victimization of his taxi driver father. Illustrated. 160 pages. Paper. \$5.00\*

**THE CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: A Ten Year History.** By Irwin J. Suloway, 1988. Covers the many accomplishments of the CJHS in its formative years. Illustrated. 24 pages. Paper \$4.00\*

## our publications

### *New Reprint!*

#### **SYNAGOGUES OF CHICAGO.**

Edited by Irving Cutler, Norman D. Schwartz, and Sidney Sorkin. Project supervised by Clare Greenberg, 1991.

A compilation in two sections of information on local synagogues, based on listings in Chicago city directories (1839 through 1928-29) and Chicago classified telephone directories (1929-30 through 1992). The information for the sections was entered into a computer database from microfilm prints of the directories located in the Chicago Municipal Reference Library.

To make the synagogue listings more readily usable by scholars, entries have been sorted into various categories, and separate lists have been made, i.e:

1. Master information: *all available information* listed in alphabetical order by record number.
2. Basic information: synagogue name, address, year of record, and record number, in alphabetical order *by synagogue name*.
3. Basic information as above *by year*, with all entries for a given year together.
4. Basic information as above sorted by year, by street address, and *by alphabetized street names*.
5. Basic information sorted by year and *by alphabetized names of rabbis*.
6. Basic information sorted by year and *by alphabetized names of congregation presidents*.

Three parts, spiral-bound paper.

CJHS Members \$90\*

Non-Members \$100\*

### *Coming Soon!*

#### **CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY**

**INDEX 1977-2012.** Compiled and Edited by Adele Hast. Covers the first thirty-five years of the Society's periodicals, from the typewritten newsletters to the digital journals.

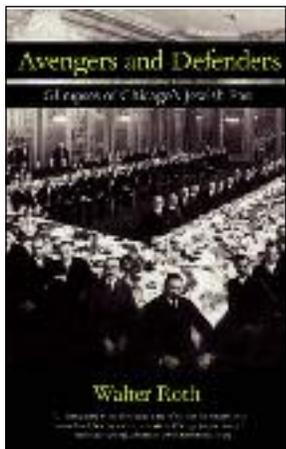
## Walter Roth's Jewish Chicagoans



#### **LOOKING BACKWARD: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past.** By Walter Roth.

Academy Chicago Publishers, 2002. 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*. The material chronicles events and people from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. Illustrated. 305 pages. Paper.

*Buy Direct from CJHS at Special Price \$10.00\**



#### **AVENGERS AND DEFENDERS: Glimpses of Chicago's Jewish Past.** By Walter Roth.

Academy Chicago Publishers, 2008. The second collection of articles from *CJH* by President Roth, who conveys his justifiable pride in the productive immigrants, refugees, and native-born Jews who enriched the life of our city. The "avenger" in the title is Sholom Schwartzbard, who assassinated Simon Petlura, whose followers perpetrated the post-WWI pogroms in Ukraine. Illustrated. 235 pages. Paper.

*Buy Direct from CJHS at Special Price \$10.00\**

#### **AN ACCIDENTAL ANARCHIST: How the Killing of a Humble Jewish Immigrant by Chicago's Chief of Police Exposed the Conflict Between Law & Order and Civil Rights in Early 20th Century America.** By Walter Roth & Joe Kraus.

Academy Chicago Publishers, 1998. The episode took place on a cold Chicago morning in March, 1908. Lazarus Averbuch, a 19-year-old Jewish immigrant, knocked on the door of Police Chief George Shippy. Minutes later, the boy lay dead, shot by Shippy himself. Why Averbuch went to the police chief's house and exactly what happened afterward is still not known. The book does not solve the mystery, rather the authors examine the many different perspectives and concerns that surrounded the investigation of Averbuch's killing. Illustrated. 212 pages. Paper.

*Buy Direct from CJHS at Special Price \$15.00\**

#### **\*TO ORDER OUR PUBLICATIONS**

**Shipping/handling included in price. Prepay by check to:**

**Chicago Jewish Historical Society**

**610 South Michigan Avenue, Room 803**

**Chicago, IL 60605-1901**

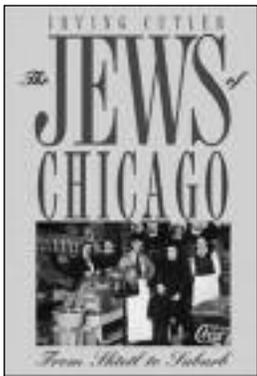
## our authors

### Irving Cutler's Neighborhoods



**CHICAGO'S JEWISH WEST SIDE.** By Irving Cutler. Arcadia Publishing: *Images of America*, 2009. A new gathering of nostalgic photos from private collections and Dr. Cutler's own treasure trove of images. Former West Siders will *kvel* and maybe also shed a tear. 126 pages. Paper.

