



chicago jewish history

Isaac Reingold, “The Greatest Yiddish Poet of the West”

BY BEV CHUBAT

Back in the 1950s, my college friend, Joy Reingold, told me that her grandfather was a Yiddish poet. As I was impressed with Joy’s own talent as a writer of poetry and her wide knowledge of that field of literature, this fact about her heritage did not surprise me.

But I was somewhat surprised that I had never heard his name—Isaac Reingold—neither at the Yiddish folk schools I had attended as a child, nor at home, where there were many slim volumes of Yiddish poetry on our bookshelves.

After college, some years passed before Joy Reingold and I met again—almost twenty years. She was now a painter as well as a writer, and we found that our cultural affinities were stronger than ever.

Joy (who had by then changed her name to Paula), presented me with a Yiddish-English book of Isaac’s works that had been compiled by her father, Alfred T. Reingold, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of his father’s death.

GEKLIBENE LIEDER: ISAAC REINGOLD / SELECTED SONGS AND POEMS BY ISAAC REINGOLD. Edited with a Preface and Introduction by Alfred T. Reingold. And a Critical and



Isaac Reingold (1873-1903)

Biographical Essay by A. Margolin. L.M. Stein Publisher, Chicago. 1952. Hardcover, 125 pp.

Alfred dedicated the book to his sister Bess and brother Phil and to the memory of their parents, Anna and Isaac. Copies were given to Jewish libraries and collections. I received my gift book in 1980.

When I was named editor-designer of *Chicago Jewish History* in 1999, one of the perquisites of the job was receiving my own copy of *History of the Jews of Chicago*, the monumental volume edited by H.L. Meites in 1924. Paging through the *Arts* section, under *Letters*, I found:

“Yiddish writers, whose efforts may be characterized as literary as well as journalistic, include Louis [*sic*] Reingold (deceased), who wrote labor poems and songs which became very popular in shop and factory...”

Yes, even the best editor or fact-checker can get a name half-wrong.

Chana Mlotek to the rescue! This fine musicologist wrote an article in the Yiddish *Forverts* dated December 5, 2003, “*Yitzhak Reingold—der grester dikhter fun der vest (tsu zayn 100stn yortsayt)*.” “Isaac Reingold—The Greatest Poet of the West (on the Hundred-Year Anniversary of His Death).”

Chana dedicated the article to the memory of her husband, Joseph Mlotek, a renowned Yiddish educator, folklorist, and writer, who died on July 2, 2000, at the age of 81. He published several collections of Yiddish songs with his wife.

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Our Authors

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President's Column



Walter Roth

DR. IRWIN J. SULOWAY was the man who convinced me to become a writer for the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. He was one of the Society's early members.

The Society itself was formed in 1977 after the close of the exhibit, "My Brother's Keeper," at the Museum of Science and Industry. The exhibit, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the American Jewish

Congress, celebrated the American Bicentennial.

Dr. Suloway was a native Chicagoan who grew up on the South Side, raised his family in Oak Park, and later moved to North Lake Shore Drive. After receiving his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1951, and for more than thirty years, he was a professor of literature and an administrator at Chicago State University.

Dr. Suloway was mainly a teacher of non-fiction writing, though he himself chiefly wrote fiction, as well as factual articles.

He wrote the essay, "People of the Book—the Contributions of Chicago Jewish Authors" for the *Sentinel's* seventy-fifth anniversary book, *History of Chicago Jewry 1911-1986*. Dr. Suloway covered Chicago's Jewish fiction writers of those years, from Ben Hecht and Edna Ferber to Meyer Levin, Robert Halper, Louis Zara, Nelson Algren (one of his parents was Jewish), Saul Bellow, David Mamet, and Studs Terkel.

He edited scholarly journals, authored several books, and taught at Jewish schools. He also served with great distinction as the editor of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society's quarterly publication, always ably assisted by his wife Elaine. Dr. Suloway also edited *The Chicago Jewish Historical Society: A Ten Year History* in 1988.

WHEN I JOINED THE SOCIETY and told Dr. Suloway that though I was a practicing attorney, I was also interested in writing about Chicago Jewish history, he urged me to write articles for the Society's publication—which I did, and have continued to do ever since, with great pleasure. I can thank Irwin's encouragement for the eventual existence of enough of my writings in *Chicago Jewish History* to constitute two collections, both published by Academy Chicago Publishers, with the books' proceeds going to the Society.

Dr. Irwin J. Suloway died on June 2, 2005. His wife Elaine had predeceased him. They were two gracious people, and their work for the Society will always be remembered.

The current editor of our quarterly, Beverly Chubat, has carried on in accordance with the high standards set by Dr. Suloway, for which I am deeply grateful. ❖



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Next CJHS Open Meeting Sunday, January 10: “A Visit to Camp Chi—Both Old and New”

“A Visit to Camp Chi—Both Old and New” will be the subject of the next open meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, on Sunday, January 10, 2010. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m., after a social hour with kosher refreshments at 1:00 p.m., at Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive. Admission is free and open to the public. The Temple parking lot is located directly south of the building and across the street (Stratford Place).

Jerry Tatar, a Northfield attorney, who worked at the present Camp Chi in Lake Delton, Wisconsin, for thirteen years, will be our guest speaker. His mother, Shirley Clubman Tatar, was a camper at the old Camp Chi on Loon Lake in Antioch, Illinois, in the 1920s and 1930s. His presentation will include a video recording he made with his mother in 2003, when they both visited the old Camp Chi site in Antioch.

On the video, Shirley Tatar reminisces about her days as a camper while the camera pans views of various parts of the camp. The grounds had remained in almost the same condition as when Camp Chi sold the facility to the Moody Bible Church in 1952. The video is interspersed with pictures of camp people from the 1920s, '30s and '40s at Camp Chi.

Shirley Tatar was on the camp staff for many years and was an assistant director in 1942. She was director

of Perlstein Park Senior Adult Camp at Camp Delton, Wisconsin, beginning in 1962.

Jerry Tatar is a Chicagoan who has “covered all the bases.” Born in 1949, he lived in Albany Park until age seven, when the family moved to South Shore. In 1963, the family moved again—this time to Skokie, where Jerry graduated from Niles North High School. He received a BA from Knox College and an MA from the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration. He received his JD from Loyola University Chicago.

Jerry worked for the Jewish Community Centers of Chicago at Camp Chi for ten summers, and then full time for three years as Assistant Director. He left Camp Chi in 1978 to finish law school and take up the practice of law. His practice areas are corporation and business law and litigation.—*Charles B. Bernstein*

The Society mourns our longtime treasurer, Herman J. Draznin, 85, who died on September 21, 2009.

Herman was a mainstay of the Society from its earliest days. He volunteered his professional accounting services for many years and brought his ebullient presence to board meetings and public programs. In Fall 2000, he was a proud participant in the Society's commemoration of Jewish Day at The Century of Progress, the 1934 Chicago World's Fair. Young Herman had taken part in that awesome event at Soldier Field as a member of the Deborah Boys Club.

He served as comptroller of the Associated Talmud Torahs in addition to his commercial accounting work. At Herman's memorial service, Rabbi Leonard Matankey told of the respect shown him by colleagues as well as students

Remembering Our Colleague and Friend Herman Draznin, The Ultimate Extrovert

of all ages at the Ida Crown Jewish Academy, and how much everyone there enjoyed his sense of humor.

Herman Draznin is survived by Florence (nee Patt), his devoted wife of sixty-two years, who was his Roosevelt High School sweetheart; daughter Dale Draznin (Jeff Bruner); son Neal Draznin (Jane Emerson); and grandchildren Katie and Brian Draznin. Son Wayne Draznin predeceased his father. Herman is also survived by brother Donald (Sharon) Draznin.

The CJHS Board of Directors has voted to give Herman's name to the Society's 2010 Research Award, to be given for an outstanding research paper on Chicago Jewish history done by an undergraduate or graduate student (see page 19).



Florence and Herman Draznin at the Chicago Jewish Historical Society's Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Exhibit.

November 24, 2002. Bederman Hall, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Photograph by David Rigg.

Isaac Reingold

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Following are excerpts of a translation of Chana's Mlotek's article done for CJH by Rivka Schiller, a Chicagoan who works as an archivist and translator in New York City. As editor, I could not resist making some tweaks.

When Isaac Reingold died one hundred years ago in Chicago, he was mourned as “the greatest Yiddish poet in the west.” As a pioneer folk poet and lyricist for the theater, Reingold wrote during the same era as the proletarian poets David Edelstadt, Morris Winchevsky, Joseph Bovshover, and Morris Rosenfeld. Although Reingold's name is almost completely forgotten today, his songs were among the most popular of his time.

