Judge Julian W. Mack: The Court and the Community
BY WALTER ROTH

Julian Mack was probably one of the greatest Jewish figures in American judicial history, yet he is virtually forgotten today. Not only was he a brilliant student, graduating first in his class at Harvard Law School, he also was a pioneer in civic and social service. He is a great model for all those who value service to their community and people.

Born in San Francisco in 1866, the early part of Mack’s career was spent mostly in Chicago, while in his later years he lived in various Eastern cities. However, until his death in 1943, he retained his residency in Chicago; his last address was an apartment at 3500 North Lake Shore Drive.

His maternal grandfather had come from Bavaria in the early German Jewish immigration to America. After graduating from Harvard Law School in 1887, Mack won a scholarship for study in Germany.

He arrived in Chicago in 1890 and passed the Illinois Bar. It was a time when the city was in a great fervor over the upcoming World’s Columbian Exposition. The “Harvard of the Midwest,” the University of Chicago, was being built. The innovative settlement house, Hull House, directed by Jane Addams, had begun serving the needs of poor immigrants in 1889.

Ann Barzel: Dancer, Teacher, Critic, Collector
Oral History Excerpts and a Memorial Tribute

Ann Barzel was a participant in the American Jewish Committee Oral History Project on Jews who shaped Chicago. Barzel was interviewed by Nedra Kalish on March 19, 1986. The tape recording and transcript are housed in the Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.

On April 23, 2007 a memorial was held for Ann Barzel at Chicago Sinai Congregation and the Newberry Library. Leading figures from the Chicago dance community spoke about her. Some of her documentary dance films were shown. One of her former students at Penn Elementary School reminisced about Barzel, back when she was known as Miss Eisenstadt.
President’s Column

THE CJHS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

A local Jewish historical society such as ours helps to preserve the heritage of our people by inspiring individuals to relate their life stories in oral histories. Over the years, members of our Society have conducted audiotaped oral history interviews of notable Jewish Chicagoans.

These recordings and typed transcripts are stored at the Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, in the care of Archives Director Joy Kingsolver and her staff. Those of our tapes that had not been transcribed were recently reviewed for sound quality and content by our Oral History Committee chair, Dr. Sue Weiler. She has commissioned the needed transcriptions so that our collection can be used to full advantage by researchers.

We are looking for volunteers to participate in our oral history efforts, either by conducting interviews (for which some training is required), or by contributing monetarily. If you are interested in participating, please contact me personally by phone at (312) 460-5644 or via e-mail to the Society at info@chicagojewishhistory.org.

“A REASON TO REMEMBER: ROTH, GERMANY 1933-1942.”

This is a traveling exhibit from the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center, Springfield, MA, that will be at the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton Street, Skokie, from October 2 to October 22, and at Chicago Sinai Congregation, 15 West Delaware Place, Chicago, from October 28 to November 28.

The exhibit tells the personal story of the five Jewish families who lived in the village of Roth. The exhibit introduces the families as they lived in 1933 and details what happened to them during the Nazi era. The exhibit places the story of the Jews of Roth within the overall context of the events of the Holocaust.

One of the Jewish families of Roth was my own. A public program is being planned in connection with the exhibit. My brother, Herbert L. Roth, will be a speaker at the event.

SHANA TOVA. Best wishes to the members of the Society, families and friends, for a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Photomontage. Jewish children of Roth, Germany. Courtesy of the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center, Springfield, MA.
“The Jews of Hyde Park High School” will be the subject of the next open meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society on Sunday, October 28. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m., following a social hour with refreshments at 1:00 p.m., at Chicago Sinai Congregation, 15 West Delaware Place, Chicago, Illinois. Admission is free and open to the public.

This meeting marks the third in a series of “high school reunions” held by the Society to commemorate Jewish contributions to various Chicago high schools. Four alumni speakers will reminisce about life at Hyde Park High for the period from the late 1930s to the early 1960s during which the school served a large and diverse Jewish community.

**Manfred Steinfeld** is a Chicago industrialist and philanthropist. He fled Nazi Germany, alone, in 1938 to live with an aunt and uncle in Chicago. After graduation from Hyde Park High and notable service in the U.S. Army, he earned a degree in business administration from Roosevelt University. In 1953, he and an associate purchased a bankrupt chair manufacturing firm and renamed it Shelby Williams Industries. Under Mr. Steinfeld’s leadership, Shelby Williams became the country’s leading commercial seating company, focusing on the hospitality and food service markets.

**Judge Julian J. Frazin** has had distinguished careers in both law and entertainment. He grew up as a resident of the Jewish Orphan Home in Hyde Park. After high school, he received his B.A. from the University of Illinois, and earned his J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law. Judge Frazin served on the Cook County Circuit Court for ten years and is now counsel to the law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP. For over forty years he has been producer and principal writer for the Chicago Bar Association’s famous annual satirical musical revue.

**Elise DeBovsky Ginsparg** is a former board member and membership chair of the CJHS. She graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a B.A. in Education and earned a master’s in audiology from Northwestern. Since retiring from teaching in the Chicago Public Schools, she has been a lecturer, slide show presenter and book reviewer, concentrating on Jewish life in cities around the world. A member of a small but distinguished and active group of Orthodox Jewish families in Hyde Park, Elise can contribute her perspective on growing up Orthodox in Hyde Park.