**THE JEWS OF CHICAGO: From Shtetl to Suburb.** By Irving Cutler. University of Illinois Press, 1996. The authoritative, vividly told history of Chicago's Jewish community, by a founding Board member of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. 336 pages. Illustrated with 162 black and white photographs. Cloth and Paper editions.



**JEWISH CHICAGO: A Pictorial History.**

By Irving Cutler. Arcadia Publishing, *Images of America*, 2000. A sentimental snapshot of the city's Jewish community. Includes 230 photos and neighborhood maps. 126 pages. Paper.

**CHICAGO: Metropolis of the Mid-Continent.**

**Fourth Edition.** By Irving Cutler. Southern Illinois University Press, 2006. 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" neighborhoods. 447 pages. Illustrated. Cloth and Paper editions.



**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY.**

Edited by Stephen Norwood and Eunice Pollack. ABC-CLIO, 2007. The encyclopedia's six-page entry on "Chicago" is by Dr. Irving Cutler. Illustrated. Two volumes, total 775 pages.

**THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHICAGO.** Edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice

L. Reiff. University of Chicago Press, 2004. The "Jewish Community" entry is by Dr. Irving Cutler. Illustrations and maps. 1,152 pages.

**URBAN GEOGRAPHY.** By Irving Cutler. Charles E. Merrill Publishing, 1978. A general study of cities in the USA and some of their major characteristics. Illustrated. 120 pages. Paper.

**THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AREA: Selected Geographical Readings.** Irving Cutler, Editor. Simon & Schuster, 1970. 322 pages.

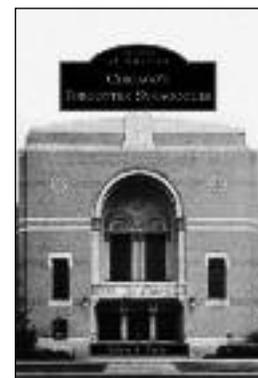
**THE CHICAGO-MILWAUKEE CORRIDOR.** By Irving Cutler. Northwestern University Studies in Geography, 1965. A study of intermetropolitan urban coalescence. Includes 117 maps and illustrations. 322 pages.

**NEAR WEST SIDE STORIES: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood.** By Carolyn Eastwood. Lake Claremont Press, 2002. Four extraordinary "ordinary" people try to save their neighborhood and the market at its core. One of them is the flamboyant Jewish clothier and jazz musician, Harold Fox, designer of the first zoot suit. The other highly motivated, sympathetic subjects are Florence Scala, Nate Duncan, and Hilda Portillo, who represent the Italian, African-American, and Mexican communities. Illustrated. 355 pages. Paper.

**THE OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOD AND DRINK.** Edited by Andrew F. Smith. Oxford University Press, 2004. The entry on "Street Vending" was written by Carolyn Eastwood. Two volumes. Cloth.

**CHICAGO'S FORGOTTEN**

**SYNAGOGUES.** By Robert A. Packer. Arcadia Publishing: *Images of America*, 2007. Photos of former Jewish houses of worship and



communal buildings, plus portraits of rabbis, Hebrew school class pictures, flyers, and invitations. 126 pages. Paper.

**DOORS OF REDEMPTION: The Forgotten Synagogues of Chicago and Other Communal Buildings.** Photographed and edited by Robert A. Packer. Booksurge, 2006. 282 pages. Spiral-bound paper.

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## our authors

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**A TIME TO REMEMBER: A History of the Jewish Community in South Haven.** By Bea Kraus. Priscilla Press, 1999. Covers the 1920s through the 1950s—before air conditioning—when this town on the Lake Michigan shore was home to a thriving Jewish summer resort community. Illustrated. 287 pages. Paper. [www.KrausBooks.com](http://www.KrausBooks.com)

**A PLACE TO REMEMBER: South Haven—A Success from the Beginning.** By Bea Kraus. Priscilla Press, 2003. An anecdotal history of the people from the town's early days. Illustrated. 316 pages. Paper. [www.KrausBooks.com](http://www.KrausBooks.com)

**A PLACE AND A TIME REVISITED. South Haven's Latest Generation of Resorters.** By Bea Kraus. Priscilla Press, 2008. With those beaches and peaches, the gentrified renaissance was inevitable! Illustrated. 214 pages. Paper. [www.KrausBooks.com](http://www.KrausBooks.com)

### CREATING CHICAGO'S NORTH SHORE:

**A Suburban History.** By Michael H. Ebner. University of Chicago Press, 1988. Evanston, Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Glencoe, Highland Park, Lake Forest, and Lake Bluff—eight communities that serve as a genteel enclave of affluence, culture, and high society. Prof. Ebner explains the origins and evolution of the North Shore as a distinctive region. Photographs and maps. 368 pages.

**AFRICAN AMERICANS IN GLENCOE: The Little Migration.** By Robert A. Sideman. The History Press, 2009. While little has been written about Glencoe's African American heritage, the author discovered ample historical resources to tell the story from the very first days. Illustrated. 126 pages. Paper.