Reingold was born near Luck [known as “Lutsk” in Yiddish], Wolyn, Poland, in 1873. His real name was Toomim. In 1890 or '91, he came to America with his father and worked hard in the sweatshops of Baltimore, Milwaukee, Chicago, and New York.

In Chicago, he was known not only as a poet, but also as a singer of labor and folk songs. He would perform at gatherings and in concert halls, and the songs were heartily embraced, especially by working folk. Over time he also became well-known in the theatrical circles. He wrote an opera, “By the Rivers of Babylon,” that was successfully staged in Chicago.

At about 30 years of age, his life was cut short. He was a victim of the proletarian disease—tuberculosis.

Reingold's songs focus on social motifs. As N.B. Minkoff writes, “His songs are, for the most part, imbued with humility, melancholy, and tears. His mood is that of an

innocent, downtrodden person.

His tone is quiet and gloomy.” He called himself a “poet of tears” and wrote about the difficult and bitter condition of the worker in the sweatshop. “The worker only creates goods for others; for himself, he is left with poverty and grief...”

One of the best-known of Reingold's songs is “Two Friends,” which tells of Shmulik and Azrielik [this name later changed by singers to Gavrilik], who played together when they were growing up, “with horses, with swords, in the sand and in the dirt—Shmulik is the lasher, Azrielik, the horse.” They arrive in the Golden Land and are no longer friends. Shmulik becomes a “little boss,” a “landlord,” and Azrielik becomes his “hand” and lives in “the basement, in the gutter.” Even in Heaven, it's the same: “Shmulik is the lasher, Azrielik, the horse.”

For Reingold, the end to all the troubles will come when Jews return to the Land of Israel: “Live on, Jew. Your country, your old Palestine, the old Mother Zion, can once again blossom and become fertile, as once upon a time...”

Reingold wrote on historical motifs, among them a eulogy for the cruel, hateful Tsar Alexander III, upon whom he pours curses. He wrote on national motifs, such as the song “I Am a Jew,” concerning Jerusalem; “Judah Maccabee,” regarding Jewish holidays; and even in praise of Jewish food, as in his ode to a favorite dish, concluding, “Oy, long live the Jewish kugel!”

One of his famous songs, sung in the play, “Khokhmes Noshim” (The Wisdom of Women), is “A Year After the Wedding,” in which a wife bewails her lot; how, in the course of a year, she has become a wife and a *damale*, a servant and a *mamale*. She swears that it's better to remain a *moyd*—an old maid.

Reingold also wrote Yiddish lyrics to American popular songs of the 1890s. [Often cheated, he received little or no payment.]

His songs were unique and beloved by the public. Played on *simpatico* accordions, they matched the moods of his readers and listeners. His nationalist songs awakened a Jewish consciousness, and his rhyming couplets brought rare moments of relief and pleasure to the toiling immigrants of that era.

Isaac's widow, Anna, lived until 1950. She and their three children made their homes in the Chicago area.

Only the late Alfred, a scientist, took the name Reingold.

The late Bess Toomim Weinstein, a music lover, lived in the Ravinia area of Highland Park. Her daughter, Jean, is a professional musician now living in London, England.

The late Phillip Toomin was a LaSalle Street lawyer who resided in Glencoe. (He changed the last letter of the family name.) His son is Appellate Judge Michael P. Toomin, First District, 5th Division.

Paula Reingold McLaughlin resides in Key Largo, Florida.

Selected Songs and Poems by Isaac Reingold can be found on the website of the National Yiddish Book Center, in the Steven Spielberg Digital Yiddish Library. ❖

CJH Summer issue CORRECTIONS

- “Astronaut John Grunsfeld: Chicago Jewish Roots in Outer Space” on pages 4 and 10: Bev Chubat's byline was omitted.
- “Dan Sharon's Book Notes” on page 14: Dan should have been described as the retired, longtime, reference librarian (not research librarian) at the Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.

Report on the CJHS October 25 Open Meeting

“Interfaith Relations and the Shifting Face of Anti-Semitism in Chicago”

The Society was pleased to present guest speaker Michael C. Kotzin, Executive Vice President of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, at our open meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 25, at Temple Sholom. In discussing his topic, Dr. Kotzin drew on his personal experience of over thirty years—twenty-six of them in Chicago. Anti-Semitism in the United States, he said, had always been expressed in social and commercial bias, but rarely in religious violence, as in Europe. But now there is a religious component to anti-Semitism here.

Dr. Kotzin first reviewed the interfaith relationship in Chicago with which he is most intimately involved, between the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and the Jewish Federation. The shock of the Holocaust had led the Church to change its liturgy and teachings and to initiate a dialogue. In Chicago, the late Cardinal Joseph Bernadin greeted a meeting with Jewish leaders: “I come as your brother Joseph.”

In 1995, Cardinal Bernadin led a group of Catholics and Jews on a trip to Israel. After his death, the Annual Bernadin Lecture was established, with alternating Jewish and Catholic speakers. Cardinal Francis George has continued the interfaith priority, stating: “Anti-Semitism is a sin,” in reaction to the provocative Mel Gibson movie, *Passion of the Christ*.

Protestant anti-Semitism in the USA has always been socially driven. Job and educational opportunities for Jews were limited by stereotyping and anti-immigrant bias. Dr. Kotzin commented that Protestant-Jewish relations were at their best, if not formally, during the Civil Rights Era.

He discussed the fringe groups that have emerged. Right-wing white supremacists are promulgating a “replacement theology,” in which the new “chosen” are white Christians. Acts of violence by these groups or their individual followers have occurred locally. Another form of “replacement theology” has appeared in the black community, distorting the role of Jews in the history of slavery (i.e. Jews were not badly treated in biblical Egypt), and appropriating for blacks the “chosen-ness” of the Jews. In the 1980s and ’90s, Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, was one of the main sources of anti-Semitism in Chicago. He chose for himself the role of “messenger of the Messiah” and revived the accusation of Jewish deicide.

Dr. Kotzin concluded his talk with comments on the new anti-Semitism that has emerged on the international scene. It is aimed at the Jewish collective—the State of Israel—and by extension, the Jewish people worldwide. “Anti-Zionism is the new Anti-Semitism,” he said, enumerating the offenders, ranging from left-wing intellectuals in Europe to some Evangelical faculty members here at Wheaton College.

There are local and global Jewish organizations with agendas for an intellectual response. Locally, the Jewish Federation has many programs, through Hillel, to reach college faculties and students. ❖

Jerold Levin Elected to the Society Board of Directors

Our open meeting on October 25 began with the election of Board members to a three-year term.

A new nominee, Jerold Levin, was elected. Current Board members Charles B. Bernstein, Janet Iltis, Seymour Persky, Walter Roth, and Milton Shulman were reelected.

Jerold Levin was born in South Shore, attended Bryn Mawr Elementary School and South Shore High. He earned a BS in Construction Management with a minor in Economics from Bradley University, and joined the family business, Architectural Builders Co., upon graduation. When the business was sold, he joined the Ben A. Borenstein Co. as a VP. Now retired from full time work, he does some work part time as an Owner’s Representative and consultant for several of his long time customers, guiding their current construction needs. He serves on the consulting group updating the Building Code for the City of Chicago.

His wife Evelyn (nee Strauss) is a North Sider, a graduate of Rogers Elementary and Sullivan High Schools and Bradley University. Jerry and Evie met at Bradley.

They lived in South Shore, then in Hyde Park, and in 1974 moved their family to their current home in West Rogers Park, where they raised their two sons, Craig and David.

Jerry and Evie are Jewish community activists who have worked for, and held office in, congregations and organizations. They joined the CJHS in its first year, and have been members ever since.

Do they ever relax? Yes, with cultural events, travel, and sailing their boat at Montrose Harbor. ❖

Delayed at a Railroad Crossing? *Blame* Max Epstein. Want to Lease a Vehicle? *Thank* Max Epstein.

BY EDWARD H. MAZUR

Urban historians often state that “railroads made Chicago. But it can also be argued that Chicago made the railroads. Beginning in the 1850s, the city was home to many manufacturers of railroad equipment, track, and railcars. By the late nineteenth century, privately owned fleets of specialty cars—including sleepers, refrigerator cars, and tank cars—were important features of the nation’s rail systems. Chicago area companies were leaders in the production and operation of such cars.

In the early years of the twentieth century, the General American Tank Car Company of East Chicago, Indiana was one the leading American producers of tank cars. The company was founded in Chicago in 1898 by Max Epstein, a German Jewish immigrant who came to Chicago in 1891 at the age of sixteen and worked for a provision company established by his father in the Stockyards. Max Epstein’s career is a great “Horatio Alger” story, one example of the many contributions made by Chicago Jewry to industrial innovation.

How did Max Epstein conceive of the idea that would revolutionize the freight railroad transportation industry? That is told in the book *GATX: A History of the General American Transportation Corporation*, authored in 1948 by Max’s brother, Ralph C. Epstein, then a professor of Business and Economics at the University of Buffalo.