**Judith Margolis Phillips** has resided in Hyde Park for almost her entire life. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan, her M.A. from the University of Chicago Oriental Institute, and her Ph.D. from the Chicago Theological Seminary. A scholar in Semitic languages and cultures, she gives frequent lectures on Scripture and life in the ancient Middle East. A lifelong member of Congregation Rodfei Zedek, she has been Director of Torah Reading since 1990. Dr. Phillips will be able to report on the last era at Hyde Park High that had a substantial number of Jewish students.

For information call our office at (312) 663-5634 or e-mail info@chicagojewishhistory.org.

—adapted from notes by Program Chairman Charles B. Bernstein
Mack was able to obtain employment with Julius Rosenthal, whom he later recalled as “one of the most esteemed lawyers in Chicago at that time.”

Mack’s initial tasks with the Rosenthal firm, while rather menial, brought him into contact with the upper middle class German Jews who had settled on the South Side. He had the opportunity to work with lawyers Lessing Rosenthal (Julius’s son), Zach Hofheimer, a Virginia-born Jew of German origin, and Sigmund Zeisler, who was born in Silesia. Zeisler was one of the main defense attorneys in the Haymarket trial of 1886-87, and he was married to the renowned concert pianist, Fanny Bloomfield Zeisler.

After a time, Mack formed a law firm with Hofheimer and Zeisler, and did a great deal of the legal work arising out of the Columbian Exposition, such as the “Moorish Palace” operations and “whether or not the voluptuous dancing girl, Little Egypt, wore sufficient clothing.” Mack usually handled the written work in these cases, while the senior attorneys attended to the more interesting job of court appearances.

An important case involving Mack arose in 1893. A Depression shattered America’s economy, and many institutions failed. One of them was Herman Schaffner & Co., the city’s leading “Jewish investment house.” On July 3, 1893, Schaffner disappeared, and the Chicago Daily News carried the headline: “Schaffner Bank Fails—Friends Hint Suicide and Despair—Herman Disappears—He is Brother-In-Law of Julius Rosenthal.”

A few days later, Herman Schaffner’s body was found floating in Lake Michigan. The bankruptcy and suicide rocked Chicago Jewry and led to a great deal of litigation. It also led to Mack being the lead attorney in Benjamin J. Levy, et al vs. Chicago National Bank (Illinois Supreme Court, 1895; 158 Ill. 88, 42 N.E. 129), which was a complex case of an investor attempting to recover some of his assets arising out of the collapse of the Schaffner business.

Mack won the case but it apparently left him dismayed about being the “low man” in a law firm. While he did most of the work, the resulting legal fees seemed to go to attorneys either more senior to him or more well-known. Mack soon left his law firm and accepted a position as Professor of Law at Northwestern University. In March 1896, he married Jessie Fox in Cincinnati, with Dr. Emil G. Hirsch officiating. In 1897 the Macks’ only child, Ruth, was born.

Mack and his new family took up their life in a rented house on South Drexel Avenue in Chicago, made possible by a “generous gift from Jessie’s parents.” He became a key member of the Book and Play Club, the “in” group for some of Chicago’s leading German Jews—the Rosenwalds, Loebs, Adlers, Rosenthals, and others.

In 1902, the University of Chicago established its law school, and Mack left Northwestern to join the faculty. University President William Rainey Harper was also able to coax Joseph Beale, a friend of Mack’s from Harvard, to become the first Dean of the Law School. Mack was a great success at the University of Chicago; he was part of the inner circle and much admired by his students, among whom were Jerome N. Frank and Harold Ickes.

At this time, Mack became involved in new interests—Jewish issues in general and Jewish social work in particular. A large immigration from Russia was beginning, and the Great Depression of 1893 sparked his concern for the welfare of these new immigrants. Mack's speeches and activities impressed the Board of Directors of the United Jewish Charities of Chicago (later renamed the Associated Jewish Charities, and still later, the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago), who met at Sinai Temple and selected Mack as their Secretary. This meant that he was deeply involved with every aspect of the Jewish immigrant problem. His speeches emphasized his family traditions that “he was his brother’s keeper.” He developed fundraising programs to serve the needs of the new immigrants, and he became a recognized leader in the Chicago Jewish community.

Friction soon developed between the established German Jewish community and the new East European immigrants. Mack was a skillful arbitrator, with a deep understanding of the socialist beliefs of the Russian Jews and the rigid philanthropic attitudes of the German Jews. Mack, in a prophetic statement, is quoted as...
addressing a Jewish audience: “Let’s not quarrel. The wheel of fortune never stops. Today the German Jew helps the Russian Jew; tomorrow the Russian Jew helps the German Jew.”

President Theodore Roosevelt recognized his leadership when he chose Mack to serve as one of the three vice-chairmen of the famous White House Conference on Dependent Children. Following the conference, Mack was instrumental in drafting legislation that resulted in the United States Children’s Bureau.

Despite his prominent role in the juvenile court movement, the Illinois Supreme Court transferred him to a seat on the Illinois Court of Appeals. Mack objected, as did Jane Addams, as it lessened his ability to help the juvenile court system. When his term on the Court of Appeals expired, Mack ran for reelection and won, enhancing his national standing and speculation that he would soon be elevated to the Federal Bench. That opportunity came in 1911 when he was appointed to fill a judicial vacancy in the Northern District of Illinois with the creation of the Federal Commerce Court in 1911, on which he served until 1913.

