



chicago jewish historical society

chicago jewish history

Sunday, February 11—Save the Date! *CJHS Presents “The Pied Piper of Chicago: ‘Uncle Ben’ Aronin and His Family”*



Ben Aronin.

Courtesy of Michael Lippitz.

Members of the Aronin family will speak at the next open meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society on Sunday, February 11. The program will take place at Anshe Emet Synagogue, 3751 North Broadway, Chicago.

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m. after light refreshments at 12:30 p.m.

Please note: this is slightly earlier than the customary starting time of CJHS programs.

Anshe Emet is located at the corner of Grace and Broadway Streets. There is limited free parking in the synagogue lot—first come, first served. You may enter the lot from Broadway. There are also a number of pay parking lots in the area around Anshe Emet. For further information call the CJHS office at (312) 663-5634.

Ben Aronin (1904-1980) was the Chicago Jewish community’s quintessential Renaissance Man. He was a lawyer, scholar, teacher, writer, summer camp counselor, and for many years director of extension activities at Anshe Emet. He wrote Jewish-themed songs and plays which are still performed today. His many books for children, in both English and Hebrew, earned him the title “Uncle Ben.”

In addition to Ben, the Aronin family has produced many other accomplished persons. **Sanford Aronin** (Ben’s cousin) will discuss the early rabbinical ancestry of the family in Lithuania and America, including the progenitor of the family in the U.S.A., Rabbi Aryeh Leib Aronin of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Michael Lippitz will review the life of his grandmother, Blanche Aronin Lippitz (Ben’s sister). He will also review the extended family’s major Jewish-related activities before launching into a discussion of Ben’s life.

Shari Rosen (Blanche’s daughter and Ben’s niece) will discuss Ben as patriarch and family leader. **Norton Wasserman** (Ben’s son-in-law) will discuss Ben’s career as counselor and religious leader of Camp Maccabee, where he influenced generations of Chicago’s Jewish youth. **Simon Aronin** (Ben’s nephew) will discuss Ben’s role as an educator.

A special feature of the program: **Lori Lippitz**, founder and leader of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, and her sister, **Cantor Riki Lippitz**, will sing some of the songs written by their great-uncle Ben.

Rabbi Michael Siegel, Anshe Emet’s Senior Rabbi since 1990, who has served the congregation for his entire twenty-four year career, will open the program with a brief history of the congregation and of Ben Aronin’s role as director of extension activities. After the program, there will be time allotted for attendees to share their memories, so all are urged to bring along memorabilia and reminiscences of “Uncle Ben.”

—Program Chair Charles B. Bernstein

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Walter Roth

CHICAGOANS IN ISRAEL.

Last November, my wife Chaya and I spent two weeks in Israel, and I would like to share with you our experiences in several places where we visited friends who are former Chicagoans.

The first place was Kibbutz Sasa, situated in northern Israel near the border with Lebanon.

This kibbutz was founded in 1949 on the site of an abandoned Arab village by a group of young Chicagoans. Over the years Sasa has prospered and grown to several hundred families. It has a lovely guest house and offers panoramic views of the mountainous region. We have a special relationship to this kibbutz because one of its members, Lynn Saperstein, lived with us in Chicago when she was a young student, and she helped to raise our children. Lynn is a teacher and author who lives with her husband John and their five children.

A few miles away from Sasa in the Upper Galilee is another kibbutz, Kfar Blum, which was originally settled by Chicagoans. Mount Hermon is nearby and in full view from the kibbutz. Kfar Blum also has prospered, but is now in the process of privatizing, selling part of its land to real estate developers and persons who will build their own homes there. Kfar Blum is party to a Foundation that has built a large music hall where summer festivals are held. The Foundation has also built a music school which we had the pleasure of visiting.

From Kfar Blum we drove a few miles south to a beautiful site overlooking Lake Kinneret, the location of the only dude ranch in Israel—Vered Hagalil (Rose of Galilee) Guest Farm.

The resort was established by a native Chicagoan, born on the West Side. After U.S. Army service in World War II and study at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, he made *aliya* to Israel in 1949. He joined Kibbutz Hazerim in the Negev where many other Chicagoans had settled, but later decided to become an independent entrepreneur. He had a passion for horses, so he bought some land and worked with members of his family to clear the area, plant flowers and trees, construct guest accommodations, and create horseback-riding trails.

The name of this industrious Chicagoan is Yehuda Avni, formerly Eddie Stone.

Chaya and I visited with Yehuda and his wife Yona when we had dinner at the restaurant that is part of their resort. Our dinner was a traditional American meal—hamburgers, apple pie, and the like. At this fun place you can feel the beauty of Israel and the closeness of the fellow Chicagoans who live there. Yehuda showed us a huge guest book where visitors from Chicago have written their names over the years. We found our signatures dating back to 1978 when we first met Yehuda. He has copies of our Society quarterly displayed in the restaurant, and I left him a copy of my book, *Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past*. (Read his appreciative letter on page 3.) ❖



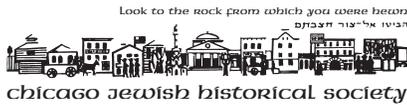
Left: Eddie Stone, Spring 1947.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Pictured in front of INDECO, 1106 Third Street, Champaign—a former fraternity house that was purchased by a group of Jewish parents as an independent co-op residence for their student daughters. Eddie worked there as a waiter and spoke of his plans to make aliya to the newly established State of Israel. Photo courtesy of Jean Rosenbaum.

Right: Yehuda Avni, November, 2006.

At his Vered Hagalil Guest Farm. His sweater is appropriately decorated with pictures of horseback riders. Photo courtesy of Walter Roth.





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Letters to CJHS

What Came Before

To Walter Roth:

Just finished reading your book, *Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past*. I read nonstop. The people and incidents you wrote about enriched my knowledge of "what came before"—enhancing my knowledge of why I am where I am and from where I came. Thank you for the book.

Yehuda Avni, Vered Hagalil Guest Farm, Israel



Morning Star M.B. Church (formerly Hagro Hebrew Center).

206 South Hamlin Avenue. Photograph made in 2004 by Robb Packer, author of *Doors of Redemption, the Forgotten Synagogues of Chicago*.

Two Eulogies

To *Chicago Jewish History*:

In September 2006 when my mother, *aleha hasholem*, passed away, I wrote a eulogy for her. Now, three months later, I write another eulogy—for the Mikdosh El Hagro Hebrew Center, a synagogue beautifully described by Joy Kingsolver in the Fall 2006 issue of *CJH*. The focus of my memoir is on the former Hagro Hebrew Center on Hamlin Avenue, across from Garfield Park.