**JULIUS ROSENWALD: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South.** By Peter Ascoli. Indiana University Press, 2006. 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 insights that only an insider with access to family records and memories could have. Illustrated with black and white photographs. 472 pages.

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

**BREAKING GROUND: Careers of 20 Chicago Jewish Women.** By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. Edited by Dr. Khane-Faygl Turteltaub. Author House, 2004. Interviews bring out the Jewish values that have played a part in the lives of these high achievers. Judge Ilana Rovner, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Ruth Rothstein, Melissa Isaacson, Beverly Siegel, and Klara Tulsy are included. 137 pages. Paper.



**A JEWISH COLONEL IN THE CIVIL WAR: Marcus M. Spiegel of the Ohio Volunteers.** Edited by Jean Powers Soman & Frank L. Byrne. University of Nebraska Press, 1995. Marcus M. Spiegel, a German Jewish immigrant, served with the 67th and 120th Ohio Volunteer regiments. He saw action in Virginia, Mississippi,

Arkansas, and Louisiana, where he was fatally wounded in May 1864. These letters to Caroline, his wife, reveal the traumatizing experience of a soldier and the constant concern of a husband and father. (Caroline Hamlin Spiegel was the first convert to Judaism in Chicago.) Illustrated. 353 pages. Paper.

**SOUTHERN JEWISH HISTORY.** The peer-reviewed annual journal of the Southern Jewish Historical Society. Dr. Mark K. Bauman, editor. Rachel Heimovics, managing editor. Published each year in October, the journal contains articles, primary documents, and reviews related to the southern Jewish experience. Current and back volumes are available for sale to individuals and institutions. The journal is also a benefit of membership in the Southern Jewish Historical Society. [www.jewishsouth.org](http://www.jewishsouth.org)

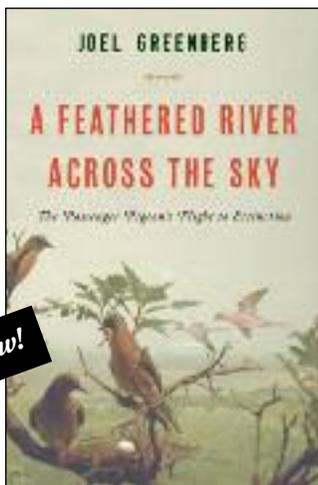
### THE FLORIDA JEWISH HERITAGE TRAIL.

By Rachel Heimovics and Marcia Zerivitz. Florida Department of State, 2000. 44 pages. Illustrated. Paper. *The Jewish Museum of Florida, 301 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139-6965.* [www.jewishmuseum.com](http://www.jewishmuseum.com) (305) 672-5044

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## Nature, Art, and Music

## our authors



New!

### **A FEATHERED RIVER ACROSS THE SKY: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction.**

By Joel Greenberg. Bloomsbury, 2014. A mesmerizing story, well told and richly illustrated. How could a species that numbered in the billions as late as 1860 completely disappear by 1914? What does that say about our current relationship with the natural world? Illustrated. 304 pages.

### **A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO REGION.**

By Joel Greenberg. University of Chicago Press, 2002. The natural history of the region in a human context, showing how it affects our everyday existence in even the most urbanized landscape of Chicago. Photographs, maps, and drawings. 592 pages.

### **THE MIDWESTERN NATIVE GARDEN: Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and Plants, an Illustrated Guide.**

By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. Ohio University Press/Swallow Press, 2011. 272 pages. Paper.

### **PRAIRIE DIRECTORY OF NORTH AMERICA: U.S. & Canada.**

By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. Lawndale Enterprises, 2002. The first-ever guide for visits to the prairie, an ecosystem unique to North America. Fifty pages are devoted to Illinois. 352 pages. Paper. [www.Lawndaleenterprises.com](http://www.Lawndaleenterprises.com)

### **THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT TEMPLE**

**SHOLOM.** By Norman D. Schwartz and Rolf Achilles. Photographs by Rich Master. Design by Dianne Burgis. Temple Sholom, 2001. Twelve sets of brilliant stained glass windows enhance the stately beauty of Temple Sholom of Chicago. The earliest windows were moved to this building in 1928-29 from the congregation's previous home, and the most recent set was dedicated in 1998, so a wide range of art glass techniques and styles are represented. The co-authors are art historian Rolf Achilles, curator of the Smith Museum of Stained Glass, and Norman Schwartz, Temple Sholom member and past president of the CJHS. 20 pages. Paper.

### **THE INTERIOR AND ARTIFACTS OF TEMPLE**

**SHOLOM OF CHICAGO.** By Norman D. Schwartz and many credited contributors. Temple Sholom, 2011. This second volume of a projected three-volume set describes the ritual and decorative objects inside the Temple. The cost of the project was underwritten by the Moselle Schwartz Memorial Fund. Paper.