In 1898, the Duquesne Brewing Company of Pittsburgh sought to purchase twenty second-hand railroad refrigerator cars. Max Epstein learned of the Duquesne search from a friend. Max approached the superintendent of a refrigerator car line operated by Armour and Company which had forty-eight old cars that they wanted to sell for \$400 each, out of which a \$50 commission would be paid to the sales agent.

All at once, the twenty-three year-old Epstein became a promoter, a planner, and a business entrepreneur. He wrote to the Duquesne Brewing Company and described the cars, and they agreed to inspect them, although it would be several weeks before their representatives could come to Chicago.

Max Epstein kept the letter from Duquesne in his pocket and read it frequently. “One day I got a hunch. The letterhead was a very colorful affair, many colors crossing each other, with a big ‘D’ for the name, and I got the idea that those people were vain, and if they could see all this on a car, it would be impressive to them.” Epstein asked the packinghouse people to paint a car exactly like the letterhead.

When the brewers came to Chicago, the car had been cleaned, painted, and set aside. Epstein “took them to the Stockyards through the entrance where I knew they would see the car from a distance. We walked along, and finally one of them said to the other: ‘There is our name on a billboard.’ Of course, that was what it looked like. They liked it, and it was a very easy sale.”

The Armour-operated concern proceeded to ask Epstein if he could sell the remaining twenty-eight cars for them. He was unsuccessful in this quest, but through his efforts, he discovered other concerns who could use the cars but did not have the necessary cash to purchase them or were not big enough to operate their own fleet.

This led Epstein to the idea of renting the refrigerator cars. However, he did not have any money to buy them. So he finagled an interview with the head of the packing company’s car line and told him that he had a purchaser for the twenty-eight cars, but there was one little problem—the buyer could not pay cash. But he could make a small down payment. The head of the car line and Max engaged in the following negotiation:

“I don’t know. Is he good?” “Very good.” “How much will he pay down?” “Just a nominal amount—about \$1,000. He will give a mortgage for the rest.”

Epstein was pressed to reveal the name of the buyer. Eventually he was forced to admit that it was himself. The deal was consummated. But when asked about the \$1,000 cash payment, Epstein replied, “You have it already in the commission on the other twenty cars.”

Young Max had arranged to sell twenty cars to the brewery for \$400 each, and then bought them from Armour & Company for \$350 each, giving himself a profit of \$1,000 that he used as a down payment to buy



GATX 53760 tank car.

*Photographed on December 5, 1998
at the Elk Grove Village yard.*

the other twenty-eight cars. With these cars, and five tank cars acquired elsewhere, the Atlantic Seaboard Despatch Company was established in 1898.

The company's first shop was located at Racine Avenue (then called Center Avenue) and West 45th Street. Their small piece of railroad trackage accommodated four cars at a time. Here, five men made repairs on the original fleet. Employees received twenty-seven and a half cents per hour. Max Epstein visited the shop every morning between seven and eight o'clock to inspect and observe the progress of the work.

In 1901, Chicago offices were established in our city's first skyscraper, the Home Insurance Building, located at Adams and LaSalle Streets. In 1902, the ASDC was incorporated as the German-American Car Company in West Virginia. ASDC specialized in leasing, but soon began to manufacture its own cars at its large shops in East Chicago, Indiana. Included were innovative specialty cars such as glass-lined milk tank cars and nickel-lined compartments for holding acids.

In 1907, the repair and maintenance activities were moved to East Chicago, Indiana. At this time, the company had about four hundred cars in its fleet and needed larger maintenance facilities. Epstein also wanted to assemble new cars both for the company's own use and for sale to others. Shortly thereafter, it began to manufacture new steel tank cars in addition to leasing used ones.

By 1910, Max Epstein's privately owned General American Car Company had about fifty employees who repaired twelve hundred cars and built fifty-nine new ones. The growing business purchased five acres of land on Euclid Avenue in the Calumet section of East Chicago.

After hostilities broke out in Europe in August 1914, the company's and Epstein's own fortunes benefited from the demand for railroad equipment. The company began to sell stock to the public in 1916, but because of the war, Epstein and the board of directors recognized that "German" should be removed from the name and changed it to the General American Tank Corporation. Gross volume increased from six million dollars in 1916 to almost twenty million in 1918.

By the early 1920s, the company had bustling plants at East Chicago, Indiana and Warren and Sharon, Ohio that turned out ten thousand new cars a year.

The Home Insurance Building was demolished in 1931 to make way for the Field Building, 135 South LaSalle Street, and the company moved its Chicago offices to the new building. General American's eastern office was located at 10 East 49th Street in New York

City. In 1933, with a fleet of nearly fifty-thousand cars, the company changed its name again, to the General American Transportation Corporation. By the 1940s, GATC was the leading lessor of railcars in the USA.

During World War II, tank car repairs and manufacturing were a 24/7 operation. GATC contributed mightily to the Allied war effort by armor-plating and fabricating weaponry and metal structures.

In 1975, the company changed its name to GATX. The final initial "X" on a freight car's reporting marks indicates that the car is owned by an entity other than a railroad. Thus, much of GATC's fleet was lettered with the initials GATX. By 2000, GATX, headquartered in Chicago and later in Terre Haute, Indiana, owned a fleet of nearly ninety thousand railcars, employed about six thousand people nationwide, and had annual revenues of almost \$1.7 billion.

Max Epstein served as the corporation's chief executive from 1898 to 1929 and as chairman of the board for the rest of his life. Attorney Elias Mayer, who had been secretary of the corporation, was president for two years. Mayer was succeeded by Max's brother, Hugo, who served from 1932 to 1938. Another brother, Bennett, was in charge of the New York office beginning in 1915 and was elected vice-president in 1928. Brother Ralph Epstein, the company historian, joined the faculty of the University of Buffalo in 1926 as a professor in the Economics department. He was dean of the School of Business Administration from 1935 to 1947, and chairman of the Economics department for over twenty-five years, until the time of his death in 1959.

Max Epstein was a philanthropist and patron of the arts as well as an industrialist. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago from 1930 to 1953. He and his wife collected Old Masters art. They bequeathed twenty-five early European paintings to the museum for the public to enjoy.

His connections to the University of Chicago began in 1917, when he gave the first of a series of gifts to the hospitals. The Max Epstein Clinic at 59th Street and Maryland Avenue was incorporated as a wing of the Chicago Lying-In Hospital. Among his planned benefactions was the gift of one million dollars to the University for a fine arts center. Unfortunately, he made his pledge on August 30, 1929, only a few weeks before the Great Crash. Epstein's initial gift of \$15,000 for the art building was shifted, with his consent, to the hospitals, and the University decided not to pursue the construction of the Institute of Fine Arts.

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DEWITT CLINTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL , 6110 NORTH FAIRFIELD AVENUE
STEPHEN T. MATHER HIGH SCHOOL, 5835 NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE

From Rehovot to West Rogers Park: A Chicago Native Returns to Attend School Reunions

BY SANDRA SCHNEIDER

I wasn't planning to go to the Mather reunion. I thought it would be too much trouble to travel all the way from Israel. I would come back tired and have to go straight to work. But I heard this annoying little inner voice saying: "Go on, what the heck. When are you going to have another chance? And last—but certainly not least—"You look thin!"

I made the arrangements online, the first time ever. I found the flights, clicked whatever was necessary, gave my credit card info, and then my finger lingered over the "book" icon. I looked to my husband for support. "Do it," he urged, "Go for it!" I booked, and was on a natural high for the next two days. It wasn't until the long and exhausting flight, lugging suitcases, going through customs and security, that my euphoria ended.

But it was a good decision. I had a wonderful time. I got to see all my cousins on both sides of the family and reminisce with them during my visit.

The most exhilarating time came on Friday—the Clinton Class of 1959 get-together. DeWitt Clinton Elementary School in my day was probably ninety-seven percent Jewish, as was Mather High.

The party was planned as a private, by-invitation, Clinton party, then was changed to an all-Mather-district party, but in the end was attended only by Clinton people, with maybe one exception.

All the Clintonites at the party were Jewish. Nobody knew what had happened to our non-Jewish classmates after graduation. I never really thought about what going to Clinton or Mather was like for those kids. I do remember feeling sorry for them, that they weren't Jewish, because in my home, my mother used to talk about the wisdom and humanity in the teachings of Judaism. I thought that all Jewish people were upright and honest, educated or valuing education. How naive.

I was surprised to learn when I was in college (!) that there was such a thing as a Jewish gangster. I was taking a literature course on the short story and Isaac Babel's stories of Odessa were assigned. I was so amused by his colorful characters, that I read the stories aloud to my mother, commenting, "Heh-heh, Jewish gangsters." Mother said, "Sandra, there *are* Jewish gangsters!"