Ms. Kingsolver correctly notes the address of the shul as 206-210 South Hamlin. The synagogue building was at 206, and 210 was the address of the apartment building next door that had been bought to use as the Hebrew school and possibly for other purposes. We lived less than two blocks from the shul, at 3904 West Wilcox, across from our elementary school, Delano. After school, several times a week, my sister and I went to the Hagro Hebrew School.

On the second floor of 210 South Hamlin were three class-

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The Mexican Adventure of Paul Rothenberg

BY WALTER ROTH

Can you imagine a colony being established in Mexico in the early 1900s for at least 25,000 East European Jews, particularly from Ukraine, fleeing from pogroms? Such a colony was the dream of Chicagoan Paul W. Rothenberg.

He was born in Berlad, Romania, on August 30, 1884, the son of Ascher and Beila Saphier Rothenberg. When he was four years of age the family immigrated to America, and a year later settled in Chicago.

He attended grammar school and high school here. A bright student with many interests, he entered the Illinois School of Medicine and graduated from the Department of Chemistry. He also obtained a law degree from the Webster Law School and was admitted to the bar. However, instead of entering the scientific or legal profession, he chose a career in politics, and achieved some success as a leader in the Republican Party. He was employed as an analyst by the State of Illinois 1909-1913, and in 1920 became secretary to the president of the Chicago Sanitary District.



**Paul V. Rothenberg
(1884-1974)**

Rothenberg became a prominent figure in Chicago's Lawndale area, a community with a rapidly growing Jewish population. A great many Jews voted for candidates of the Republican Party, which won the Presidential election of 1920, electing Warren G. Harding. That year also marked the election of General Álvaro Obregón as President of Mexico after a tumultuous, decade-long revolutionary period in that country.

A short recounting of early twentieth century Mexican history may be helpful at this point.

In 1911, Francisco Madero was elected President of Mexico, after leading a revolt against the administration of Porfirio Díaz, the longtime President, who was forced into exile. By 1913, many groups had become disenchanted with Madero's handling of Mexico's problems, and he was overthrown and killed. Victoriano Huerta, a military leader, was elected President in 1914,

but he, too, was soon overthrown by four disharmonious revolutionary generals: Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa, Venustiano Carranza, and Álvaro Obregón. Zapata was the famous peasant leader; Villa is best-known to Americans for his raid into Texas which caused a retaliatory invasion of Mexico by the U.S. Army; Carranza, a more moderate figure, was elected President in 1917 to succeed Huerta; and Obregón became a minister in the Carranza regime.

(The excellent movie "Viva Zapata" portrays all of these revolutionary personalities; it ends with the historically accurate ambush murder of Zapata by Carranza's forces in 1919. Another great film, "Juarez," covers an earlier tumultuous period in Mexican history and has a Jewish connection: Paul Muni plays the title role of Benito Juárez and John Garfield plays the young Porfirio Díaz. The screenplay for this 1939 movie was written by Franz Werfel, based on his stage play.)

Under Carranza, the Mexican government framed a new constitution granting broad rights to the peasantry and containing a provision limiting the President to a single four-year term. Carranza sought to stay in control by backing a puppet candidate, but the popular Obregón ran against him and won the Presidency.

Obreón began seeking recognition from the United States for the new Mexican regime. Years of internal strife, anti-Church attacks, and leftist tendencies of the revolutionary forces did not help the popularity of his cause. Obregón sent a commission to various U.S. state legislatures asking them to adopt resolutions urging recognition of the new Mexican government. Illinois was one of the selected states, and somehow the Mexican representative sought out Paul Rothenberg. He agreed to help, and he was successful. Other state legislatures followed Illinois, and U.S. diplomatic recognition was extended to Mexico.

According to attorney and author Philip P. Bregstone in *Chicago and Its Jews, a Cultural History* (privately published in 1933), emissaries of the Mexican government then came to Rothenberg and "tactfully" offered him a considerable sum of money for his efforts, which he refused. Shortly thereafter, Rothenberg received an official invitation from President Obregón to visit Mexico to meet with him and his Cabinet.

There was a snafu at the border when Rothenberg missed an official representative who had been sent to meet him there, but he took a train to Mexico City

where he was soon located by the President's agents. Rothenberg was escorted from his hotel to the Presidential Palace with full military honors. He soon met Obregón, who again offered him monetary compensation. Rothenberg again refused.

To the President's insistence on somehow recompensing him, Rothenberg answered with a description of the desperate plight of the Jewish people in Eastern Europe, particularly the pogrom victims in Ukraine. They were looking for refuge in a new home after the brutality to which they had been subjected. Rothenberg asked Obregón to consider allocating a tract of land to these Jews for settlement. The Mexican President promised to take up the matter with his cabinet. A plan was soon agreed upon and details worked out.

Bregstone writes: "The President offered a large tract of land in the northern part of Baja California and promised that in due time 'he would send him a charter.'"

One can imagine the excitement that Rothenberg must have felt as he came back to Chicago. He organized the Mexican Jewish Colonization Association and took a small group of its members to view the specified area. They came back elated, feeling it would be appropriate for settlement.

It is interesting to note that in 1922, the United States Senate, at the behest of Zionist organizations, over the opposition of certain Reform rabbis, had passed a resolution supporting "the establishment in Palestine of the National Home of the Jewish people." Rothenberg himself was a member of Zionist organizations, but did not foresee a conflict between his efforts on behalf of a Mexican colony as a place of Jewish refuge and the Zionist ideal. Rothenberg then received the following letter (translated from Spanish):

"President of the Republic of Mexico; National Palace, May 10, 1922. Mr. Paul Rothenberg, 1630 S. Sawyer Av., Chicago, Ills.

"Dear Brother:

"Pursuant to our conversation, in regard to the immigration of Russian Jews to the Republic of Mexico, I am pleased to inform you that the government of which I have the honor of being President, will be happy to witness the immigration; but I deem it advisable to make it clear that if the immigrants are desirous of acquiring real estate in the Republic of Mexico, they must become Mexican citizens. Our laws provide that no foreigner may acquire real estate within a zone eighty miles parallel to the frontier and forty miles to the sea shore.

"We have in our country several million sectors of land that we would yield for colonization purposes. A large portion of this land is exceptionally suitable for agriculture and irrigation. You can be assured that the immigrants we have in mind, on complying with our laws governing the acquisition of property, will receive the guarantee of safety and security that is allotted to all citizens of the Mexican Republic..."

"With personal regards I am your devoted Obregón."

H.L. Meites, in his 1924 *History of The Jews of Chicago*, writes: "This offer excited interest throughout the Jewish world. The conditions imposed by the Mexican President were favorable, as were also the reports of a committee formed in Chicago by Rothenberg that went to investigate the preferred tract."

Rothenberg's plan and Obregón's letter, estimating an original settlement of 25,000 Jews, were sent to the American Jewish Congress of which Rabbi Stephen S. Wise was president. They were also sent to Israel Zangwill in London.