Both Schwartz books at Temple Sholom Gift Shop, 3480 N. Lake Shore Drive, (773) 525-4707

### **OF PRAIRIE, WOODS, & WATER: Two Centuries of Chicago**

**Nature Writing.** Edited by Joel Greenberg. University of Chicago Press, 2008. Drawn from archives he uncovered while writing his acclaimed book, *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*, Greenberg selected these fascinating first-person narratives. 424 pages. Paper.

### **NEW ART IN THE 60s AND 70s: Redefining Reality.**

By Anne Rorimer. Thames & Hudson, 2001. The first detailed account of developments centered around the conceptual art movement. The book highlights the main issues underlying visually disparate works dating from the second half of the 1960s to the end of the 1970s, through close examination of individual works and artists. Illustrated. 304 pages.

### **MICHAEL ASHER: Kunsthalle**

**Bern 1992.** By Anne Rorimer. Afterall Books: One Work Series, 2012. Michael Asher (1943-2012), one of the foremost installation artists of the conceptual art period, was a founder of site-specific practice. Rorimer considers this one work in the context of Asher's ongoing desire to fuse art with the material, economic, and social conditions of institutional presentation. Illustrated. 116 pages. Paper.

### **Compact Discs/Audiotapes:**

### **THE ART OF THE YIDDISH**

**FOLK SONG.** Sima Miller, soprano; Arnold Miller, piano.

A vintage collection of performances by Chicago's internationally renowned concert artists. These recordings were recently chosen for inclusion in the collection of the National Library of Israel. Four CDs or five audiotapes. *Sima Miller, 8610 Avers Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076 (847) 673-6409.*



**Miriam Schapiro:**  
**Matriarch Window.**

## our authors

### THE ALEXANDRIA LETTER:

**A Novel.** By George R. Honig. Synergy Books, 2010. Cambridge scholar Nathan Tobin discovers an ancient Aramaic letter which contains surprising revelations about the lives of Jesus, John the Baptist, and Paul of Tarsus. If true, the contents threaten to overturn long-held tenets of Christianity. As Tobin races to verify the letter's authenticity, he faces rejection by his fellow scholars and sinister opposition from within the Church. 329 pages. Paper.

**TO LOVE MERCY: A Novel.** By Frank S. Joseph. Atlantic Highlands, 2006. *Winner of five awards.* Set in 1948, it throws together two boys from different worlds—affluent Jewish Hyde Park and the hard-scrabble Bronzeville Black ghetto—on a quest for a missing silver talisman inscribed with a biblical verse. Concludes with excerpts from transcripts of oral history interviews of neighborhood folks. Illustrated with photographs. 291 pages. Paper.

**A SONG OF INNOCENCE.** By Harold H. Kraus. Fidlard-Doubleday, 2004. Two meek U.S. Army recruits, a Jew and a Gentile, feel the wrath of an anti-Semitic redneck in a WWII training camp. 135 pages. Paper. *KrausBooks.com*

**CORPORATE WAR: Poison Pills and Golden Parachutes.** By Werner L. Frank. Amazon Kindle, 2010. A business thriller portraying the cutthroat behavior of two computer companies engaged in a hostile takeover. 360 pages. Paper.

**LEGACY: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance.** By Werner L. Frank. Avoteynu, 2003. Includes a portion on the author's immigration to Chicago and growing up in Hyde Park. 926 pages plus CD.

**STANDING AT SINAI: Sermons and Writings.** By Fred N. Reiner. AuthorHouse, 2011. Chicago born and raised, Fred Reiner is rabbi emeritus of Temple Sinai, Washington, D.C. This volume captures some of the trends and struggles of his twenty-five years serving a well-educated and sophisticated Reform congregation. 356 pages.

**THE BIBLICAL PATH TO PSYCHOLOGICAL MATURITY: Psychological Insights into the Weekly Torah Readings.** By Vivian B. Skolnick, Ph.D. Trafford, 2010. Sigmund Freud would be amazed that his discipline could contribute to a deeper understanding of the Torah. The author, through her training in psychoanalysis, succeeds in applying some of Freud's findings to delve into the psyches of the Patriarchs and Matriarchs and explore the unique personality of Moses. Dr. Skolnick links her observations to the synagogue's weekly Sabbath cycle of Torah readings. 305 pages.

**JEWISH LAW IN TRANSITION: How Economic Forces Overcame the Prohibition Against Lending Interest.** By Hillel Gamoran. Hebrew Union College Press, 2008. The intention of the biblical prohibition was to prevent the wealthy from exploiting the unfortunate. However, in the course of time it was seen to have consequences that militated against the economic welfare of Jewish society as a whole. 196 pages.

**THE SIDDUR COMPANION.** By Paul H. Vishny. Devorah Publishing, 2005. This work is intended to form the background for a meaningful devotion to prayers. 112 pages. Paper.