When the Federal Commerce Court was eliminated, Mack was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, situated in Chicago. However, Judges on the Federal Appeals Court were often transferred, and beginning in 1920, Mack often served on the Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, and later in New York. While he retained residency in Chicago, his active role in our city decreased, though he continued his affiliation with the University of Chicago Law School and often came to Chicago for his judicial, teaching, and social obligations.

Beginning in 1890, with his employment at the law firm of Julius Rosenthal, Mack became active in the Zionist Movement. Rosenthal was a signatory to the “Blackstone Memorial” of 1891. This was a document presented to President Benjamin Harrison “in favor of the restoration of Palestine to the Jews,” signed by four hundred prominent Americans in response to the Czarist pogroms in Russia. It appealed to the European rulers who had restored national homelands to other peoples, reasoning that Jews, too, could have “autonomy in government” in Palestine. “According to God’s distribution of nations it is their home, an inalienable possession from which they were expelled by force.” The petition was written by William E. Blackstone, a Chicago-based Methodist minister, Christian Zionist, and evangelist. Blackstone is among the interesting historical personalities included in my book, Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago’s Jewish Past (2002, Academy Chicago Publishers.)

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Mack fell under the spell of Aaron Aaronson, the dedicated Palestinian agronomist, whom he met on one of Aaronson's visits to Chicago. By the time of the 1919 Chicago convention of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), Mack had been elected its president. He was president of the first American Jewish Congress and chairman of the Committee of Jewish Delegations to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. Mack was at an airport in Europe, waiting for Aaronson, when word came of his friend's fatal plane crash in the English Channel. It was a great personal tragedy for Mack.

Mack subsequently became a major activist in every facet of Zionist life in Chicago. He was a confidant of Supreme Court Justice Louis M. Brandeis (known to Mack from his days at Harvard), who soon became the leader of American Zionism. Mack resigned as national president of the ZOA in 1921 as a result of a dispute with the Weizmann faction. He continued to be active in Jewish organizations, but in a much lesser role. His duties as a Federal Judge took up a great deal of his time and energy. He handled many cases of great national importance, such as scandal cases in the Harding administration and complex utility cases in New York.

Julian Mack died on September 5, 1943 in New York City. Services were held at the Free Synagogue; his close friend Rabbi Stephen S. Wise officiated.

Both Julian Mack and Louis Brandeis are memorialized in Israel. Kibbutz Ramat HaShofet (Height of the Judge) is so called in Mack's honor. It is located near Kibbutz Ein HaShofet (Hill of the Judge), which had been established earlier in honor of Brandeis.

Horace M. Kallen wrote the memorial entry on Julian Mack in the American Jewish Year Book (1944, American Jewish Committee). Kallen, a social philosopher credited with coining the term “cultural pluralism,” was a champion of the immigrants’ role in American society, and also a prominent Zionist. He was among the lecturers who had addressed Chicago’s South Side Jewish intellectuals at the Book and Play Club. Professor Kallen concluded his summary of Mack’s life with the following:

“...Take the record of Julian Mack’s achievement as a lawyer and a judge, take the tale of his services as a democrat, a public servant, a humanitarian, a Jew, and a humanist, and you have a record large enough for half a dozen lives, not only one. Yet throughout the days of his maturity Julian Mack was not a well man. With the most discriminating taste in food and drink, with a knowledgeable zest unusual even in a gourmet, he had to follow a diabetic’s regimen, and once or twice suffered illnesses that brought him close to death. Nobody would have known it from him. His life was, through its long last illness, right up to its contracted last moment, one brave, willing affirmation. He took what he had to take, and he stood up, without flinching, saying Yes to life.

“Thinking of him, one thinks of the words of another great Jew, Baruch Spinoza: ‘A free man thinks of nothing less than death, and his wisdom is not a meditation upon death but upon life.’ Julian Mack was a free man.”

CJHS Member Among “Jewish Chicagoans of the Year 2007”

Beatrice Michaels Shapiro is a widely published writer. More than fifty of her articles have appeared in the Chicago Tribune.

She has authored two books—Breaking Ground: Careers of 20 Chicago Jewish Women, and the earlier Memories of Lawndale, a winner of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society Minsky Prize.

She also founded and runs an organization that provides graduating high school girls with scholarships to study in Israel.

The Chicago Jewish News chose to honor Shapiro as a “Jewish Chicagoan of the Year 2007” because of the life she has lived. Bea and her husband Ira had two severely disabled sons, and decided on home care instead of an institution for the boys. Her writing had to be done at home, in a terribly challenging atmosphere.

Her husband died two years ago. Bea continues to provide care for her two adult sons, telling CJN, “This is my purpose in life.”
MEMOIR
The Three of Us
By Red Lachman

It all started on the West Side of Chicago in 1932.
I lived on Congress Street near Springfield Avenue from 1932 to 1943. My grammar school was Delano, located at Adams and Springfield. It was there I met Howard Brenner and Chester Ginsburg. The three of us were athletic, and became fast friends while playing on the Delano baseball team and winning the City Championship. It didn’t end there—the three of us went to Marshall High School where we played on varsity basketball teams. Chester was captain of the Lights in 1937. I was on the Heavies team in 1938. Howard was on the Lights in 1939. All three of us were Marshall “M” winners. We all played to win, but in those years we did not become champions.

Here is a memory that I still have of basketball practice: when any player missed an under-handed free throw, Coach Ernie Wills would apply a large paddle to his rear end.