Clinton and Mather were ninety-seven percent Jewish. When I went downstate to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the percentage was reversed, and I began to understand what it was like to be one of the three percent in a class. Maybe that is part of what drew me to live in Israel.

Back to the Clinton party. Because I have lived far away for thirty-nine years, I have had next to no opportunity to reminisce about my classmates. I never heard news of them, nor did I run into them at the supermarket. The whole process of recognition and remembering at the reunion was very interesting. Everybody was wearing name tags with maiden and married names, and we all looked at each other's tags. I could see these people in my mind in the class pictures. I didn't always remember what relationship I had with these people, but it was thrilling to see them.

Most of the conversations were reminiscences. We did ask each other if we had kids and grandkids, but didn't get into "what do you do for a living" questions. Most of the people have remained in the area, in the suburbs. I was the one who had come the farthest for the reunion. After me came Florida and California. Most of the people I talked to had an interest in Israel, and one mentioned being active in an organization called the FIDF (Friends of the Israel Defense Forces).

The Clinton party was held at Max & Benny's Restaurant in Northbrook, in a separate room in the back which was decorated with posters and pictures of old Chicago, such as Marshall High School, where my parents and other people of their generation went to school. There was also an enlargement of an advertisement which appeared in the newspapers just after World War II. This advertisement listed the resorts and hotels in South Haven, Michigan.

The ad was of particular interest to me as my grandfather had a resort in South Haven, and my whole family spent our summers there until I was about 12 years old. My father had even lived on the resort all-year-round, attending South Haven High School until he was around 15. I went up to this poster and found my maiden name, "Lazarovitz," on the list and was very

excited. I pointed this out to my good friends and to anyone sitting nearby. They all commented that they too had vacationed in the area, at Michiana Shores, Fidelman's, Sleepy Hollow, etc.

I felt important—a real part of the history of Chicago Jewry, the parallel of which I do not feel in Israel. Here, I am still considered by many to be a new immigrant, after thirty-nine years, and having conquered the language!

Here, the historical families, the *vatikim*, were those in the first

waves of Jewish immigration, much like the Sephardim in America.

Unfortunately, no one at Max & Benny's was particularly impressed with my heritage, so I had to wait until I came home to boast to my children, who, alas, were not particularly moved either.


The next night was the Mather party, which was held at the school. We waited outside in a long line for about an hour in extremely cold (to me) weather. Once inside, each decade was allotted a different room. In each room there was a band playing music of that decade. I was in the 60s room, the cafeteria, having graduated in 1963, the first class to have attended Mather for the full four years. When Mather opened, students were transferred from Senn, Sullivan and Amundsen, but my class started as freshmen.

The cafeteria was full of people and the music was loud, making conversations difficult, but I did find out from two other people that what I remembered was correct: Hebrew had indeed been offered as a

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WRITE FOR ATTRACTIVE NEW PREVIEW FOLDER Q—
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN

Post-WWII ad reprinted in Irving Cutler's *The Jews of Chicago: From Shtetl to Suburb*, and again in his new book, *Chicago's Jewish West Side*.

foreign language at Mather.

The people I gravitated to were Clinton people, the same ones I had seen the previous night, and others who had not been there. We tried to discuss Israel and current US foreign policy but the loud bands pretty much drowned out our words.

As I had to get up at 5 a.m. the next morning for my return trip to Israel, I did not go to the Clinton afterparty. I did have a wonderful, even exhilarating, time. In the end, however, it was good to go home.

THE LAZAROVITZ RESORT

My father's family came to Chicago through Canada. I don't have much information, but from what I have heard over the years, when my father was around 2 years old, his family left Tuczyn, Poland and came to Canada. They lived there for around five years, during which time my grandmother died.

One cousin thinks that our grandfather came from a family of bakers, that he worked as a baker in Montreal, and had a bakery in Chicago before he established the

resort in South Haven. My cousin thinks it was probably with the help of a mortgage from the Jewish Agriculture Society that he was able to purchase the resort. Another cousin thinks it was bought and paid for up front. This is all conjecture. My grandfather lived on the resort year-round, and so did some of his children.

The resort was located on the south shore of South Haven, across a street which looked onto Lake Michigan. It consisted of five structures. One was a long, one-story

building which served as the dining room. The guests were summoned to meals by a hand bell. All the grandchildren fought over who would get to ring that bell. There were two two-story buildings and an additional two cottages.

The resort was strictly kosher and catered to the Orthodox from the Midwest, rabbis included. There was a little *shul* in one of the buildings, which served the small number of Jews who lived in that area. I am told by my cousin that when my grandfather started the resort, the neighbors were not delighted, and there were some anti-Semitic responses.

For entertainment, there was bingo in the dining room and croquet on the lawn. I remember as a child that there were times when the dining room was full, and that the resort prospered, but in later years it did not.

My father's older sisters worked at the resort until they and their families moved to California in the early 1950s.

continued on page 19

Dan Sharon's Book Notes

AND THE WINDS BLEW COLD: Stalinist Russia as Experienced by an American Emigrant.

By Eva Stolar Meltz and Rae Gunter Osgood.
McDonald and Woodward Publishing Co. 2000.

Eva Meltz is the central figure of this book. Her co-author is her friend since childhood, Rae Osgood.

The book begins with a charming reminiscence of growing up in the Humboldt Park neighborhood (at 2509 West Division Street) from about the age of nine, in 1919. Rae describes meeting Eva Stolar and her family. The mother speaks Yiddish, and has trouble with English. The children are fluent in both languages.

Eva's parents are vegetarians and Communists. They send Eva to a Russian language class to prepare her for an eventual move to the Soviet Union. Eva and Rae join the Young Pioneers, the Communist scouting movement. Going home on streetcars, the girls sing the radical anthem, "The Internationale."

Eva attends Tuley High School and Crane Junior College. She joins the Young Communist League. When she gets older, Eva goes down to a coal mining area in southern Illinois where she works as a union organizer and is arrested.

In 1931, at the age of twenty-one, Eva moves to the USSR, along with her parents and brother.

At first, Eva is overjoyed to be in Russia. Then, gradually, doubts arise. She encounters anti-Semitism and crime. Then come the purges. The NKVD arrests people in the middle of the night—a terrifying experience. Her father is arrested and sent to a labor camp. Both he and Eva's husband die in the camps. She herself spends five years in a labor camp.

The book includes a powerful depiction of the German invasion of Russia in 1941.

After World War II, a second wave of terror ensues, accompanied by an ugly lashing out at Jews. Eva is arrested again and spent six and a half months in the Lubyanka prison. After all her tragic experiences, Eva totally loses her youthful faith in Communism. She describes, quite skillfully, the paranoid atmosphere that Stalin introduced. With his death in 1953, conditions gradually ease.

Finally, in May, 1973, Eva is able to leave Russia and move to Israel. She has a tearful reunion with Rae.

And the Winds Blew Cold makes one appreciate the civil liberties we take for granted in this country.

UNREPENTANT RADICAL: An American Activist's Account of Five Turbulent Decades.

By Sidney Lens. *Beacon Press, 2000.*

Sidney Lens (1912-1986) was a radical and a labor organizer. He grew up in New York City, on the Lower East Side. His father died at age 28, and Lens was raised by his mother, an impoverished East European Jewish immigrant. He had a harsh Orthodox education at the Rabbi Jacob Joseph School, where corporal punishment was common.

He was a rebel from an early age. While still young, he began immersing himself in Marxist literature. He became a Trotskyite. Lens worked in a lamp factory and a garment factory, and also as a waiter. He got into trouble with his bosses for his union-organizing efforts, but managed to survive the rigors of the Depression.

Lens came to Chicago in 1936 in order to establish a local headquarters for the Revolutionary Workers' League. He became involved in the labor wars—street battles with the police. He tried to organize auto workers. He met Saul Alinsky. He got a job at Hillman's, one of the first independent supermarkets, specifically to organize the workers there.

During the 1954-55 period, Lens tried to unionize the nonprofessional workers at Michael Reese Hospital. The Michael Reese management and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago (which funded the hospital) refused to bargain. In response, Lens printed 100,000 leaflets urging Chicago Jewry not to make donations to the Federation until it recognized the union. When these leaflets were passed out in Jewish neighborhoods, a Federation leader denounced Lens as an anti-Semite.

Sidney Lens drifted away from Trotskyism and assumed the lonely role of an independent radical. He felt that the Soviet revolution had been corrupted, but he wasn't happy with the capitalist West either. He strongly opposed the Vietnam War and the nuclear arms race. He supported Fidel Castro, which I don't understand. How could Lens battle for the rights of American workers and then support a Communist dictator who trampled on the human rights of Cubans?