Zangwill, a popular author and playwright, was the founder, in 1903, of the Jewish Territorialist Organization (ITO), which attempted to locate territory

suitable for Jewish settlement wherever land was available. (This followed the rejection of the "British Uganda Program,"—an offer of land for Jewish people put to Theodore Herzl by the British government at the sixth Zionist Congress that year—and rejected.)

Months of discussion and argument ensued. To Rothenberg's dismay, his plan ran into difficulty with the Jewish leadership: with some because



**Álvaro Obregón
(1880-1928)**

their interest lay in Palestine; others because of their interest in a proposed Jewish autonomous region in the Ukraine; and still others because of jealousy. There were some who wanted the honor of dealing directly with the Mexican government. Obregón refused. He apparently felt under obligation to Rothenberg and would not deal

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Rothenberg *continued from page 5*

with anyone else. The American Jewish Congress dismissed the proposal as not feasible, while Israel Zangwill censured the Congress leaders and commended Rothenberg.

The American Jewish Congress did, in fact, send representatives to Mexico to examine the land proposed for settlement as did a number of other Jewish organizations and wealthy private individuals such as Baron de Hirsch. They rejected a Mexican Jewish colony for many reasons, among them the unsuitability of the area, the poor wages paid to workers, the lack of water, and the superiority of alternative areas under consideration, such as Argentina.

After the failure of his settlement plan, Rothenberg no longer played a prominent role on the national scene. In Chicago, his 24th Ward became Democratic Party territory in the New Deal era of the 1930s under the leadership of Jacob Arvey.

Obregón was reelected President of Mexico in 1928. He had left office after his four-year term, as required by the Constitution, but ran again after his ally, Plutarco Calles, had served a term. But before he could take office, Álvaro Obregón was assassinated in a Mexico City restaurant by a religious fanatic.

Rothenberg continued to be active in Chicago politics. He was an Illinois delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1936 and 1940. Paul V. Rothenberg died on January 20, 1974, in Florida.

Welcome, New Members of the Society!

Francine Anunciacion
Benjamin Bielawski
Jack Burgeman
Ruth Hadesman-Gordon
Ned Jacobson
Dr & Mrs. Herbert Weinfield

THE CJHS TOTE BAG

*In celebration of the Society's 30th Anniversary, members who renew and persons who join for the year 2007 at the \$50 level or higher will receive a handsome premium—
The CJHS Tote Bag.*

Bregstone calls his chapter on Rothenberg's Mexican venture "The Second Ararat that Failed." The "First Ararat" refers to the name given by Mordecai Manuel Noah (1785-1851), a writer and statesman, to a tract of land on Grand Island in the Niagara River near Buffalo, New York, where he envisioned a haven for persecuted Jews from Europe. He named his proposed settlement "Ararat" after the mountain where the biblical Noah's Ark alit after the Flood. Mordecai Manuel Noah's plan failed as did Rothenberg's a century later.

California-Mexico-Jewish relations have a long history. A splendid account of the various Jewish immigrations to California-Mexico over the years, including a reference to Rothenberg's Plan, is set forth in the article "Jewish Colony in California: Half Century of Hope and Frustration," (*Western States Jewish History*, Volume XX, Number 4, July 1988).

An earlier article focusing exclusively on a review of Jewish immigration to Mexico is "Mexico—Another Promised Land? A Review of Projects for Jewish Colonization in Mexico: 1881-1925." (*American Jewish Historical Quarterly*, American Jewish Historical Society, Number 4, June 1971). A discussion of Rothenberg's Mexican venture and a copy of the 1922 letter from President Obregón are included. ❖

WALTER ROTH, *president of the CJHS since 1988, is a practicing attorney with Seyfarth Shaw LLP. A graduate of Hyde Park High School and the University of Illinois, he received his J.D. from the University of Chicago.*

The author of two books and many articles on Chicago Jewish history, President Roth was a CJHS board member before his election to the presidency. He also served as moderator for the Society's 1980 panel on the 1930s German-Jewish immigration to Chicago, he himself having arrived here from Germany as a boy in 1938.

A list of Walter Roth's books can be found in the Fall 2006 issue of Chicago Jewish History. Back issues of CJH dating to 1999, featuring articles by him, can be read on our website: www.chicagojewishhistory.org.

Corrections and Clarifications

- In our Fall 2006 issue, the first name of new CJHS member Cindee Mudrow was misspelled.
- Also in Fall 2006, the phone number for ordering Arnold and Sima Miller's Yiddish music CDs and tapes should have been (847) 673-6409.
- The long-promised CJHS *Chicago Jewish History Time Line* is still in preparation. Sincere apologies.

CJHS Open Meeting on December 10: An Insider's Talk on Chicago's Jewish Movie Theater Owners—History and Anecdotes

Just about every seat was taken in the chapel of Temple Shalom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, for The Chicago Jewish Historical Society's open meeting on Sunday afternoon, December 10. Guest speaker Richard Stern's popular topic, "From Balaban & Katz to the Last Independent: Chicago's Jewish Movie Theater Owners," drew a crowd of more than 100 persons.

Program Chair Chuck Bernstein introduced Mr. Stern with some biographical notes. An uncle of Richard's married a sister of Sam Katz, one of the founders of the Balaban & Katz movie theaters. Through this and other family connections, Richard's father and another uncle became the owners of six local movie theaters, four on the South Side (including the Marquette and the Colony), and two on the West Side (the Austin and the Park).

Richard Stern's family moved to the Austin neighborhood to be near their theaters, and Richard worked as an usher, then as manager of the Austin, located at Central Avenue and Madison Street.

Young Richard was subjected to many pranks by people trying to get free entry into the movie house. He told of one: Just before the last show, a man would phone, saying he had left his gloves in the theater. Richard would leave his post to go and search through the big Lost and Found box. This kind of phone call would happen night after night, each time a different caller. Eventually, Richard realized that a group of men were sneaking in to see the movie while he was away looking for the "lost" item.

In 1931, Stern's father and uncle founded the Cinema Theater, their flagship, at Chicago and Michigan



**Richard Stern at Temple Shalom,
December 10, 2006.**

Photograph by Norman D. Schwartz.

Avenues. It was our city's first English-language fine art movie theater. (In 1933, Abe Teitel opened the World Playhouse in the Fine Arts Building, where foreign language fine art films were shown.) Richard became manager of the Cinema at age 17, and kept the job for twenty years. The Sterns lost the theater when Neiman-Marcus bought the property.

An anecdote: The Cinema was showing a movie about a storm at sea. Outside the theater, a real rainstorm was raging. The sump pumps in the alley were doing their best, but water was seeping in through the exit doors. (Chicago theaters had more exit doors than any other city, because of the disastrous Iroquois Theater fire.) After the show, Stern was expecting complaints from the audience. Instead, people commented approvingly on the realism of the "effects".