## Food and Food for Thought



**FROM THE JEWISH HEARTLAND: Two Centuries of Midwest Foodways.** By Ellen F. Steinberg and Jack H. Prost. University of Illinois, 2011. Authors Steinberg and Prost *fressed* their way through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri—all in the name of research! This is not a cookbook, rather it is a fascinating exploration of how immigrant Jews adapted their Old World recipes to the ingredients they found in the Midwest. Illustrated. 224 pages.

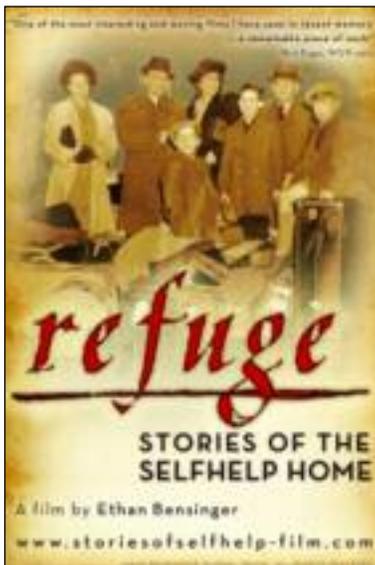
**IRMA: A Chicago Woman's Story, 1871-1966.** By Ellen F. Steinberg. University of Iowa, 2004. Based on the diaries and later memoirs of Irma Rosenthal Frankenstein, a Chicago-born member of the German Jewish community. The story of Steinberg's discovery of the diaries is told in the Spring 2004 issue of *Chicago Jewish History* by archivist Joy Kingsolver. 252 pages.

**LEARNING TO COOK IN 1898: A Chicago Culinary Memoir.** By Ellen F. Steinberg. Wayne State University, 2007. Based on Irma Rosenthal Frankenstein's manuscript cookbook. Recipe adaptations by Eleanor Hudera Hanson. 240 pages.

## our authors

*A compassionate oral history and psychological exploration by Chaya Roth, Ph.D., and a moving memoir by her husband, CJHS President Emeritus Walter Roth*

(See WR's other books on page 11)

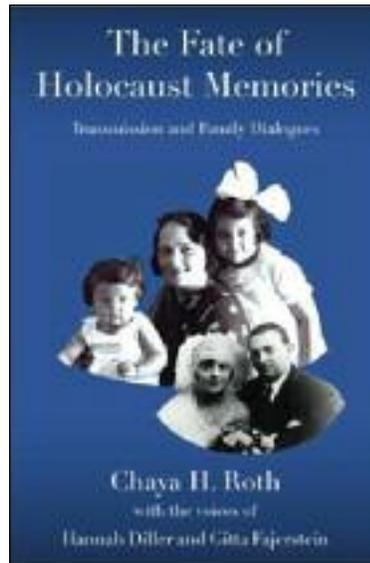


### A Film by Ethan Bensinger

#### REFUGE: STORIES OF THE SELFHELP HOME

(2012, 60 minutes.)

*Refuge* reaches back more than seventy years to give voice to the last generation of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. The film traces the lives of Holocaust survivors and refugees who today live in Chicago at Selfhelp, a home that has provided refuge for more than 1,000 elderly Central European Jews since the end of World War II. Told through the eyewitness experiences of Selfhelp's residents and founders, this is the story of remarkable courage and resilience. You will fall in love with these extraordinary people and be moved by their stories. Order at: [www.storiesofselfhelp.film.com](http://www.storiesofselfhelp.film.com)



### Newly Revised Edition!

#### THE FATE OF HOLOCAUST MEMORIES: Transmission and Family Dialogues.

By Chaya H. Roth with the voices of Hannah Diller and Gitta Fajenstein. Amazon Kindle, 2013. Part oral history, part psychological exploration. After her father's murder in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, the author fled with mother Hannah and sister Gitta from Berlin to Belgium, France, and Italy, scrambling on foot up the Alps, hiding in primitive stone *cavas*, and in a Dorothean convent. The book also charts their escape to Palestine in 1945, assisted by soldiers of the Jewish Brigade. The book uses

interviews, diary entries, and psychological analysis to reveal how each generation has passed on memories of the War and the Shoah to the next. Roth asserts that Holocaust memories engender values, ideals, and beliefs, just as trauma can engender vitality and hope. Those learning about the Holocaust will find in this book both an intimate depiction of the trauma endured by Jews during World War II, and its ramifications in the present day. Finally, this work speaks to the remaining survivor generations who struggle with issues of Holocaust transmission, wondering about the value, necessity and manner in which Holocaust memories are handed down. Previously published by academic publisher Palgrave Macmillan, this revised edition makes *The Fate of Holocaust Memories* available in an affordably-priced paperback format. Illustrated. Bibliography and Index. 295 pages.