Howard, Chester, and I played 16 inch softball in Garfield Park. Another part of our togetherness was our going to Hebrew School at the Vilner Shul. We always did everything together.

Then came the war. Howard went into the Army, Chester to the Navy, and Red to North American Aviation in California. The three of us were separated, but it took a war to do it.

But we were strangely bashert (destined) to be reunited. In 1943, I was in Los Angeles. While walking down the street in a heavily populated downtown area, I heard a holler: “Red!” And there was Howard. I thought that way of finding each other was unusual, but believe it or not, as I was shopping in a Woolworth store in LA, I heard the same cry: “Red!” It was Chester. So the three of us were together again.

Today, Howard Brenner lives on Chicago’s Gold Coast, Chester (now known as Gaynes) resides in suburban Skokie, and I live in Los Angeles. They see each other frequently, and the three of us get together on special occasions. Of course, we speak on the phone, usually once a week.

My wife Shirley and I, both Marshall graduates, class of ’38, went back to Chicago for our twenty-fifth anniversary class reunion. It was held at the Conrad Hilton Hotel (I remember when it was the Stevens) on Michigan Avenue. To this day, we sometimes talk about the classmates we met and the unusual camaraderie we enjoyed that evening. Marshall High was a gem!

Molly Kramer, who was our class historian, still gets a group of our Marshall graduates together every six months. I always look forward to the report of who was there. (Molly and Shirley have been friends since they were eight years old.)

As of this date, June 2007, Howard, Chester, and I are eighty-six years old. We have been friends for seventy-four years. I think we may hold the record for friends’ TOGETHERNESS. ♦

RED LACHMAN was raised in an Orthodox home by his mother and two uncles; his father died when Red was three years old.
He graduated from Armour Institute (now IIT) in Aeronautical and Civil Engineering in 1943, and was hired by North American Aviation as a flight test engineer. He acted as co-pilot testing the B25 bomber. After the war he went into real estate development in LA.

Red and Shirley (Steinberg) Lachman have been married for sixty-five years. They have “a great family”—four children—three boys and one girl.

Their daughter is married to Ford Roosevelt, an adopted son of Elliott Roosevelt, and thus a grandson of FDR. “They have three children, all Bar/Bat Mitzvah,” Red proudly reports.

Celebrating 70 years of friendship. From left: Chester, Red, and Howard. Courtesy of Red Lachman.
Chicago Park District Facilities Named for Jewish People

**BERGER PARK & CULTURAL CENTER**  
6601 N. Western Ave.

**BRONCHO BILLY PLAYLOT PARK**  
4437 N. Magnolia Ave.

**DUBKIN PLAYLOT PARK**  
7442 N. Ashland Ave.

**GOLDBERG PLAYLOT PARK**  
7043 N. Glenwood Ave.

**GOMPERS PARK**  
4222 W. Foster Ave.

**GREENEBAUM PLAYLOT PARK**  
4300 W. Wabansia Ave.

**HODES PARK**  
1601 E. 73rd St.

**HORNER PARK**  
2741 W. Montrose Ave.

**KORCZAK PLAYLOT PARK**  
6152 N. Claremont Ave.

**LAZARUS PLAYLOT PARK**  
1257 W. Columbia Ave.

**LEVERNOIS PARK**  
7000 N. Sacramento Ave.

**LEVIN PARK**  
5458 W. Kinzie Pkwy.

**SYDNEY R. MAROVITZ GOLF COURSE**  
3600 N. Recreation Drive

**MATANKY PLAYLOT PARK**  
6925 N. Ridge Blvd.

**ROSENBLUM PARK**  
8050 S. Chappel Ave.

**SUPERA PLAYLOT PARK**  
2528 N. Racine Ave.

**WARREN PARK**  
6601 N. Western Ave.

**WEISMAN PLAYLOT PARK**  
901 W. Oakdale Ave.

Most of the these entries are excerpts from the Chicago Park District website. © 2002-2006 Chicago Park District. To learn more about the honorees and the available recreational options go to [http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com).

**BERGER PARK** honors Albert E. Berger (1900-1950), a native Chicagoan and Edgewater resident. Berger, who lived with his family in one of the large homes that lined Sheridan Road before 1950, was a tax consultant and real estate developer, and a member of numerous philanthropic and civic groups. He was also an early proponent of developing street end beaches on Chicago’s North Side.

**BRONCHO BILLY PLAYLOT PARK** Broncho Billy was the screen name of silent film star Gilbert M. Anderson (1882-1971), born Max Aronson, who founded Essanay Studios, located at 1333 Argyle in Uptown, near what is now the park site.

**DUBKIN PLAYLOT PARK** honors Leonard Dubkin (1904-1972). He was a well-known nature writer, who authored *My Secret Places: One Man’s Love Affair with Nature in the City* in 1972. For many years Dubkin also wrote a column called “The Birds and Bees” for the local Lerner Newspaper. [See the Fall 2005 issue of *Chicago Jewish History* for a family memoir by his daughter, Pauline Dubkin Yearwood.]

**GOLDBERG PLAYLOT PARK** was briefly known as Quince Park. In late 1975, the park district officially redesignated the site Goldberg Park, in honor of Louis Goldberg, an author, naturalist, horticulturist, conservationist, and union leader.