Richard Stern also was a sub-distributor of films for Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana, and battled

the major distributors for his percentages and rights, to the extent that he became known as "Suing Stern." (He won 19 of 20 cases.) He and other Chicago theater owners battled and defeated the powerful projectionists' union over wages.

Who were Chicago's Jewish movie theater exhibitors? First and foremost, B&K: Barney, John, and Abe (A.J.) Balaban and Sam Katz, with their movie palaces, starting with the Central Park on Roosevelt Road. There was H&E Balaban, formed by the two younger Balaban brothers, Harry and Elmer, and known for the Esquire Theater.

Stern also recalled Arthur Schoenstadt, who owned twenty South Side movie houses, including the Piccadilly; Kirsch & Cooper (the Cooper brothers, Charlie and Moe, and Jack Kirsch, who married their sister; their theaters included the Gold); Lubliner & Trinz (Bruce Trinz and Bobby and Howard Lubliner; their downtown Clark Theater showed a different movie every day); Benny Stein, owner of the Rockne, and later the Golf-Mill.

"Were there any *non-Jewish* movie exhibitors in Chicago?" an attendee asked. In their heyday, "about 75% were Jewish and 25% were Greek," Stern answered.

Richard Stern owned three independent theaters: the Devon, the Three Penny, and the Wilmette—his last one—where he presented many Yiddish, Israeli, and English language films on Jewish themes, well-attended, and for long runs. He sold the Wilmette in May 2006.

Two Jewish independent owners remain: Fred Allen at the Highland Park, and Bobby Fink at the Davis, Arlington, and Buffalo Grove. ❖

The History of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society

The First Year: January 1977–January 1978

BY CHARLES B. BERNSTEIN (originally published in 1978)

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was organized as an outgrowth of the tremendous interest in local Jewish history generated by the Chicago Bicentennial Jewish Exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry in November and December, 1976. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

About 200 persons volunteered to serve as guides at the exhibit, under the chairmanship of Muriel Robin. On the last day of the exhibit, January 2, 1977, Moshe Samber, a consultant for the Board of Jewish Education, saw the exhibit and remarked to Muriel how wonderful it was. They agreed it was a pity that the exhibit was closing. Samber suggested that the exhibit

materials might be stored at the Board of Jewish Education building until it could be decided how to continue the project on a permanent basis.

On January 9, 1977, Muriel and Burt Robin hosted a brunch at their Hyde Park home for some of the more active guides at the exhibit, ostensibly to thank them for their hard work. Muriel and Burt then informed their guests of the new development with the Board of Jewish Education and asked for ideas on what could be done to perpetuate the exhibit and the interest in Chicago Jewish history which it had created. Out of this conversation, those present decided to organize the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

With all successful undertakings, luck plays a vital role, and here it was no exception. Charles B. Bernstein recalled that he had just received a copy of the publication of the Spertus College of Judaica Library, in which there was a long article about the Chicago Jewish Archives. (The Archives had been established a number of years ago at Spertus to collect and preserve materials relating to Chicago Jewish history.) The article urged the Jewish community to deposit materials there.

Bernstein suggested that someone in our group contact the people at Spertus about somehow working with them on the Archives, since they had the expertise and facilities, and we had the people who were interested in going out and collecting such material.

Then, Eenie Frost casually said, "I'm the president of the Spertus Library Guild. I'll call Richard Marcus, head librarian and administrator of the Archives, tomorrow and talk to



"My Brothers' Keeper, A Bicentennial Jewish Exhibit."

Collage of photographs and printed matter about the exhibit that inspired the founding of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. By Doris Minsky. Photo by David Rigg, 2002.

him about it.” Eenie set up an appointment with Marcus, who said he was delighted to have the opportunity to work with the new group. He joined the Society and became one of its most active members. This is an example of the type of people who have gravitated to the Society and how effectively they get things done.

Another meeting was held, on January 23, this time hosted by Joe and Doris Minsky at their Northbrook home. Joe was president of the Chicago Chapter of the American Jewish Congress and Doris was the Congress’s co-chair of the Bicentennial Jewish Exhibit. The following persons came from all over the Chicago area to attend the meeting at the Minskys’: Norman D. Schwartz, Muriel and Burt Robin, Allene (Eenie) and Jack Frost, Marcia Weiland, Ammiel and Payah Prochovnick, Ruth and Sol Brandzel, Charles B. Bernstein, Mark Mandle, Carol and Larry Krucoff, Rachel Heimovics, Marlene Fleischman, Marcia and Karl Josephy, Moshe Samber, and Rose Ann Chasman.

At this meeting, the Society elected the following officers: Muriel Robin, president; Norman D. Schwartz and Ruth Brandzel, vice-presidents; Allene Frost, recording secretary; and Charles B. Bernstein, treasurer. The group decided to have a founding meeting on March 13, 1977, which would be open to the public. At the suggestion of Rachel Heimovics, Muriel phoned Bernard Wax, the executive director of the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Massachusetts, and invited him to speak at the meeting.

Founding Meeting

A membership solicitation mailing was sent to about 400 people, mainly guides and others involved with the Bicentennial Jewish Exhibit. By the time of the meeting, about 75 people had become members. The meeting was held in the hospitality room at 330 West Diversey Parkway, the building in which Ruth and Sol Brandzel reside, and they hosted the meeting. Norman Schwartz delivered a stirring invocation, Bernard Wax spoke words of praise and encouragement, and another 24 persons joined the Society then and there.

The gathering at the founding meeting approved the purposes of the Society, which had been drafted by Bernstein. They read as follows:

To collect, preserve and exhibit memorabilia and materials of every kind pertaining to the settlement, history and life of Jews and the Jewish community of Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois; and to conduct education programs, encourage study and research, and disseminate

information pertaining to the settlement, history and life of Jews and the Jewish community of Metropolitan Chicago, Illinois.

The next project was that of formalizing the organization: drafting articles of incorporation, by-laws and an application for tax exempt status. All were quickly accomplished.

The Society also worked on developing a cooperative relationship with Spertus College. In early June, these arrangements were culminated with the understanding that Spertus would provide the Society with an office in its building, and the Society would donate any archival materials it received to the Chicago Jewish Archives, and would encourage its members to volunteer their services to the Archives. The Society is indebted to the foresight and magnanimity of Dr. David Weinstein, President of Spertus College of Judaica; Phillip Spertus, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Nathaniel Stampfer, Dean of Students; and Norman Asher, Trustee, who spent much time and effort in working with the Society’s representatives to achieve this arrangement.