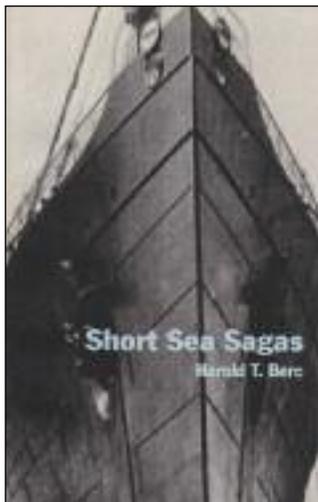
### New! DEPARTURE AND RETURN: Trips to and Memories from Roth, Germany.

By Walter Roth. Amazon Kindle, 2013. In the summer of 1938, nine-year-old Walter Roth arrived in Chicago with his immediate family after they escaped Nazi Germany. Growing up in Hyde Park, he was a typical American immigrant teen. However, a trip in 1953 back to Roth, his hometown in Germany, proved to be a turning point on which would begin a lifelong journey exploring his roots. This project grew into the creation of a memorial in Roth to commemorate the Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust, and his continued involvement with his village, to which he

has traveled with his wife, Chaya, their children and grandchildren to explore his family's tragic past. The memoir includes the last letters received from his family trapped in Germany. Illustrated, 165 pages. Paper.

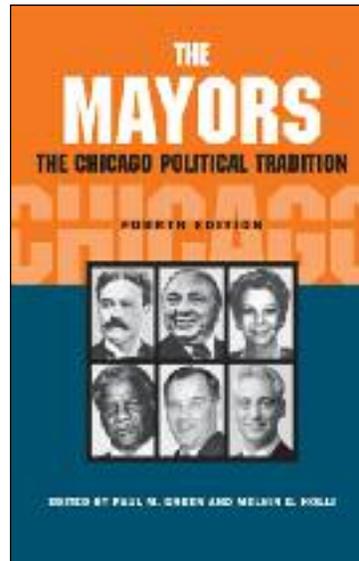
## our authors

**SHORT SEA SAGAS.** By Harold Berc. Athena Press, 2000. Extraordinary sea experiences, gathered out of the author's own readings in maritime lore for over fifty years. Mutinies, unimaginable sinkings, mystery ships sailing for years without crews, sin at sea, accounts of piracy, wartime disasters, and phenomena of the unknown are among the subjects recounted



in quick and pungent studies. Berc provides a separate chapter on his own dramatic World War II naval service aboard the *USS Washington* at Guadalcanal and the *USS Reno* in the battle of Leyte Gulf, and later as National President of AMVETS. In

his long, full life, Harold Berc was a journalist, an attorney, and a valued Board member and benefactor of the CJHS. 190 pages. Paper.



**New! THE MAYORS: The Chicago Political Tradition. Fourth Edition.**

Edited by Paul M. Green and Melvin G. Holli. Southern Illinois University Press, 2013. Distinguished scholars contributed profiles of our city's first fifteen modern mayors from Joseph Medill to the Daley Era —Richard J. and Richard M. 368 pages. Paper

*Includes a new chapter on Mayor Rahm Emanuel and other updated material.*

### *Ethnic Politics*

**MINYANS FOR A PRAIRIE CITY: The Politics of Chicago Jewry 1850-1914.** By Edward H. Mazur. Our Society's president displays his deep knowledge and enthusiasm for his subject in this reference book for researchers. Garland, 1990. 428 pages.

**THE ETHNIC FRONTIER.** Holli and d'A Jones, editors. Eerdmans, 1984. Essays on the history of group survival in Chicago and the Midwest. The entry on "Jewish Chicago" is by Edward H. Mazur. 422 pages.

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

**BRIDGES TO AN AMERICAN CITY: A Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften 1870 to 1990.** By Sidney Sorkin. Peter Lang American University Studies, 1993. Valuable overview of the hundreds of service organizations, named after their Old World origins, that were a significant part of the Jewish immigrant experience. A primary reference on the subject for urbanologists, historians, and sociologists, the book is the result of a ten-year labor of love, 480 pp.

**THE CURSE OF GURS: Way Station to Auschwitz.** By Werner L. Frank and Dr. Michael Berenbaum. Amazon Kindle, 2012. In an October 1940 *aktion*, Jews from the States of Baden and the Pfalz/Saar were gathered at Vichy's Gurs internment camp, then in the Parisian suburb of Drancy, where they faced a final deportation to Auschwitz. 408 pages. Paper.

**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. AuthorHouse, 2004. A record of the annual gatherings mounted by a group of Jewish Chicagoans and their friends 1944–1996. 132 pages. Paper.

**Books are now available in various formats and at various prices—from e-tailers, at bookstores (if you are lucky enough to find one), and on loan from public libraries—so the only publications in this issue with listed prices are those published by the Society and available for purchase from our office.**

## President's Column

*Continued from page 2*

Central Synagogue of Chicago, formerly the South Side Hebrew Congregation, is now located on the ninth floor of Water Tower Place, 845 North Michigan Avenue.