I disagree with Sidney Lens's political views. However, I do admire his tenacity in sticking to his unpopular beliefs, decade after decade. All in all, an absorbing memoir.

ED MAZUR'S PAGES FROM THE PAST

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

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

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

MACCABEE CLUB ROOMS OPEN

The Maccabee Club of Chicago, located at 2735 West Division Street, celebrated the opening of their quarters with great enthusiasm and with the same spirit as the other Zionist organizations. The crowd reached the century mark, both male and female....

The secretary-treasurer of the Jewish Junior Soccer League, Mr. Jack Rose, was the toastmaster of the evening, and very delightfully expressed his opinion of the newly formed association. Mr. Rose emphasized the ideas, ideals, and program to be followed by the Maccabee:

"Over in Europe, we were unable to practice sports, always [poring] over the *siddur* and no body development, but today there is no one stopping us. Play in the open air, develop your muscles, and obtain a sound body and sound mind. This is the object of the Maccabee."

Mr. A. Millman, vice-president, made it known that Chicago is in need of an exclusive Jewish organized club in order to compete in international sports...

The Jewish element in the city will learn, within the next few years, how necessary it was to have such a group.

Pennies, nickels, and dimes have been collected by members to support the Maccabee.

After the speeches were over, and the *Hatikvah* was played, refreshments were served. After these were all disposed of, the floor was cleared, and the crowd danced to their hearts' content. This is the beginning of a new era for the Maccabee of Chicago.

Daily Jewish Courier
August 13, 1927

BARNEY ROSS BEATS CANZONERI

[Lightweight and junior welterweight boxing] champion Barney Ross beat former champion Tony Canzoneri at New York City's Polo Grounds in front of 35,000 spectators. Ross, who took Canzoneri's belt last June, was clearly the winner of this fight, even in the eyes of Canzoneri's fans. The vast majority of spectators were Italians and Jews, and a number of them got into fistfights of their own while defending their respective championships before the main event began.

Also attending the fight was Ross's mother, Mrs. Rosofsky,

who for good luck gave her son a *mezuzah* before the fight. Ross showed the *mezuzah* to the press corps and explained to the gentile reporters what it was.

When Ross spied the *Forward's* reporter after the fight, he said, "That's my mother's paper!" He added that he has always been proud to be written about in the Yiddish paper.

Daily Jewish Forward
June 23, 1933

YOUNG JEWISH BOXER BEATS

JACK SHARKEY Boxing fans were shocked by the upset of former heavyweight champion Jack Sharkey at Comiskey Park by a young Jewish fish peddler from Chicago who goes by the name of King Levinsky. The young Jewish fighter is not known to be a great boxer, but he does have one serious weapon in his armory: a powerful right hand. If Levinsky happens to catch his opponent with his right, chances are the opponent is going down....

Levinsky is a happy-go-lucky young chap and reminds one of a *shtetl* wagon driver or butcher. Interestingly, his sister, Lena Levy, is his manager. Levy fired her brother's first manager, who, she says didn't get him enough money for his early fights. As for her brother being in the fight game, she said, "He's fighting anyway; he may as well get paid for it." She is the only female boxing manager and a sensation in the ring. Among fans, she's known as "Leaping Lena" because she gets excited during her brother's fights and jumps up and screams at Levinsky, usually with a flourish of colorful curses.

Daily Jewish Forward
September 19, 1933

Our Authors

Only Two Copies Left! HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF CHICAGO. Edited by Hyman L. Meites.

New introduction by James R. Grossman. Foreword by Thomas R. Meites and Jerome B. Meites. An invaluable reference book for the historian and genealogist—The Chicago Jewish Historical Society's 1990 facsimile of the original 1924 edition, with supplement excerpts from the 1927 edition. Hundreds of biographical entries; synagogue and organization histories; index. Illustrated with black and white photographs and drawings. 856 pages. Cloth **\$200.00 including s/h.** Prepay by check to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Mail check to the Society office.

Reference copies can be found at the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 South State Street, and the Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 610 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

SYNAGOGUES OF CHICAGO.

Edited by Irving Cutler, Norman D. Schwartz, and Sidney Sorkin.

Project supervised by Clare Greenberg. 1991. A compilation of synagogue listings in Chicago city directories since 1851. Includes street address; name of rabbi; and names of officers if available.

Out of print. Reference copies are at the Harold Washington Library Center and the Asher Library.

The Following Publications:

Prepay by check to Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Mail to our office.

THE GERMAN-JEWISH EMIGRATION OF THE 1930S AND ITS IMPACT ON CHICAGO.

By Walter Roth. 1980. Text of speeches at a CJHS symposium held at Congregation Ezra-Habonim in 1979. Illustrated. 24 pages. Paper \$4.00. Price includes postage.

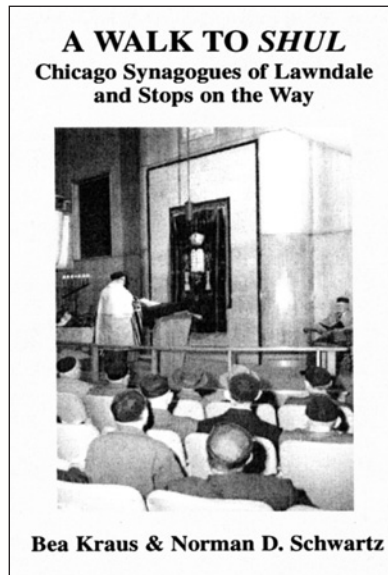
THE CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: A Ten Year History.

Edited by Irwin J. Suloway. 1988. Illustrated. 24 pages. Paper \$4.00. Price includes postage.

CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY: INDEX 1977-2002. Compiled and Edited by Adele Hast. 2002. Covers the first twenty-five years of our quarterly publication. 23 pages. Paper \$4.00. Price includes postage.

CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY: Single Issues. 1977—Present.

The Society quarterly. Each \$4.00. Price includes postage.



A WALK TO SHUL: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way.

By Bea Kraus and Norman D. Schwartz. Chicago Jewish Historical Society. 2003. A nostalgic street-by-street stroll past the impressive *shuls*, the modest *shtibekeh*, the schools, businesses, and community buildings of the Great West Side. Illustrated with black and white photographs. 159 pages. Neighborhood grid map enclosed. Paper \$22.95. Price includes postage. Prepay by check to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Mail to the Society office.

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

Special Offer! DVD: ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE plus COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM BOOK. In the year 2000, the Society published a facsimile of the 72-page program book for "The Romance of A People" pageant. There are program notes, the names of the participants and sponsors, and lots of ads. Walter Roth's eight-page essay adds a historical perspective. Paper, 80 pages. DVD and Program Book. **\$39.95** Order from Ergo Home Video, P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 07666-1437. Toll-Free 877-JEWISHVIDEO (877-539-4748) or online at www.jewishvideo.com

ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE: COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM BOOK.

Book only. \$15.00 + 3.00 s/h. Prepay by check to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Mail to the Society office.

Our Authors

CJHS Minsky Fund Prize Winners

Doris Minsky was a founder, director, and officer of the Society. The Fund was established in her memory for the purpose of publishing monographs on the history of the Jews of Chicago. Submissions were judged, and cash prizes awarded, by the CJHS Publications Committee.

1. CHICAGO JEWISH STREET PEDDLERS.

By Carolyn Eastwood. A valuable study by an eminent urban historian. Illustrated with drawings. **MEMORIES OF LAWDALE.** By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. 1991. Total 103 pages. Illustrated. Paper. *Distributed by Academy Chicago Publishers. www.academychicago.com.* Also available from the Society.

2. THE CHAYDER, THE YESHIVA AND I.

By Morris Springer. Recollections of Hebrew school and the Hebrew Theological College. **MEMORIES OF THE MANOR.** Eva Gross. 1993. Reminiscences of growing up Jewish in Chicago's Jeffery Manor neighborhood. Total 95 pages. Illustrated. Paper.

3. THE CANTORS: Gifted Voices Remembered.

By Bea Kraus. 1996. Chicago was well-known for her fine congregational cantors as well as the world-famous vocal artists engaged here for the High Holy Days. 85 pages. Illustrated. Paper.

4. MY FATHER, MYSELF. By Rabbi Alex J. Goldman. 1997. A son's memoir of his father, Yehudah D. Goldman, America's oldest practicing rabbi. 120 pages. Illustrated. Paper.

5. THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR CHILDREN.

By Myron H. Fox. 2001. A riveting account of Chicago's bloody Taxi Wars of the 1920s and the author's research into the victimization of his taxi driver father. 160 pages. Illustrated. Paper.