First Program

The next major activity was an open meeting on June 5 at Spertus College featuring a lecture by Richard Marcus on “Treasure Hunting for Chicago Jewish Archives.” This meeting was a joint function with the Spertus Library Guild. The program was co-chaired by Eenie Frost, wearing her other hat as president of the Library Guild, and Muriel Robin, president of the CJHS. About 150 persons attended the meeting, and about 40 signed up for Marcus’s series of four seminars on how to collect archives, that were held over the summer. These seminars will, hopefully, be given on a continuous basis. In this way, the Society will develop a large cadre of trained persons who will be able to go out into the community to individuals and organizations, bring in memorabilia to the Chicago Jewish Archives, and help its staff process the material. The Archives Committee of the CJHS, comprised of the “graduates” of Marcus’s seminars, and chaired by Marcus, has continued to meet to plan strategy and work.

The Society operates on a broad, flexible, open-minded basis in an effort to appeal to as many interests as possible. For example, when it was learned that Rabbi Malcolm Stern, the dean of American Jewish genealogists, was to be in Chicago in late June, the CJHS contacted him and arranged a program with him as guest speaker on June 30 at Temple Beth El on Touhy

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CJHS: The First Year

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Avenue. The program opened with the Rabbi of Beth El, Victor Weissberg, giving a brief but informative and entertaining talk on the history of the congregation. (It is 106 years old, and those present learned that in the last century its building was once blown over by a cyclone.) The meeting initiated the Society's practice of holding its meetings in various synagogues in the area so it can learn more about them and stimulate interest among rabbis and members about the histories of their own congregations.

After Rabbi Weissberg, Rabbi Stern spoke to the audience of 150 persons. He was very well-received. There was even a non-Jewish amateur genealogist who was anxious to meet Rabbi Stern and obtain his autograph.

First Bus Tours

The next activity, another huge success, was the first in an ongoing series of bus tours of historic Jewish sites in Chicago. This tour, on July 17, was of South Side Jewish Chicago and was conducted by CJHS board member Rachel Heimovics, who is also a board member of the American Jewish Historical Society as well as a professional tour guide. The tour included mainly old synagogues, from Dankmar Adler's famous KAM at 33rd and Indiana to *shitibl* at 78th and Muskegon. The tour, at \$8.00 per seat, was sold to capacity.

A second, equally successful tour followed on August 7. This tour traced the Jewish community in

Chicago as it migrated westward and then northward. It was led by Society board member Dr. Irving Cutler, Professor of Geography at Chicago State University, who also leads tours professionally. A highlight of this tour was a stop at the magnificent Anshe Sholom Synagogue, now a Greek Orthodox Church, but with the name plaques of the synagogue members still on the pews. Because of the enthusiastic response to both tours, they were repeated during October.

First Oral History

During the summer period, the Oral History Committee was formed under the co-chairmanship of Moselle Mintz and Mark Mandle, and it began holding meetings. The committee received a professional assist from Society members Dr. Edward Mazur, who established training sessions for persons who desired to learn how to take oral histories, and from Dr. Adele Hast, who led the first oral history interview, that of Hadassah trailblazer Mrs. Bertha Read Rissman. The committee received a grant of one thousand dollars from the West Valley Section of the National Council of Jewish Women to purchase equipment. This grant was accompanied by a commitment from the West Valley women to become active participants in the Oral History program of the Society. Special thanks to CJHS board members Nancy Cohen and Marcia Ross, who encouraged the women to make this generous contribution.

Plans for First Exhibit

The Exhibit Committee was organized under the chairmanship of Kenneth H. Cohen, and began to hold meetings in order to plan the Society's first exhibit. It relied on the artistic expertise of board member

Rose Ann Chasman, exhibition designer; and the expertise of Marylou Seidenfeld, recorder; as well as the dedicated hard work of Norman Schwartz, Nancy Cohen, Sylvia Klein, Doris Minsky, Elsie Orlinsky, Burt Robin and Marcia Ross. The Exhibit Committee plans to open its first exhibit on the second floor of the Spertus College building for the Anniversary Meeting on February 12, 1978.

Fall Programs

The Society opened its fall programming with an open meeting at Spertus College on October 16. About 120 persons were present to hear Charles B. Bernstein speak on "The Genesis of Chicago Jewry", a review of early Chicago Jewish history until the Civil War.

The Society concluded its first year of programming on December 11 at Temple Sholom. After Ralph Halperin gave the 120 people in attendance a resume of the congregation's 110-year history, Prof. William J. Adelman, a program associate of the Chicago Labor Education Program at Circle Campus of the University of Illinois, spoke on "Jewish Workers in Chicago—1841 to Today."

Speakers' Referral Service and Society Bulletin

A Speakers' Referral Service, operated by Vice-President Ruth Brandzel, provides speakers to area organizations interested in Chicago Jewish history. The bulletin of the CJHS, *Society News*, edited by Roberta Bernstein, informs members of Society activities as well as interesting facts about Chicago Jewish history. Other board members plan the bi-monthly open meetings, the publicity, and the myriad of tasks that are necessary to a growing organization.



Doris Minsky: Bicentennial Jewish Exhibit Collage (detail).

As of February 8, 1978, the Society has 265 members. It has achieved the goal of becoming a “people” organization and a “doing” organization, concentrating its efforts on substantive activities. The membership roll of CJHS includes practically every aspect of the Jewish community, from well-known philanthropists and *Sentinel* “cover people” to working people and graduate students, all Jewish religious denominations (and some non-Jewish), and all parts of the metropolitan area. They have all been able to work together, contributing fruitful ideas from their own backgrounds and experiences, to the betterment of the Society’s goal, the recording and popularizing of Chicago Jewish history.

For the future, the Society has many ideas for exhibits, programs and activities on the drawing board. It welcomes the suggestions, requests and participation of all its members. As Sally Goldsmith, CJHS board member and former president of the Spertus Library Guild, is fond of saying, “Perhaps you would like to be part of this.” ❖

CHARLES B. BERNSTEIN is a practicing lawyer as well as a genealogist. He is a founder of the CJHS, a board member and current program chair. He has authored or co-authored six books on Jewish genealogy, some commissioned by prominent families. He has chaired the CJHS’s Minsky publication committee and led bus tours to Ligonier, Indiana.

Memorial Tribute to Ammiel Prochovnick, A Founding Member of the Society

BY BURT ROBIN

Ammiel M. Prochovnick, who enjoyed a long and satisfying career as Reference Librarian at the John Crerar Library, died on November 30, 2006, at the age of 78. He and his wife Payah were founding members of the CJHS, and continued their steadfast support of the work of the Society for all these years.

He attended public schools in the Humboldt Park and Albany Park neighborhoods, Hebrew High School at the Jewish People’s Institute (JPI), and received a Masters degree in Physics from the University of Chicago, having studied with Enrico Fermi, the world-famous physicist. At that time he enrolled in the College of Jewish Studies, where he met his future wife, Payah Solove.