First located at Indiana and 34th, then at 59th and Michigan, and later at 74th and Chappel in South Shore, the congregation moved to the Near North Side in the 1970s, and to its current home on the Magnificent Mile in 2010.

Central Synagogue is celebrating its 125th anniversary. On that Sunday afternoon I took the elevator to join in the festivities, which featured a slide lecture, "Chicago Jewry: From Maxwell Street to Suburbia," by our own Irving Cutler.

When I lived in the Humboldt Park neighborhood, my family, led by its patriarch, my *zayde*, Jacob Kleinbort, *davened* at a small synagogue, Moor Chaim, located at 948 North Rockwell Street. We walked to *shul*. We men and boys sat in the pews on the main floor of the sanctuary. Only the women and little children climbed the stairs to the balcony in this Orthodox synagogue.

My visit to the Central Synagogue for Dr. Cutler's lecture involved walking just two blocks from my condominium, taking an elevator to Suite 913E, and joining with almost a hundred others in a wonderful Sunday afternoon experience. *Mazel Tov* to the Central Synagogue on its anniversary!

## AMERICAN JEWISH LITERATURE

Recently, a discussion in the literary/academic world about the origins of American Jewish literature was sparked by a new book, *Roth Unbound: A Writer and His Books* by Claudia Roth Pierpont (no relation to her subject, Philip Roth), and the review by Martin Amis in *The New York Times Sunday Book Review* (October 17). Amis states that in Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint*, "the tensions and conflicts of the Jewish American experience are reduced to their core: shikshas."

Critics have proclaimed this to be the dumbest sentence they have ever read on the subject of Jewish American literature. The implication is that the tensions and conflicts in our experiences are chiefly sexual. This simply is not accurate. Yes, many males in American Jewish culture never move past an adolescent fascination with, and fear of, the imaginary woman that "shiksa" denotes.

Our literature did not begin circa 1950 with Philip Roth or that graduate of my (now shuttered) Lafayette Grammar School, Saul Bellow. Amis chooses to ignore or dismiss significant Jewish American writers of earlier eras, such as Sholem Asch, Abraham Cahan, Edna Ferber, Michael Gold, Albert Halper, Ben Hecht, Meyer Levin, Clifford Odets, Elmer Rice, Isaac Rosenfeld, Sam Ross, Leo Rosten, Henry Roth, Louis Zara, and many, many others.

## THE PEW SURVEY: A PORTRAIT OF JEWISH AMERICANS

The Pew Research Center conducted a survey in the first part of 2013, the first-ever independent study of American Jews. It looks at who we are, what our strengths and concerns are, and how we are changing.

The study estimates that the American Jewish population is 6.6 million—5.3 million adults, and 1.3 million children being raised at least partly Jewish. Thus, we continue to be the largest Jewish community in the world. (Israel currently has a population of six million Jews.)

The study affirms that the Jewish connection for American Jewry is weakening. About one in five identifies as a cultural/ancestral Jew, not a Jew by religion. This phenomenon is not restricted to the Jewish community. Americans overall are becoming more secular. Differences between religious and non-religious Jews are predictable. The latter identify less with formal expressions of Judaism and Jewish communal life and are more prone to intermarriage and not raising their children Jewish. They tend to be an ever-growing cohort in the younger generation. Among non-Orthodox Jews, the Pew survey found, the rate of intermarriage rises to 69% percent among Jews without denomination. Over all, intermarriage has risen to 58% from 45% in 1990, and 17% in 1970. 45% of intermarried Jews are raising their children as Jews or partially Jewish.

## THE PEW SURVEY AND CHICAGO

Peter Friedman of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation in Chicago estimates that locally, intermarriage is 37% to 44%, according to Pew. A higher proportion of Chicago area intermarried families, 49%, are raising their children exclusively Jewish. 50% of Chicago Jews have traveled to Israel, as compared to 43% nationally.

Chicago area Jewry shows higher synagogue affiliation—36% versus 31% nationally. However, affiliation has declined greatly. In 1980, it was more than 50%. Philanthropy is one of the most popular ways for Jews to express their Jewishness.

Nationally, 56% said they made a donation to a Jewish cause in 2012, but in Chicago, the number was 67%. American social norms strongly influence the Chicago Jewish community as well as non-Jewish communities.

### THE PEW SURVEY AND THE CJHS

What can we, the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, do to strengthen the connection of individual Jews to our identity, our heritage, and our community?

As the CJHS completes its successful thirty-sixth “double *chai*” year, we must redouble our efforts to fulfill our mission: to collect, record, and transmit Jewish Chicago’s fascinating past (complete with all the flavors of nostalgia) in outreach efforts to our community, especially to the young people in our lives. ❖

**In early January 2014, all issues of our Society periodical, from the first typewritten issue of *Society News* to our current digital, desktop-published issue of *Chicago Jewish History*, will be posted on our website: [www.chicagojewishhistory.org](http://www.chicagojewishhistory.org)**

**An Index to the issues 1977-2012 will soon be available to CJHS members.**

## Remembering Sidney Sorkin: Educator, Historian, Author, CJHS Activist



**Sidney Sorkin at Opening Day of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society 25th Anniversary Exhibition.**  
Sunday, November 24, 2002,  
Spertus Institute.  
Photograph by David Rigg.

history for local TV. He began writing articles for our periodical, originally called *Society News*. His first contribution, in October 1979, was “A Ride Down Roosevelt Road, 1920-1940,” a charming, first-person narrative about a streetcar ride, based on good historical research. (Sid Sorkin was a native South Sider.)