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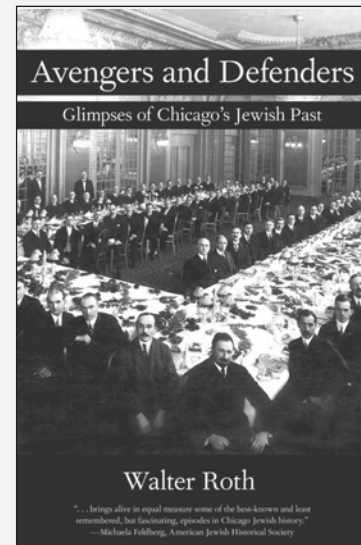
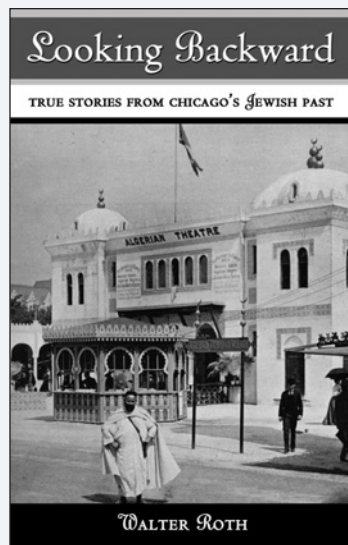
Walter Roth's Jewish Chicagoans

LOOKING BACKWARD: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past.

By Walter Roth. Academy Chicago Publishers. 2002. The unknown story of Jewish participation in Chicago's great fair of 1893 is only one of the fascinating nuggets of history unearthed and polished by Walter Roth in the pages of *Chicago Jewish History*. The material chronicles events and people from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. Illustrated. 305 pages. Paper \$16.95.

AVENGERS AND DEFENDERS: Glimpses of Chicago's Jewish Past.

By Walter Roth. Academy Chicago Publishers. 2008. The second collection of articles from *CJH* by President Roth, who conveys his justifiable pride in the productive immigrants, refugees, and native-born Jews who enriched the life of our city. The "avenger" is Sholom Schwartzbard, who assassinated Simon Petlura, perpetrator of the post-WWI pogroms in Ukraine. Illustrated. 235 pages. Paper \$16.95.



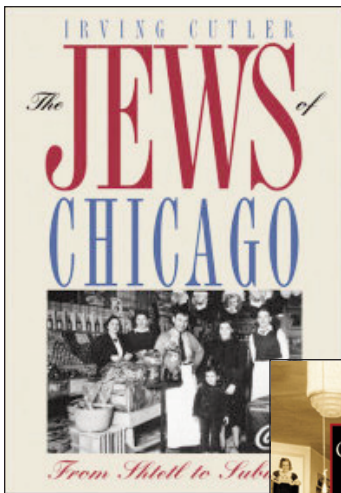
AN ACCIDENTAL ANARCHIST: How the Killing of a Humble Jewish Immigrant by Chicago's Chief of Police Exposed the Conflict Between Law & Order and Civil Rights in Early 20th Century America.

By Walter Roth & Joe Kraus. Academy Chicago Publishers. 1998. The episode took place on a cold Chicago morning in March, 1908. Lazarus Averbuch, a 19-year-old Jewish immigrant, knocked on the door of Police Chief George Shippy. Minutes later, the boy lay dead, shot by Shippy himself. Why Averbuch went to the police chief's house and exactly what happened afterward is still not known. The book does not solve the mystery, rather the authors examine the many different perspectives and concerns that surrounded the investigation of Averbuch's killing. 212 pp. Illustrated with black and white photographs. Paper \$16.95

Walter Roth's books are available at local bookstores and online.

Our Authors

Irving Cutler's Neighborhoods



THE JEWS OF CHICAGO: From Shtetl to Suburb. By Irving Cutler. University of Illinois Press. 1996. Vividly told history of Chicago's Jewish community, by a founding Board member of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. 336 pages. Illustrated with 162 black and white photographs. Cloth \$36.95, Paper \$24.95

New! CHICAGO'S JEWISH WEST SIDE.

By Irving Cutler. Arcadia Publishing *Images of America*. 2009. A new gathering of nostalgic photos from private collections added to Dr. Cutler's own treasure trove of images. Former West Siders will *kveell* and maybe also shed a tear. 126 pages. Paper \$21.99



JEWISH CHICAGO: A Pictorial History.

By Irving Cutler. Arcadia Publishing *Images of America*. 2000. A sentimental snapshot of the city's Jewish community. Includes 230 photographs and neighborhood maps. 126 pages. Paper \$18.99



CHICAGO: Metropolis of the Mid-Continent. Fourth Edition. By Irving Cutler. Southern Illinois University Press. 2006. Dr. Cutler skillfully weaves together the history, economy, and culture of the city and its suburbs, with a special emphasis on the role of the many ethnic and racial groups that comprise the "real Chicago" neighborhoods. 447 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$52.00, Paper \$22.95

URBAN GEOGRAPHY. By Irving Cutler. Charles E. Merrill Publishing. 1978. A general study of cities in the United States and some of their major characteristics. 120 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$18.50

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHICAGO. Edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff. University of Chicago Press. 2004. The "Jewish Community" entry is by Dr. Cutler. 1,152 pages. Color insert; illustrations; maps. Cloth \$65.00

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY. Edited by Stephen Norwood and Eunice Pollack. ABC-CLIO. 2007. The encyclopedia's six-page entry on "Chicago" is by Dr. Irving Cutler. Two volumes, total 775 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$195.00.

JEWISH LAW IN TRANSITION: How Economic Forces Overcame the Prohibition Against Lending Interest. By Hillel Gamoran.

Hebrew Union College Press. 2008. "A well-known biblical prohibition strictly forbids Israelites to lend to each other at interest. As formulated in Exodus 22:24, "If you lend to anyone of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be to him as a creditor, and you shall not exact interest from him." The intention of this prohibition was to prevent the wealthy from exploiting the unfortunate. However, in the course of time, it was seen to have consequences that militated against the economic welfare of Jewish society as a whole. As a result, Jewish law (*halakha*) has over the centuries relaxed the biblical injunction..." 196 pages. Hardcover \$35.00. Order from Wayne State University Press (800) 978-7323 or online.

THE SIDDUR COMPANION.

By Paul H. Vishny. Devorah Publishing, Jerusalem. 2005. This work is intended to form the background for a meaningful devotion to prayer, during the week and on the major festivals. It will help guide the novice through the different prayers and make these prayers more understandable and fulfilling. It will also give the daily *davener* a sense of where these prayers came from, how the rabbis developed them. 112 pages. Hardcover \$18.95, Paper \$12.95 Available from online booksellers.

Our Authors

THE FATE OF HOLOCAUST MEMORIES:

Transmission and Family Dialogues. By Chaya H. Roth. Palgrave MacMillan. 2008. An innovative mix of personal history and psychological research, this book



tells the story of an extended family of Holocaust survivors and reveals how each generation has passed on memories of World War II and the *Shoah*

to the next. Dr. Roth is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Illustrated with black and white photographs. 228 pages. Hardcover \$74.95

CANDLES BURNED IN CHICAGO: A History of 53 Memorial Commemorations of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

The Midwest Jewish Council. Kenan Heise, editor; N. Sue Weiler, contributing editor. 2004. Author House. A record of the stirring memorial gatherings mounted by a group of Jewish Chicagoans and their friends from 1944 to 1996. 132 pages. Paper \$18.00 *Prepay by check to: The Midwest Jewish Council, P.O. Box 59032, Chicago, IL 60659-0032.*

Art and Music

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

By Anne Rorimer. Thames & Hudson. 2001. The first detailed account of developments centered around the conceptual art movement, the book highlights the main issues underlying visually disparate works dating from the second half of the 1960s to the end of the 1970s, through close examination of individual works and artists. Illustrated with 303 halftone images. 304 pages. Cloth \$50.00, Paper \$29.95

THE ART OF THE YIDDISH FOLK SONG.

Sima Miller, soprano; Arnold Miller, piano. A vintage collection of performances by Chicago's internationally renowned concert artists. Four CDs, each \$15.00; five audiotapes, each \$10.00 *Order from Sima Miller, 8610 Avers Ave., Skokie, IL 60076; (847) 673-6409, or sim18@webtv.net.*

WOMEN BUILDING CHICAGO, 1790-1990: A Biographical Dictionary.

Edited by Adele Hast and Rima Lunin Schultz. Indiana University Press. 2001. Of the over 400 individual entries, forty are Jewish women. 1,088 pages. Illustrated. Cloth \$75.00

BREAKING GROUND: Careers of 20

Chicago Jewish Women. By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. Edited by Dr. Khane-Faygl Turtletaub. Author House. 2004. Interviews bring out the Jewish values that have played a part in the lives of these high achievers. Judge Ilana Rovner, U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Ruth Rothstein, Melissa Isaacson, Beverly Siegel, and Klara Tulsy are included. 137 pages. Paper \$15.50 *Rosenblum's World of Judaica, Women and Children First, Barnes & Noble (Skokie), Waldenbooks (Lincolnwood Mall), or from www.authorhouse.com*

BRIDGES TO AN AMERICAN CITY: A Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften 1870 to 1990.