**GOMPERS PARK** In its earliest days, Gompers Park was briefly known as Matson Park, for Samuel Matson, Superintendent of the Albany Park District. Albany Park District President Henry A. Schwartz, an official of the shoemakers’ union, soon convinced the park board that it was inappropriate to name the park for a living person. In 1929, the district renamed the site in honor of Samuel Gompers (1850-1924), the first president of the American Federation of Labor.

**GREENEBAUM PLAYLOT PARK** Henry Greenebaum (1833-1914), a Chicago banker and real estate developer, was known as “the father of Humboldt Park.” He served two
terms as a member of the West Park Commission after its formation in 1869. He also served one term on the City Council, where he headed the finance committee. [See articles on the Greenebaum family in Spring and Summer 2005 issues of CJH.]

**HODES PARK** honors Barnet Hodes (1900-1980), alderman for the South Shore community from 1921 to 1935. Hodes served as Chicago’s Corporation Counsel from 1935 until 1947. As head of the Patriotic Foundation of Chicago, Hodes was instrumental in commissioning sculptors Lorado Taft and Leonard Crunelle to create the patriotic monument depicting George Washington, Robert Morris, and Haym Salomon, dedicated in December 1941, and now standing at the corner of Wacker and Wabash. [See article in CJH Spring 2004.]

**HORNER PARK** honors Henry Horner (1878-1940), Illinois’ first Jewish governor, who served from 1933 to 1940. A native Chicagoan, Horner was appointed attorney for the Cook County Board of Assessors in 1907, and was elected judge of the Cook County Probate Court seven years later. Having gained an early, solid reputation for integrity, he won increasing popularity with diverse segments of the community. This broad-based support propelled Horner to the governorship.

**KORCZAK PLAYLOT PARK** honors Dr. Janusz Korczak (1878-1942) a Polish educator, writer, and pediatrician. He founded and directed orphanages for Jewish and Catholic children. Passing up a number of opportunities to flee Nazi-occupied Poland, Dr. Korczak chose instead to accompany his charges when they were deported from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka death camp. Both Korczak and the children died at Treblinka.

**LAZARUS PLAYLOT PARK** honors American poet and philanthropist Emma Lazarus (1849-1887). Born into a non-observant Jewish family, Lazarus gradually developed an active interest in Judaic issues, fueled by the mass migration of Eastern European Jews to the United States in the early 1880s. She is best known for her poem *The New Colossus*, written in 1883, and inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty two decades later.

**LEVERNE PARK** is named for Leo Leverne (1908-1965), an eminent author, publisher, and public-spirited citizen. Publisher of the Leverne Neighborhood Newspapers, Leverne also served as Chairman of the Board of Roosevelt University and as a member of the State Pardon and Parole Board.

**LEVIN PARK** was originally named Merrick Park. In 1974, the site was renamed Levin Park in honor of John H. (“Little Jack”) Levin (1887-1971). For 57 years, Levin owned Little Jack’s Restaurant, a neighborhood institution at 3175 West Madison Street. Levin served as a Chicago Park District Commissioner from 1946 until 1969.

**SYDNEY R. MAROVITZ (WAVELAND) GOLF COURSE** Known as Waveland since the course was built in the 1930s, it was renamed for Sydney Marovitz, a commissioner on the Park District Board from 1974 to 1986. He was the brother of Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz and the father of State Senator William Marovitz.

**MATANKY PLAYLOT PARK** was known as Morse Park until 1984, when the Chicago Park District renamed the site for respected local resident Eugene Matanky (1922-1982). Matanky, a newspaperman and real estate developer, was a founder and vice-president of the Jewish Community Council of West Rogers Park, and a member of the Uptown Chicago Commission.

**ROSENBLUM PARK** During its early years, the park was known as South Shore Park for the surrounding community. In 1965, the park district renamed the site Rosenblum Park in honor of J. Leslie Rosenblum, a pharmacist and owner of a drugstore on 71st Street. A strong supporter of the Neighborhood Boys’ Club, he left his estate to the organization upon his death.

**SUPERA PLAYLOT PARK** Originally known as Racine-Draper Park for the adjacent streets, the site was renamed Supera Park in 1990 at the request of the Wrightwood Neighbors Conservation Association. The new name honors local resident Louis Supera, who made significant contributions to the community. Supera was known for his support of the Better Boys Club, the Menominee Club for boys and girls, and the Lincoln Park Conservation Association, among other groups.

**WARREN PARK** is named in honor of Laurence C. Warren, an attorney and leading community activist, who helped save the open space as parkland.

**WEISMAN PLAYLOT PARK** Known for several decades as Oakdale Park for the adjacent street, the park was renamed for local resident Albert Weisman (1915-1974) in 1983. A journalist, Weisman spent many years as head of public relations for a Chicago advertising agency before becoming the University of Chicago’s Director of Public Affairs. Patrioticlly-inclined, Weisman may have been best known as the founder of the Wellington-Oakdale Old Glory Marching Society Memorial Day Parades.
The 1986 interview began with questions by Kalish about Barzel’s year of birth, birthplace, and family. The answers: 1915 (sic), in Minneapolis; two sisters, both married, one older, one younger. Then Barzel took over.

AB Don’t ask questions. I’ll just tell you. We lived in Minneapolis.

NK Go right ahead.

We all went to Hebrew school. We were very interested in Jewish things. It was a very interesting Hebrew school...a Talmud Torah based on Zionist ideas, not connected with any synagogue. It’s still in existence. And the people connected with it were all very hipped on the Haskalah Movement and talking Hebrew…And then we came to Chicago when I was not quite 12, and I went to Hebrew school here and then to the Yeshiva.