He wrote “A Hero’s Story: The Death of Sammy Meisenberg,” about a Jewish Chicagoan, a soldier under General Pershing in the pursuit of Pancho Villa, who was the only American casualty in the capture of Vera Cruz. He wrote about the twenty Chicago Public Schools named for Jews. He spoke and wrote about Jewish installment dealers in Chicago (in his research he was able to identify more than 450 of them by name).

*Landsmanshaften* and *vereins* were aid and mutual benefit societies created by immigrants from the same towns and/or with the same ideologies, to serve as sources of comfort, camaraderie, and support for the strangers in a strange land. As far back as 1980, Sid had been researching such organizations (the Mariampoler, the Plonsker), hoping to bring his material together in a book. When our Society mounted the exhibit “Landsmanshaften in Chicago” at Spertus in November 1989, Sid contributed a wealth of photographs and artifacts.

His book, *Bridges to an American City: A Guide to Chicago Landsmanshaften, 1870 to 1990*, was published in 1993 by Peter Lang.

His last article in *CJH* (Year-End 2001) was “Reel Men: Chicago’s Movie Exhibitors.” It displayed yet another area of his knowledge.

Sidney Sorkin was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Shirley, née Levy. He is survived by his sons Samuel (Debbie) and David (Shifra Sharlin), seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

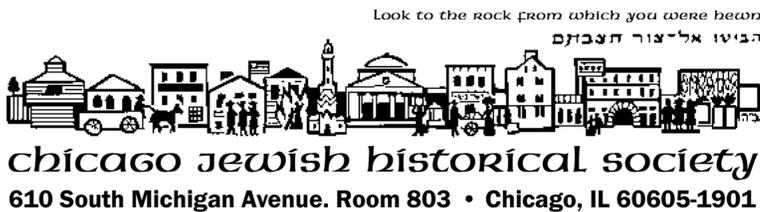
May his memory be for a blessing.

**“He was an educator with a capital E.”**

This description appears in the obituary for Sidney Sorkin, age 90, published on November 3, 2013, in the *Chicago Tribune* and in the local Jewish press.

Sid was assistant principal of Bowen High School for many of his thirty years in the Chicago Public Schools, and principal of the religious schools of South Shore Temple and Chicago Sinai Congregation. He was very proud of his seven well-educated grandchildren, and their names and the names of their colleges are listed in the obituary.

His involvement in the plans and achievements of the CJHS began in our early days. By January 1978 he was a member of our Board of Directors, and with his wife, Shirley, a member of the audio-visual committee, intending to produce material on Chicago Jewish



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**THE BOOK ISSUE**

- **Fall Reports: Milwaukee Tour and Two Open Meetings**
- **Shalom Cousin Ann**
- **Eight-Page List of Publications by Our Members**
- **Sidney Sorkin Memorial**

**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. Now in our 36th “double *chai*” year, the mission of the Society

**About the Society**

continues to be the discovery, collection, and dissemination of information about the Jewish experience in the Chicago area through publications, open meetings, tours, and educational 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 libraries and archives.

**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 Spertus Store.

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.

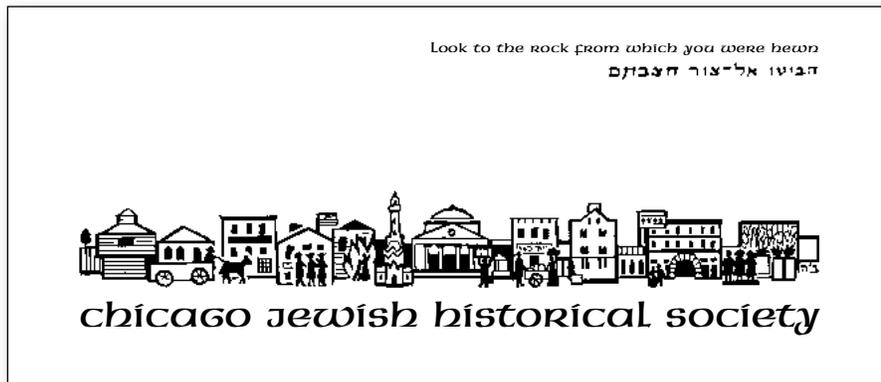
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We welcome your inquiries and comments. Send e-mails to: [info@chicagojewishhistory.org](mailto:info@chicagojewishhistory.org)



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