By Sidney Sorkin. Peter Lang Publishing. 1993. A thorough study of the hundreds of service organizations, named after their Old World origins, that were a significant part of the immigrant experience. 480 pages. Cloth \$35.00 *Order from the author (847) 541-2188.*

MINYANS FOR A PRAIRIE CITY: The Politics of Chicago Jewry 1850-1914.

By Edward H. Mazur. Garland. 1990. 428 pages. Cloth \$75.00 *Out of print.*

THE ETHNIC FRONTIER.

Holli and d'A Jones, editors. Eerdmans. 1984. Essays in the history of group survival in Chicago and the Midwest. The "Jewish Chicago" entry is by Ed Mazur. 422 pages. Paper \$19.95 *Out of print.*

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN

MAYORS, 1820-1980.

Holli and d'A Jones, editors; Edward H. Mazur, contributing editor. Greenwood Press. 1981. 441 pages. Cloth \$49.95 *Out of print.*

RED SCARE IN COURT: New York Versus The

International Workers Order. By Arthur J. Sabin. Foreword by Howard Fast. University of Pennsylvania Press. 1999. The author is Professor of Law at The John Marshall Law School. 392 pages. Cloth \$26.50

IN CALMER TIMES: The Supreme Court and Red

Scare Monday. By Arthur J. Sabin. University of Pennsylvania Press. 1999. 272 pages. Cloth \$49.95

Our Authors

CREATING CHICAGO'S NORTH SHORE: A Suburban History. By Michael H. Ebner. University of Chicago Press. 1988. Evanston, Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Glencoe, Highland Park, Lake Forest, and Lake Bluff—eight communities that serve as a genteel enclave of affluence, culture, and high society. Prof. Ebner explains the origins and evolution of the North Shore as a distinctive region. 368 pages. Photographs and maps. Cloth \$55.00

A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO REGION.

By Joel Greenberg. University of Chicago Press. 2002. The author places the natural history of the region in a human context, showing how it affects our everyday existence in even the most urbanized landscape of Chicago. 592 pages. Illustrated with photographs, maps, and drawings. Cloth \$40.00, Paper \$25.00

OF PRAIRIE, WOODS, & WATER: Two Centuries of Chicago Nature Writing.

Edited by Joel Greenberg. University of Chicago Press. 2008. Drawing on archives he uncovered while writing his acclaimed book, *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*, Greenberg selected these first-person narratives, written between 1721 and 1959. In the Water World section there is “The Fish Market of Chicago,” a report by the Illinois Board of Fish Commissioners, 1898-1900, that begins: “The City of Chicago is unique in many ways, but it stands alone in one thing, viz., the Jewish fish market ... There is nothing like it in the United States.” 424 pages. Cloth \$45.00, Paper \$25.00

PRAIRIE DIRECTORY OF NORTH AMERICA:

U.S. & Canada. By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. Lawndale Enterprises. 2002. The first-ever guide for visits to the prairie, an ecosystem unique to North America. Fifty pages are devoted to Illinois. 352 pages. Paper \$19.95 *P.O. Box 561, Wilmette, IL 60091-0561; www.Lawndaleenterprises.com.*

THE FLORIDA JEWISH HERITAGE TRAIL.

By Rachel B. Heimovics and Marcia Zerivitz. Florida Department of State. 2000. 44 pages. Illustrated. Paper. \$10.50 each for one or two copies. *Prepay by check to The Jewish Museum of Florida, 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139-6965. (305) 672-5044.*



A TIME TO REMEMBER: A History of the Jewish Community in South Haven.

By Bea Kraus. Priscilla Press. 1999. Covers the 1920s through the 1950s, before air conditioning, when this town on the Lake Michigan shore was home to a thriving Jewish summer resort community. Illustrated. 287 pages. Paper \$24.95

A PLACE TO REMEMBER: South Haven—A Success from the Beginning.

By Bea Kraus. Priscilla Press. 2003. An anecdotal history of the people—and the peaches and the blueberries—from the town's early days. Illustrated. 316 pages. Paper \$24.95

A PLACE AND A TIME REVISITED. South Haven's Latest Generation of Resorters.

By Bea Kraus. Priscilla Press. 2008. The gentrified renaissance was inevitable. Illustrated. 214 pages. Paper \$24.95 *Order the three South Haven books online at www.KrausBooks.com*

New! AFRICAN AMERICANS IN GLENCOE: The Little Migration. By Robert A. Sideman. The History Press. 2009. From the Preface: “...African Americans had lived in Glencoe for nearly a century, their population numbers were relatively stable, and more blacks were taking part in community affairs. I served



with African Americans on the village caucus—Glencoe's nominating committee for local office—and I know that our work was strengthened by the diverse views represented at our deliberations. I felt a good deal of pride in the composition of our caucus, which, in that

sense, was unusual, if not unique, on the North Shore. ...Recent years have brought changes to Glencoe's appearance, as smaller homes and even neighborhoods have given way to new, generally larger, construction. These new realities were reflected in census figures as Glencoe's black population registered a sharp decline from 1990 to 2000, a drop that has probably accelerated since then. It seemed a time to take stock. I discovered that while little has been written about Glencoe's African American heritage, there were ample historical resources available to tell the story from the very first days and even before. What ensued was a truly shared effort, one that, at least for me, represents the best of community spirit in a small place.” 126 pages. Illustrated. Paper \$19.99

Our Authors

NEAR WEST SIDE STORIES: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood. By Carolyn Eastwood. Lake Claremont Press. 2002. Four extraordinary "ordinary" people try to save their neighborhood and the market at its core. One of them is the flamboyant Jewish clothier and jazz musician, Harold Fox, designer of the first zoot suit. The other highly motivated, sympathetic subjects are Florence Scala, Nate Duncan, and Hilda Portillo, who represent the Italian, black, and Mexican communities. Illustrated. 355 pages. Paper \$17.95.

THE OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOD AND DRINK IN AMERICA. Edited by Andrew F. Smith. Oxford University Press. 2004. The entry on "Street Vending" was written by Carolyn Eastwood. Two Volume Set, Cloth \$250.00

TO LOVE MERCY: A Novel. Atlantic Highlands. 2006. *Winner of five awards.* A tale of Chicago blacks and whites, Christians and Jews, conflict and forgiveness. Set in 1948, it throws together two boys from different worlds—affluent, Jewish Hyde Park and the hard-scrabble Bronzeville black ghetto—on a quest for a missing silver talisman inscribed with the verse from Micah, "What doth the Lord require of thee? To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Illustrated. 291 pages. Paper \$14.95

THE CONVERSO LEGACY. By Sheldon Gardner. Pitspopy Press. 2004. This work of historical fiction for young people takes place in the 1880s. As the Jews in Russia are being massacred in *pogroms*, Samuel makes his way to America, and eventually to La Rosa, New Mexico. 258 pages. Cloth \$18.95, Paper \$12.95.

A SONG OF INNOCENCE. By Harold H. Kraus. Fildar-Doubleday. 2004. Two meek U.S. Army recruits, a Jew and a Gentile, feel the wrath of an anti-Semitic redneck in a WWII training camp. 135 pages. Paper \$12.00 *Order from www.KrausBooks.com.*

SHORT SEA SAGAS. By Harold T. Berc. Athena Press. 2002. Unusual tales of over two hundred ships—mutinies, unusual sinkings, mystery ships sailing for years without crews, piracy! Concludes with a chapter on the author's own experiences as a U.S. Navy combat officer in World War II. 190 pages. Paper \$17.95

JACK OF HEARTS—A FULL DECK. By Jack W. Ardell. 2004. A self-published collection of nostalgic short stories, poems, and cartoons by a former West Sider. 150 pages. Paper \$12.00 + \$3.00 s/h. *Ardell Art & Craft, 5140 S. Fairview, #8, Downers Grove, IL 60515.*

JULIUS ROSENWALD: The Man Who Built Sears, Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South. By Peter Ascoli. Indiana University Press. 2006. Chicago's Julius Rosenwald was one of the richest men in America in the 1920s, but few people today, other than the older members of the Jewish and African-American communities, know the story of his far-reaching philanthropy. Historian Peter Ascoli is Rosenwald's grandson. He tells his grandfather's story with professional skill as well as insights that only an insider with access to family records and memories could have. Illustrated with black and white photographs. 472 pages. Cloth \$35.00

LEGACY: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance. By Werner L. Frank. 2003. Avoteynu Foundation, Inc. A portion of the book deals with the author's immigration to Chicago, and growing up in Hyde Park. 926 pages plus CD. \$49.00 *Order from www.avoteynu.com*

Career Books on Media for Young People

In 1961, S. William ("Bill") Pattis started the book publishing firm NTC Publishing Group with two titles. Over the years, NTC published over 4,000 titles under a number of imprints including Passport Books, National Textbook, NTC Business Books, VGM Career Books, Teach Yourself, and The Quilt Digest Press. In 1996, the firm was sold to Tribune Company and now functions as part of McGraw-Hill.