We lived on the West Side, and that was very great because we felt terribly Jewish there. Between Minneapolis and Chicago we lived for a couple of years in Des Moines, Iowa, and there you were completely out of touch with Jewish families, except as you, yourself, began to know them. So living on the West Side was a wonderful revelation, like coming back to sources.…

My mother, who had been speaking English in Des Moines, reverted to Yiddish here. But we always spoke Yiddish at home, which was good. She had the right idea. She said, you know, so many of these people who speak a heavily-accented English, their kids speak poor English. This way you’ll learn correct English. I don’t know where, the street or in school. There were no bilingual [classes].

NK You were bilingual?

AB I’m trilingual. We spoke Hebrew right off.…

NK And the family as well?

AB Yes, especially [with] visitors who came in. I still remember sitting nights singing with all the people.…

We came here because my older sister was ready to go to college. And I entered university at the age of 14…. I discovered that I was going to be in a hurry…. There was a Depression. I taught Hebrew school all the time I went through university. I taught in Logan Square. All of us did. One sister taught at Anshe Emet, and the other one over at Anshe Sholom….All around the city.

NK Well, you were very well-educated Jewishly…You went to the University of Chicago at 14?

AB Out of high school at 14. In fact, I was out of the university before 18, even. Those were the days of Robert Maynard Hutchins, when you could take comprehensives and get out ahead of time….

NK Yes. And you say that it was your love of dance that pushed you?

AB All that time I was studying dance and teaching dance on Saturdays.… [Here Barzel describes the many dance, theater, intellectual, and sports venues that were available on the Jewish West Side.]

The Tribune recently had a very inaccurate survey of Lawndale, that it was always people who came and went. The Jews came to stay. They wouldn’t have built—how many synagogues were there?…The two boulevards, Douglas and Independence, were very well kept. The people were very proud of the neighborhood.

People say, oh, there were always gangs. There were no gangs. I know, because we lived on Douglas Boulevard for a time in this little three-flat. Almost all the basements were rented out to clubs, and most of these were boys who were working their way through college, and they’d have a club. I remember one called the White Owls. They’d play cards, and they’d drink pop, not even beer. And once a month they’d have girls over and a chaperon. Those were nothing like gangs.

After the university, I went one year to Chicago Teacher’s College; that was the only way to get into the public school system. And then I taught school. First I substituted for a couple of years. Then, by a fluke, I got into the William Penn School on 16th and Avers, which had 3,200 Jewish kids...
—and Kim Novak. We had one or two Bohemian families.

NK Before you get that far ahead of me, it sounds as though you loved Lawndale when it was…

AB A wonderful neighborhood.

NK Sounds as though you miss it.

AB I resent when people keep saying, well, it’s a ghetto. The building I lived in was built in 1927. Of course, when things got bad, people like my family lost…you sold your house and ran…. We tried. Well, we stuck it out longer than anybody. We were the last white people on our block. Not being able to buy kosher meat is one thing, but being chased by urchins and your purse taken away…you finally had to go. The house we had built for $32,000 we sold for $8,000 and ran.

NK Do you remember what year that was?

AB Sure, 1955. Oh, yeah, we were the last…See, I was teaching in a school down the street, Penn.

NK How did you feel about teaching?

AB Oh, I liked it. It wasn’t the only thing in the world….I taught for twenty-seven years at Penn. It’s the only school I taught in…. I was so busy by this time dancing…

NK You were dancing? Tell me about your dancing history.

AB Well, I started in Des Moines and studied in Chicago with Adolph Bolm, who was head of the opera.

NK Does that mean you showed talent very early?

AB Sure, but there was no money.

NK Do you remember what year that was?

AB …Then I started writing [on dance] for a newspaper. I wrote for twenty-seven years in the Chicago American—every Sunday and all the reviewing. Then, when our nightclub reviewer retired, everybody on the paper wanted that job. But [the editor] called me, and I got that one. Oh, I’d go to the Chez Paree, or Mr. Kelly’s, or the London House, and on Saturdays I’d have a column.…

You haven’t been in Chicago long, have you?

NK No.

AB Oh, you don’t know.

NK But even if I had, we’ve got to put this on tape so that people who don’t know anything about this twenty years from now will know.

AB And people don’t know what was even yesterday.

NK That’s why we need you. ☀

The program handout for “A Tribute to Ann Barzel in Celebration of Her Life” is posted on our website. In it you will find a chronology of Barzel’s life, achievements, and honors; and you can read about the Midwest Dance Collection at the Newberry Library. The collection is anchored by the personal papers and collections of Ann Barzel.
The Names on the Albany Park Tablecloth

By Joy Kingsolver

In the Winter 2007 issue of Chicago Jewish History, we invited readers to help us track down the stories of fifty-four Jewish servicemen whose names were embroidered on a tablecloth in the collections of the Chicago Jewish Archives. This tablecloth had been created in 1943 by the Albany Park Auxiliary of the Hebrew Theological College (HTC). The tablecloth was donated to the Archives by the family of Dora Chazen, president of the auxiliary from about 1939 to 1948.