Ammiel was with the Crerar Library through its move from the northwest corner of Randolph Street and Michigan Avenue to the IIT campus, and finally to the University of Chicago campus. (The Crerar is home to more than a million volumes in the biological, medical and physical sciences as well as collections in general science and the philosophy and history of science, medicine, and technology.) A debilitating illness forced him to retire in 1996.

The Prochovniks were deeply devoted to Judaism and to Israel, where Ammiel’s sister lived. Before he became ill, Ammiel and Payah both were involved in many religious, educational and social activities at Congregation Rodfei Zedek in Hyde Park. After being confined to a wheelchair, he became highly proficient in the use of computer technology, and for many years was the webmaster of the synagogue website. He also developed a new hobby, collecting Jewish ritual objects. He acquired, through the Internet, an extensive collection of beautiful Pesach haggadahs and Chanukah menorahs, which represent many lands and approaches to Judaism.

Ammiel and I were dear friends for more than thirty years. He claimed that our friendship was special because when he was introduced to me at the home of a mutual friend, I pronounced his last name perfectly—a feat not achieved by many. For this he rewarded me with a big hug, something he said he never gave to any man, other than his father. Those of us who were privileged to know this wonderful man of great warmth, keen intelligence, and a terrific sense of humor (displayed at its best by naming his cat “Chairman Meow”), will sorely miss him.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Payah; son Jon Prochovnick; daughters Naomi Prochovnick (Zwazzi Sowo), Ora Prochovnick (Rina Franz) and Rachel (Craig) Mather; and four grandchildren.

May his memory be for a blessing.

BURT ROBIN is Vice-President of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and a founding member. He is a retired Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Physical Science at Kennedy-King City College. He is the moderator of the JCC men’s current events discussion group at Temple Sholom and a producer of Opera Society programs for seniors at the Chicago Cultural Center Renaissance Court.

FROM THE
CHICAGO JEWISH
archives

The Albany Park Auxiliary of HTC World War II Tablecloth

by Joy Kingsolver

Wartime in the 1940s was a time of hectic activity for American Jewish women. Along with their synagogue, school, home and charity activities, they were active supporters of the war effort, helping with blood drives, bond drives, and sponsoring projects to support the men and women in service.

In 1943, the women of the Albany Park Auxiliary of Hebrew Theological College stitched the names of 54 Jewish servicemen onto a banquet-sized tablecloth, which was also adorned with the American flag and the Zionist flag. This painstakingly-created tribute was used at least once, to judge from the few stains on its surface. Today its threads are fragile and have worked loose here and there, but it remains a poignant reminder not only of the wartime service of Chicago's Jews, but also of the dedication of those waiting anxiously at home.

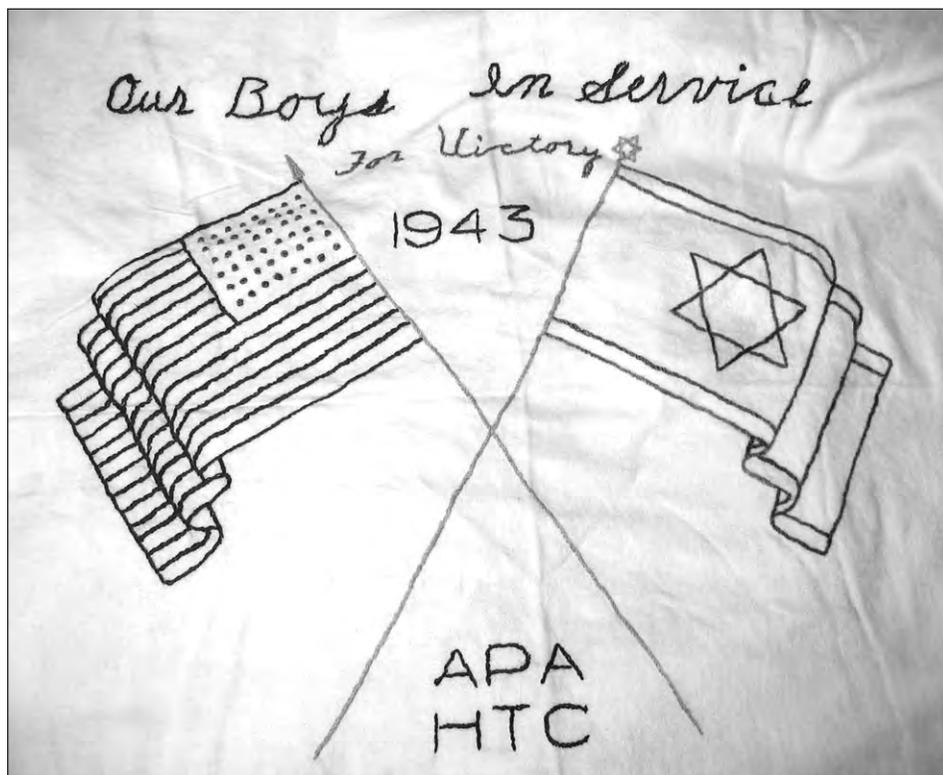
Not much is known about the Albany Park Auxiliary. Hebrew Theological College, founded in 1922 and located at 3448 West Douglas Boulevard until 1958, was supported by several auxiliaries. In 1943 these included the Englewood Auxiliary, the Esther and Philip Bernick Memorial Auxiliary, the Lawndale Ladies Auxiliary, the Gan Shmual Auxiliary, the Mollie Goldblatt Manfield West Suburban Auxiliary, and others. It is unclear exactly when the group in Albany Park was founded, but their meeting notices first appear in the *Sentinel* in 1939. The group met weekly at Albany Park Hebrew Congregation, located at Lawndale and Wilson.



Mrs. Dora Chazen

The driving force behind the auxiliary was Dora Chazen, one of its founders and its longtime president. Mrs. Chazen was born in Russia in 1892 and arrived in the United States in 1910, where she married Samuel Chazen. Dora and Sam had four children. Sam Chazen worked as a peddler, ran a horse grain store for a while, and then worked in the curtain cleaning business. He sometimes served as a driver for HTC rabbis as they collected donations and conducted other college business. Dora took a keen interest in Jewish charitable and educational organizations, playing a leading role in several auxiliaries. In 1944, she was elected lifetime president of the Albany Park Auxiliary of HTC.

Although the family moved to Los Angeles in 1948, she maintained her ties to Chicago. In 1952, HTC established a branch in Los Angeles, and she founded its Los Angeles auxiliary. She died in 1983 at the age of 92, having worked tirelessly for many Jewish organizations for fifty years. The tablecloth so lovingly created by the auxiliary was donated to the Chicago Jewish Archives by Dora's granddaughter, Bobbie Chazen Hamilton.