CAREERS IN ADVERTISING.

S. William Pattis. 2004.

OPPORTUNITIES IN MAGAZINE PUBLISHING CAREERS. S. William Pattis. 2001.

OPPORTUNITIES IN PUBLISHING CAREERS.

Robert A. Carter, S. William Pattis, and Blythe Camenson. 2001.

OPPORTUNITIES IN ADVERTISING CAREERS.

S. William Pattis. 1995.

VGM CAREER PLANNER: ADVERTISING.

S. William Pattis. 1988.

The titles are sold, new and/or used, by retail bookstores and online vendors under various imprints, in various editions and formats, at various prices. Also available on loan from the Chicago Public Library.

Remembering Labor Historian Bill Adelman

BY CAROLYN EASTWOOD

William J. (Bill) Adelman was well known for his role in spreading the understanding of labor issues. He was one of the Society's first guest speakers, addressing a December 11, 1977 open meeting at Temple Shalom on the topic of "Jewish Workers in Chicago—1841 to Today." He joined the Society and remained a member until his death in his Oak Park home on September 15, of an apparent heart attack.



William J. Adelman
(1932-2009)

He was born and raised on Chicago's West Side, graduated from Oak Park-River Forest High School, received a bachelor's degree in history from Elmhurst College, and a master's degree in American history from the University of Chicago. He was dedicated to education, from the time he taught history at Morton West High School, where he helped to organize a teachers' union.

My first acquaintance with Bill was in the 1980s when I was working on my Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At that time, he was on the faculty of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, associated with the university while writing, giving tours and lectures, and teaching classes. My field of study was street vendors in Chicago, and although I had not met Bill Adelman, it occurred to me that he could help me find some answers. Labor was his field, not street vendors, but he not only cordially agreed to an appointment, but spent considerable time with me. I learned a lot from him about working class issues that day, and through the years since then.

As a result of his interest in labor history, in 1969 Bill Adelman was a co-founder and vice president of the Illinois Labor History Society, the oldest such organization in the United States.

One of Bill's longtime interests was the effort to clear up public misunderstandings regarding the Haymarket affair of 1886. It was not a "riot" as it was characterized in the press, but a peaceful meeting of working men and women that ended in tragedy (the deaths of policemen), and an outcome that was a miscarriage of justice (the execution of the labor leaders). Furthering this cause, he was part of an informal group that organized an annual Haymarket ceremony. The first event was planned for May 1, 1969, and this ceremony has continued until the present.

(In 1889, a statue commemorating the policemen who died was installed on the site. The statue was bombed in 1969 and 1970, and eventually was relocated inside the city police academy. A Haymarket martyrs monument was dedicated in Waldheim Cemetery in 1893 to honor the cause of the executed labor activists. Finally, in 2004, the City of Chicago installed a Haymarket Memorial sculpture in Haymarket Square, at Desplaines and Lake Streets. This statue is meant to accommodate multiple views of the event.)

Bill Adelman was an adviser on the film, "Packingtown USA," and was an adviser on the PBS series, "The Killing Floor." He narrated the 1983 documentary "Palace Cars and Paradise: The Pullman Model Town," which dealt with the Pullman Strike of 1894 in Chicago.

Among the books that he wrote were: *Haymarket Revisited*, *Touring Pullman*, and *Pilsen and the West Side*.

Les Orear, president emeritus of the Illinois Labor History Society, relates an anecdote that illustrates Bill Adelman's far-reaching impact:

In 2008, M. K. Pandhe, president of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions in New Delhi, wrote that he and his wife were members of a Chicago labor history tour conducted by Bill Adelman, and he described the experience: "For over two hours he narrated the entire background to us in a lucid manner, which reflected his firm commitment to the working class and their legitimate struggles...I was deeply impressed by the book, *Haymarket Revisited*, and thought that Indian readers should know about the glorious struggle of the Chicago workers." In 2009, *Haymarket Revisited* was republished by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions.

As Les Orear wrote, "Unfortunately Bill did not have a chance to see it before his untimely death."

Bill Adelman is survived by his ex-wife, Nora, his life partner, David Staley; two sons, Marc and Michael; three daughters, Michelle, Marguerite, and Jessica, and five grandchildren. ❖

CAROLYN EASTWOOD, PH.D., is the recording secretary of the CJHS. She teaches at Roosevelt University and the College of DuPage. Dr. Eastwood is the author of *Near West Side Stories* and the Society's Minsky Prize-winning study, *Chicago's Jewish Street Peddlers*.

Max Epstein *continued from page 7*

The young man who originally lived on Chicago's South Side and who made his fortune in the environs of the Stockyards, eventually resided in Winnetka, at 915 Sheridan Road, in a commodious home described in the *Chicago Daily News* as one of the "show places of the North Shore."

Max Epstein died at the age of 79 on August 22, 1954. He was survived by his wife, Leola; two daughters, Mrs. Thomas Dailey and Mrs. Lucille Selz; and two grandchildren, Jay and Denise Selz, all of whom resided at 179 East Lake Shore Drive.

In remembrance of their benefactor, the University of Chicago mounted the "Max Epstein Memorial Exhibition: Paintings by Old Masters from the Max and Leola Epstein Collection" in the spring of 1955, before the works were sent to the Art Institute.

Max Epstein's inheritance tax return placed his estate at \$5,081,000,527. Federal taxes were placed at \$687,778 and Illinois taxes at \$317, 914. In 2009 dollars, Max Epstein's estate would be \$84 million!

His initial gamble of \$1,000 had paid dividends many times over. His original concept of leasing railroad tank cars to shippers who lacked the financial means to purchase them would become the model for pay-as-you-go-financing. Any of us who leases such items as our personal automobile—or jet airplane—can thank Max Epstein for coming up with the idea. And any of us who is delayed at a railroad crossing for a seemingly endless line of freight trains, and sees among them tank cars with the initials GATX, can blame a twenty-three year old Jewish entrepreneur. ❖

EDWARD H. MAZUR, PH.D.,

Professor emeritus, Harold Washington College, is a member of the Illinois Historical Society Advisory Board and a consultant to the International Visitors Center of Chicago. He is the treasurer of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

Welcome, New Members of the Society!

Vivian S. Handel
Chicago, IL

Milton & Tobi Lefton
Chicago, IL

Frank D. Mayer, Jr.
Glencoe, IL

Theodore & Maxine Roseman
Riverwoods, IL

Elaine L. Schain
Chicago, IL

Reunions

continued from page 9

My father and his three brothers would come on the weekends to help out, and my mother, sister, aunt, and cousins stayed there all summer. ❖

SANDRA SCHNEIDER

has lived in Rehovot for about thirty-seven years. She teaches English in a high school there, "a very nice school to work in." Her husband is a civil engineer, born in Vilna, in the USSR at the time. He took early retirement from the Israel Electric Company this year. They have three sons and two grandchildren. The oldest son is a practical engineer, the middle son is a doctor, specializing in pediatrics, and the youngest is a civil engineer.

CJHS Announces Research Award

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society announces the third annual award for research on Chicago Jewish history done by an undergraduate or graduate student. The CJHS will award \$1,000 for an outstanding paper on a topic in Chicago Jewish history.

The paper should be 25 to 40 pages in length, with documentation in endnotes. Please request "Guidelines" for endnote form, font, and style at the address below.

An academic committee of experts will judge the entries. The winner will be asked to present the research at a meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. The winning essay will be considered for publication in the society's journal, *Chicago Jewish History*.

Each applicant should submit a paper and a letter of support from a faculty adviser by June 30, 2010, to:

Adele Hast, Ph.D., Chair, CJHS Award Committee
Chicago Jewish Historical Society
610 South Michigan Avenue, Room 803
Chicago, IL 60605-1901

For further information, please phone the Society at (312) 663-5634 or send an e-mail to info@chicagojewishhistory.org.

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



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- Mather High School Reunion
- Michael Kotzin program
- CJHS Authors

What We Are

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1977, and is in part an outgrowth of local Jewish participation in the United States Bicentennial Celebration of 1976 at an exhibition mounted at the Museum of Science and Industry. The Society has as its purpose the discovery, preservation and dissemination of information about the Jewish experience in the Chicago area.

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

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

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 610 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605-1901. Dues are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

www.chicagojewishhistory.org