Once again our readers came to our rescue; the Archives received several calls and letters with information about the names on the tablecloth. We spoke with Dr. Melvin Nudelman, who was an army private in 1943. His family lived on North Monticello, and his mother Lillian was a member of the auxiliary. She embroidered the names of Melvin and his brother Bernard on the commemorative tablecloth. A medical student, Melvin was drafted into the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP); he continued his studies at the University of Illinois Medical School, but reported for roll call and drills. After graduation, he was on active duty as a First Lieutenant and served in Japan, 1946-47. In later years he was in private practice in West Rogers Park, but decided to change direction to concentrate on psychiatric work. He practiced as a psychiatrist until his retirement in 1993. Melvin’s brother Bernard Nudelman was also a student at Illinois when he was drafted. He served in the infantry, and was in the Battle of the Bulge.

The Nudelmans had strong connections to the Jewish community in Albany Park. They were members of Albany Park Hebrew Congregation, and attended Hebrew High School for religious education. Melvin remembers Albany Park as a diverse neighborhood, with a wonderful blend of Jewish and non-Jewish families. Some members of the family were also very active in Congregation Anshe Emet.

Of the three Rosenbergs embroidered on the cloth, two, Abe and Harry, were brothers. Harry’s wife Sadie recalls that he was drafted after they were married and had a baby. Since he had four brothers in the service, he was not required to go overseas. He was stationed near Chicago, where he worked as a cook. After his military service, he worked in construction, and helped to build a synagogue for Congregation Ezras Israel.

Several names were recognized by Fagel Unterman, who wrote to identify Herman W. Lewis, Paul Zhitnik, and Shepherd R. Schimel. Lewis received his Ph.D. in entomology. He was a respected administrator at the National Science Foundation (NSF) from 1962 to 1986. Zhitnik was the son of the principal and Hebrew teacher at Hebrew High School, Albany Park Hebrew Congregation. He lived in Chicago after the war, but we were unable to find out more about his wartime service. Schimel was probably the son of the editor of the Lawndale News, but we have not been able to discover more details.

After sixty years, many of those whose names were sewn with such loving care are no longer living, and it is difficult to track down people who may be able to recall their stories. We’re still gathering information, and would like to hear from anyone who can add to our knowledge. Soon the Archives, along with the rest of Spertus Institute, will be moving into our new building next door. Although our street address will change as of October 1, our phone and email address will remain the same. Give us a call if you can help!

The Chicago Jewish Archives is a component of the Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago IL 60605. After October 1, our address will be 610 South Michigan Avenue. Phone the Archives at 312-322-1741 or email archives@spertus.edu

JOY KINGSOLVER is Director, Chicago Jewish Archives.
The Albany Park Auxiliary of Hebrew Theological College


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

“North and Northwest Side
Chicago Jewish Roots”

Report on Our July 29 Bus Tour

The tour bus left promptly at noon from the Bernard Horwich JCC, 3003 West Touhy Avenue, as soon as guide Irv Cutler and tour committee chair Leah Axelrod confirmed that all the participants were aboard.

Our first stop was just down the street at the Touhy Avenue Mikva. Our guide, a slender young mother of five (and expecting her sixth), showed us the pool and dressing rooms. She described the system that brings rainwater from the roof through clay pipes into the facility. The explanation of how this and other water is piped to the pool for the ritual bathers was more complicated than this writer could retain.

The mikva is a sparkling clean and modestly appointed place used by thousands of women, by appointment. Men may also use it at other specified times. The facility was built in the 1970s at a cost of $450,000, mostly contributed by the Orthodox community, and also by the Jewish Federation. Since then some Orthodox Jews who objected to its use for “easy conversions” have built their own mikvas. Our guide expressed her hope that funds could be raised for enlargement and updating of the Touhy Avenue Mikva.

We circled the campus of the Hebrew Theological College (HTC) at 7135 North Carpenter in Skokie. Just before getting on the Expressway, we passed Congregation Kol Emeth, 5130 West Touhy, the pulpit of Rabbi Barry Schechter, the popular humorist and raconteur.

For the rest of the afternoon we rode through West Town, Bucktown, Wicker Park, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Albany Park, North Park, Budlong Woods, West Ridge, and Rogers Park—stopping to look at especially interesting historical places, all the while marvelling at Dr. Cutler’s assured narrative (spoken without notes!) and our veteran bus driver’s expert maneuvers through the crowded and often narrow city streets.

On the Northwest Side, Jews lived among Poles and Ukrainians. Dr. Cutler pointed out the continued on page 15
PAGES FROM THE PAST

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

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

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

“A GIFT FOR THE AGED AND INFIRM ISRAELITES. A gift of $50,000 was donated to this city for the erection of a home for the Aged and Infirm Israelites. The openhearted donor is Mr. Abraham Slimmer of Waverly, Iowa. The check was placed in the hands of Messrs. Rosenbaum Brothers with the condition that an equal amount be raised in Chicago. A number of our leading citizens immediately interested themselves in the matter, and in a short time $30,000 was raised. It is expected that the balance of the sum will be raised within the next two weeks.” —The Reform Advocate, week of February 20, 1891.

“DEDICATE HOME FOR AGED JEWS. Last Sunday afternoon, the Home for Aged Jews on Drexel Avenue and 62nd Street, was publicly dedicated. The grounds upon which the Home stands cost $35,000, the cost of the main building and the annex is $70,000. It contains 45 rooms with the larger ones arranged for two inmates.