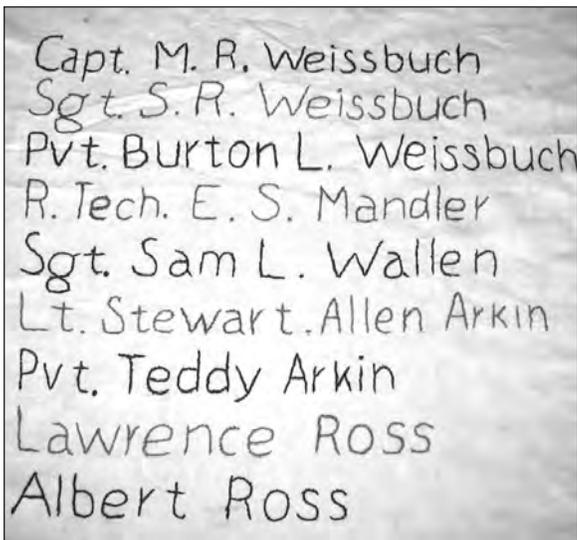


Albany Park Auxiliary of Hebrew Theological College Tablecloth.

Red, blue, and gold embroidery: "Our Boys In Service/For Victory/1943/APA/HTC."
All photographs courtesy of Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute.

In the 1940s, Albany Park had a thriving Jewish community. In addition to the Albany Park Hebrew Congregation, the area was home to Beth Israel (Reform, 1917), Beth Itzchok, also known as the Drake Avenue Shul (Orthodox, 1917), Kehilat Jeshurun (Orthodox, 1932), and several other synagogues. The area's Jewish population began moving out in the mid-1960s, but the Albany Park Auxiliary of HTC seems to have ceased much earlier, at least by 1958. Today, Yeshiva Women, founded in the 1930s, fills the place formerly occupied by these neighborhood groups.

The names embroidered on the tablecloth were not necessarily connected to Hebrew Theological College. In January 1943, the HTC student newsletter published a list of students who were serving in the armed forces; none of these names appears on the tablecloth. It seems more likely that the names on the tablecloth were those of relatives and friends of the Auxiliary members. There was strong support for the work of the College in Albany Park's Orthodox shuls, and members of the Auxiliary did not necessarily have a direct connection to the College.



Of the fifty-four names, only a few can be identified so far. Charles S. Chazen was Dora's son, a lieutenant in the United States Army Air Force, serving with distinction as a navigator. After the war, he became an accountant, and today lives in L.A.

Morris R. Shafran was also related to Dora Chazen; he was her son-in-law, married to her daughter Florence. He served in an artillery division of the army; afterward, he worked polishing industrial diamonds. He died in 1989.

The name S. R. Weissbuch rang a bell with one of our archives volunteers. He was identified as Samuel Ronald Weissbuch, who worked in the insurance business after the war and was known locally for his beautiful singing in a synagogue choir.

Finally, Harold Friedman was mentioned in the *Sentinel* column, "Chicagoans in Service" on November 16, 1944. A private in an army infantry division, he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in France. ❖

The Archives is continuing to look for information on the Auxiliary and its place in the neighborhood, or identification of any of the names. As always, you, our readers, are important partners in the collection of Chicago Jewish history and in the preservation of its memory. If you can help us, please contact the archivist at (312) 322-1741 or e-mail archives@spertus.edu.

APA HTC Tablecloth (detail).
List of names of servicemen embroidered in alternating rows of red and blue thread.

LT. STEWART ALLEN ARKIN
PVT. TEDDY ARKIN
PVT. HYMIE M. BRANDHANDLE(R)
ROBERT BROWN
LT. CHARLES S. CHAZEN
PVT. OSCAR CHERNY
BERNARD COHEN
PVT. JEROME COHEN
PVT. HYMAN DUNN
LT. BEN EBERT
O 2/C OSCAR R. FIELDS
CADET HAROLD FRIEDMAN
CPL. LEONARD N. FRIEND
PVT. GILBERT GELLER
CPL. PHILLIP GOLDE
PVT. JAY GORAN
MAZON JOE GORAN
S. SGT. SEYMOUR GUTHMAN
LT. FRED KAGAN
PVT. HERMAN W. LEWIS
BERNARD LINSON
MAX D. LINSON
LT. HAROLD LISSMAN
S/SGT. RAYMOND LOFCHIE
R. TECH. E.S. MANDLER
BORIS C. MILLER
PVT. CHARLIE MINSKY
CDT. MARSHALL LEE MOSES
PVT. BERNARD NUDELMAN
PFC MELVIN NUDELMAN
LT. PERKINS
CPL. LOUIS JOE PORTNOY
SGT. BENNIE RICHELL
SGT. ABE ROSENBERG
SGT. EDDIE ROSENBERG
S/SGT. HARRY ROSENBERG
ALBERT ROSS
LAWRENCE ROSS
PVT. ARNOLD SANGERMAN
PFC SHEPARD R. SCHIMEL
CPL. DAVE SEGAL
MORRIS R. SHAFRAN
[STF.] SGT. JULIUS M. SIMON
LT. JOSEPH G. SMITH
SGT. LEONARD STEIN
PVT. HAROLD STEIN
S. SGT. SAM STEIN
JEAN TUCKER
SGT. SAM L. WALLEN
LT. HAROLD WEINER
PVT. BURTON L. WEISSBUCH
CAPT. M.R. WEISSBUCH
SGT. S.R. WEISSBUCH
PAUL ZHITNIK

Letters *continued from page 3*

rooms. In one, classes were taught by Rabbi Meir, a very good-natured, heavyset man in his late thirties or early forties. He was my first teacher. We learned to read and write Hebrew, and as I look back at the experience, I realize that his pedagogical methods were top-notch. We enjoyed coming to Hebrew school very much, and, as I recall, the absentee rate was minimal.

My next teacher was Rabbi Lipschultz, a short, thin man in his fifties or sixties. Besides continuing our Hebrew studies, he fascinated our class of seven-year-olds by telling us about his recent trip to Israel and how beautiful the tree-lined streets and parks of Tel Aviv were. He was the person who first planted the seeds of Zionism in my brain.

The third teacher at Hagro was Rabbi Zalman, a tall, thin man, possibly in his 30s. I never had him as my teacher, but he had a good reputation among the students.

Who can forget marching around shul on Simchas Torah carrying a flag and apple, or stamping our feet in shul on Purim when the megillah reader mentioned Haman's name?

In 1958, we left Garfield Park for the North Side, and our affiliation with the Hagro Hebrew Center ended. But fond memories remain with me. Our family left Chicago for Los Angeles in 1961, and I've lived here ever since. A number of years ago, when I was in Chicago, I visited my old Garfield Park neighborhood. The building where we lived was gone—an empty lot.

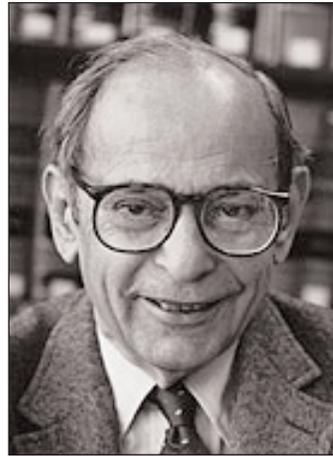
I walked the two blocks to the Hagro Hebrew Center. Although it was now a church, the front of the building still displayed the indented shape of a large Magen David.

Paul Malevitz, Los Angeles, CA

Remembering Bernard D. Meltzer, the Last of a Distinguished Group of Scholars at the University of Chicago Law School

With the death of Bernard D. Meltzer at age 92, on January 4, 2007, the University of Chicago Law School and the City of Chicago lost an outstanding human being and a fine scholar.

Born in Philadelphia in 1914 to Russian immigrant parents, Meltzer spent four semesters at Temple University before transferring in 1934 to the University of Chicago, where he completed his undergraduate studies and obtained his law degree. After attending Harvard Law School



Bernard D. Meltzer

on a graduate fellowship, and receiving a master of laws degree there, he began his legal career with a number of Federal regulatory agencies in Washington, DC. With the entry of the United States into World War II, Meltzer joined the Navy as an officer, where he dealt with legal security matters.

In 1946, Meltzer joined the United States Prosecution Staff at the Nuremberg International War Trials under Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson. After the trials, Meltzer returned to the University of Chicago as Professor of Law.

He was one of my teachers at the Law School in the early 1950s. He was teaching labor law, which at that time was an area full of controversies, as McCarthyism was rampant in the country. While Professor Meltzer was often conservative in his views on labor matters, he and his colleagues acted with courage, in my opinion, whenever civil rights were attacked.

University of Michigan Law Professor Theodore St. Antoine once described Meltzer as “the finest craftsman” among labor law scholars, stating that there was “no person in the entire field of labor relations who was so adept at asking all the right questions, recognizing all the competing interests, and exposing all the ancient shibboleths.”

Prof. Meltzer rarely talked about his experiences at Nuremberg in his classes, and it wasn't until many years later that I had the opportunity to read some of his briefs and listen to his stories about the Nazi criminals in whose prosecution he had participated.

Phil C. Neal, a former dean of the University of Chicago Law School, was quoted in the *Chicago Tribune* on January 5: “Bernard Meltzer's death marks the end of a major part of the Law School's history. He was the last of a small but very distinguished group who joined the faculty in the late 1940s and under Edward Levi's leadership in the 1950s made the School one of the recognized greatest law schools in the country.”

Dean Neal was undoubtedly referring to the deaths of Professors Harry L. Calven, Jr., Walter Blum, Edward H. Levi, and Aaron Director in recent years—and now, Meltzer. The fact that these men were all Jewish is a great tribute to the scholarly heritage of our people.

—Walter Roth

ED MAZUR'S
**PAGES FROM
THE PAST**

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

In the autumn of 1936 the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey was organized under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of Illinois. The purpose of the Survey was to translate and classify selected news articles appearing in Chicago's foreign language press from 1861 to 1938.

Financial curtailments in the WPA program ended the Survey in October 1941. The Chicago Public Library published the work in 1942. The project consists of a file of 120,000 typewritten pages from newspapers of 22 different foreign language communities in Chicago.

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

"CHICAGO'S COOK POT.

Tomorrow evening, the second opening dance will be given by the Hebrew Institute. These dances will take place every Saturday evening. The dance of last week met with great success. We are hoping that these dances will bring the desired effect and draw our Jewish youth away from the cheap dance halls, which are a disgrace to the West Side."

—*Daily Jewish Courier*,
November 10, 1911

**"FIRST HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER
OF HEBREW HIRED.**

Mr. E. Zeligman, 2789 Augusta Street, is the first Jew in Chicago to pass the examination given by the Board of Education as high school teacher of Hebrew.

"This step was the result of the work of Mr. H. Lipsky, who four years ago started a campaign for Hebrew as one of the subjects in the examination of high school teachers. Mr. Zeligman is a Ph.B. of the University of Chicago and a teacher in the Hebrew School at the Home for the Aged. It is expected that for the next semester he will be selected a Hebrew teacher for one of the Chicago high schools."—*Daily Jewish Courier*, July 30, 1917

**"ROSA RAISA—THE SUCCESS OF
THE OPERA SEASON IN CHICAGO.**

The greatest "hit" of the Chicago opera season is our renowned daughter of Bialystok, Rosa Raisa. She has especially done splendidly in her part as Tosca last Monday. She was stormily applauded after each aria. Madame Raisa was the only artist that received such a reception."

—*Forward*, December 4, 1920

"A SHEKEL FOR THE NATIONAL

FUND. Today, Purim, is National Fund Day. Every synagogue will take up a collection of shekels (one dollar in American money) for the National Fund, and every Jew who goes to the synagogue to listen to the story of Esther should not and must not forget to give his shekel to the National Fund.... It is only logical that when you listen to the story of Haman, you should realize that the sensible way to break loose from the clutches of Haman is by

rebuilding Palestine—and Palestine can only be built by purchasing as much land as possible and settling Jews on that land. The chief task of the National Fund is to purchase land in Palestine. This is the simplest but most practical plan of transforming Palestine into Eretz Israel.... Today is Purim; prepare yourselves for Passover—the Liberation."—*Daily Jewish Courier*, March 2, 1923

**"THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE OF
CHICAGO** bought a piece of land for a summer home for children of its members. The colony consists of forty acres. This will be one of the finest children's colonies in the country....

"The forty acres of land is in South Haven on the shore of Lake Michigan. Twenty acres of this land were set aside for a children's colony. On this land are a large house and two smaller houses, having twenty-eight rooms in all, with all conveniences and equipment for a summer home for children.

"The other twenty acres will be divided into lots and sold to members only, for building summer homes. The delegates of the central committee.... determined that the deal be closed, the contract signed, and the sale of lots begin.

"The members will have to hurry to buy these lots because the number is limited."—*Forward*, November 20, 1924

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

About the Society

What We Are

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

Tribute Cards for Celebrations/Memorials

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

Remember the Society

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

What We Do

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

Membership

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

Dues Structure

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

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

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

www.chicagojewishhistory.org

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

Discover links to many interesting Jewish sites. Use the printable membership application. We welcome your inquiries and comments.

e-mail: info@chicagojewishhistory.org

Look to the rock from which you were born
הביטו אל-צור הציבתם



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