“Mr. Morris, the president, read an address in which he gave the history of the Home. Dr. A.J. Messing spoke of the origin of the movement to establish a Home for Aged Jews in Chicago. The speaker stated that the first steps were taken by ten Jewish ladies, the remaining members of the Ladies Social Society which he had organized about 15 years ago.

“These ten ladies met one day at the house of Mrs. A. Perlinsky with the intention of disbanding the Society. When the question was raised as to what should be done with the few hundred dollars in their treasury, one lady moved that this money should be devoted to the establishment of a Home for Aged Jews. The motion was carried and ‘The Altenheim Society’ was established. The Society increased in membership and funds, and these ladies gave material aid to the new institution dedicated Sunday.

“Other addresses were delivered by Dr. Moses, Dr. Stolz, Rev. A Nordan, and Dr. Hirsch. The officers are Morris Rosenbaum, president, E. Frankenthal, vice-president, B. Lowenthal, treasurer, H.E. Greenebaum, secretary, Mrs. I.L. Bernheimer, financial secretary and Mrs. B.L. David, superintendent.” —The Reform Advocate, week of May 6, 1893.

“The JEWISH HOME FOR THE AGED. The laying of the foundation stone for the Jewish Home for the Aged at the corner of Albany and Ogden Avenues, took place yesterday before a large audience. About 10,000 persons had to be contented with standing room only, for every seat in the large tent, put up for this occasion, was occupied long before the scheduled ceremonies had begun. A parade of more than 200 carriages, five tally-hos, four omnibuses and many automobiles participated.

“Rabbi A.S. Braude delivered a prayer of his own composition. Mr. D. Shapiro, master of ceremonies, gave a short address of welcome. Mr. Israel Cowen represented Mayor Harrison. He said: ‘To see this large gathering is a pleasant surprise to me. It is a proof that the Jewish population of Chicago has become aware of the necessity of a home for the elderly and ailing Jews. But the work has only begun, the problems which you face are many. Nevertheless, judging by the inspiration of this great audience, the realization of your ambition is assured already.’ A mass choir of about 500 children participated in the musical program. Before the conclusion of the ceremonies, $820 was raised toward construction of the home.” —Illinois Staats-Zeitung, October 1, 1900.

DR. EDWARD H. MAZUR, treasurer of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and member of the Board of Directors, is an urban historian, professor emeritus at City Colleges of Chicago, and consultant to the International Visitors Center of Chicago.
July 29 Bus Tour continued from page 13

“Mother Church of the Poles,” St. Stanislaus Kostka (also known as “Big Stan”), so important that the Kennedy Expressway was made to jog around it. We rode past the “Polish Broadway”—Division, Milwaukee and Ashland. Many Jews, mainly Orthodox, but also Reform, Conservative, and secular lived in the area.

The Russian and Turkish Baths on Division Street near Damen are still in use, but the shvitz on North Avenue has been turned into residential condominiums; a fine restaurant, Spring, is on the ground floor. The former Tipheret Zion Synagogue has been converted into condos, but its original cornerstone stones are handsomely positioned in the building’s facade. Tuley High is now an elementary school. Condominiums! Boutiques! Generation X-ers enjoying leisurely Sunday meals at stylish restaurants and cafes! Once the neighborhood of the immigrant Pritzkers, Crowns, and Goldblatts, it is now a part of Chicago where trendy new residents rub shoulders—sometimes uneasily—with the older inhabitants.

We took a break in spacious Humboldt Park, and then proceeded to the North Side, passing former synagogues, but also active ones. We passed Roosevelt, Von Steuben, and Senn High Schools. Traveling west on Devon Avenue into West Ridge we found an active Orthodox community. Going east, we visited Agudas Achim North Shore Congregation at 5029 North Kenmore and heard strong words from Rabbi Philip Lefkowitz. It was a very full half-day! —Bev Chubat

Welcome, New Members of the Society
Steven Andes
Senator Arthur L. Berman
Frank S. Joseph
Red Lachman
Arthur J. Levin
Sidney H. Stein

Nominees for Three-Year Term,
Chicago Jewish Historical Society
Board of Directors

Our public program on Sunday, October 28, will be preceded by a brief meeting of the Society. The year’s activities will be reviewed, and an election of Board members will be held. The nominees for a term from 2007 to 2010 are:

Carolyn Eastwood, Herbert Eiseman,
Clare Greenberg, Edward Mazur, Burt Robin

Calling All CJHS Authors, Artists, and Performers!

November is Jewish Book Month. Every year, the fall issue of CJH features a list of the Society’s publications as well as other published works by CJHS members. And the list grow longer every year!

If you have published a book or a music or spoken word recording, we want to publicize it. If you were listed in the Fall 2006 issue, you will be included this year.

But if there has been any change in price, format, or ordering information, please indicate it on this form.

MAIL TO: Bev Chubat, Editor
Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605-1901
Information must be received by October 1, 2007.
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.

About the Society

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
Member 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.

Tribute Cards for Celebrations or Memorials
The card design features the Society’s logo, our mission statement, and space for a personal message. A pack of eight cards and envelopes is $10.00. Individual cards can be mailed for you from our office at $5.00 per card, postage included. Order cards from the Society office (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.

Browse Our Website
for information about our upcoming programs. Read past issues of Chicago Jewish History. Discover links to other Jewish sites. Use the printable membership application. We welcome your inquiries and comments. E-mail: info@chicagojewishhistory.org

www.chicagojewishhistory.org