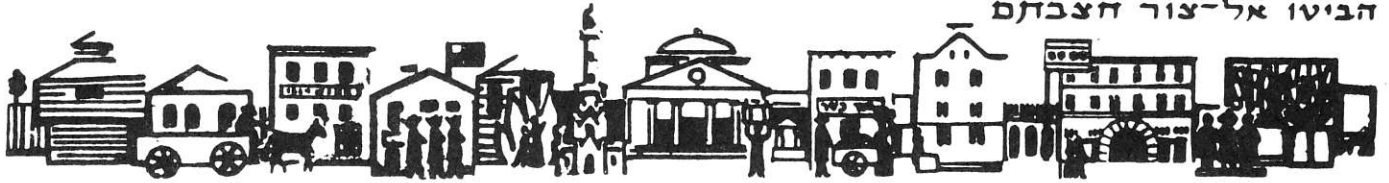


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chicago jewish historical society

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society news

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER, 1983

DECEMBER 4TH CJHS PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

"Maxwell Street Revisited"
Is Subject of Panel, Slides;
Exhibits Open Free to Members

Maxwell Street when it was a major focal point in the life of Chicago's Jews will be the topic of CJHS's program on Sunday, December 4. The program will be held at 2:00 PM in the auditorium of the Chicago Historical Society, which is co-sponsoring the meeting in connection with its Maxwell Street exhibits.

The program, a panel discussion on "Maxwell Street Revisited," will feature Leah Axelrod, Irving Cutler, Rachel Heimovics, and--as moderator--Charles Bernstein. The panelists, all serious students of Chicago Jewish history, are well known to Society members through their writings and activities. Slides will also be shown.

Membership Cards Provide Free Admission

Admission to the Chicago Historical Society building will be free that Sunday to CJHS members who present their membership cards at the door. Persons who are not members of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society itself may attend the meeting by paying the usual museum admission fees of \$1.00 or \$.25 for senior citizens. Of course, members of the Chicago Historical Society are always admitted free.

Admission will also enable all to see the two concurrent Maxwell Street exhibits. Of the two, the one most likely to interest CJHS members is the display of photographs, posters, and publications covering the years from the 1880's through

the 1920's, which were the major years of heavy Jewish involvement. This exhibit is located in the Graphics Gallery on the third floor of the museum and was assembled by Allen Teller, a historical photographer who spoke at our April meeting.

A larger photographic exhibit focussing on the Maxwell Street of the last fifty years is in the Wrigley Gallery.

Panel Has Valuable Expertise

Mrs. Axelrod, like all the program panelists, is a founder of CJHS, a well-known tour guide and a speaker on local history. She directs the Society's summer tour program. Dr. Cutler, also a familiar tour guide, is best known as a speaker on the local Jewish community and as the author of standard works on Chicago history and geography including his most recent, Ethnic Chicago.

Mrs. Heimovics, current president of the Society, is a local Jewish historian and author of the Chicago Jewish Source Book. Mr. Bernstein is a well-known genealogist and consultant on Chicago Jewish history.

The Chicago Historical Society building, located in Lincoln Park near Clark Street and North Avenue, is readily accessible. CTA buses 11, 22, 145, 146 and 151 all stop near it, and metered parking lots are within a block or two. Because of museum rules, there will be no social hour preceding the program; but the museum will open at noon, permitting the viewing of exhibits prior to the program as well as after it.

President's ColumnPaying Tribute to Two
Very Special People

In this column, I would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to two people who have devoted countless hours to the work of our organization.

They are Sara Jacobson and Mark Mandle.

President
Rachel Heimovics

Sara Jacobson

Sara tended to our office regularly, on a volunteer basis, year-round, for at least three years. She came through blizzards, through sweltering heat, without fail. She handled phone messages and mail. When we were without an office for several months recently, she set up "shop" in the Asher Library. She is a remarkable lady whose involvements and dedication to the Chicago Jewish community and to Jewish learning are legion. We look forward to many more years of Sara's help-- and to her continued good health.

Mark Mandle

Mark recently resigned from our board after serving six years. He was one of our founding board members and a former treasurer. Mark's contributions ranged from programming to oral history to running our two Roundtables in 1982, to filling in whenever and wherever he was needed. We trust that his interest in and contributions to the cause of local Jewish history will not waver and that he enjoys much success and fulfillment in his new endeavors. We hope to see a lot of him around CJHS in the future!

We refer to our Society as a volunteer organization. To Sara and Mark-- and to the others who give us their time and expertise--we owe everything. It's as simple and as total as that!

--Rachel B. Heimovics

Papers of Harry Barnard
Contributed to CJHS

CJHS received a gift of clippings, books and other materials pertaining to the Chicago Jewish community from the papers of the late biographer/historian Harry Barnard.

Clippings make up the largest portion of the collection. They arrived in an assortment of boxes, files, bags and envelopes, and cover topics, personalities and events primarily from the last ten years. Each container has been indexed and is now housed in the Society's office at Spertus College. The materials are available to researchers by appointment.

According to Ruth Barnard, who made the presentation, her husband may have been planning a book about the Chicago Jewish community when he died on August 26, 1982.

Among Mr. Barnard's published books were two especially concerned with historic figures in American and Chicago Jewish history. They are The Forging of an American Jew: The Life and Times of Judge Julian W. Mack; and This Great Triumvirate of Patriots, the story of the George Washington, Haym Solomon, Robert Morris monument on Wacker Drive near Wabash Avenue.

CJHS sends a very special "thank you" to Ruth Barnard.

Contributions of this sort are always welcomed by the Society. If you or any of your friends can contribute materials pertinent to local Jewish history, get in touch with our archives chairman, Elsie Orlinsky at 643-9666 or the CJHS office,

society news

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Rachel Heimovics, Muriel Robin, Moselle Schwartz, Norman Schwartz.

SOCIETY'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ACHIEVES MUCH, GAINS WIDE RECOGNITION

Nearly Sixty Interviews Are Now Preserved on Tapes

Taping the reminiscences of individuals who have been prominently involved in aspects of local Jewish history has been one of the Society's most important endeavors. Making such tapes and transcribing them so that a record exists for posterity and the use of historians has been a concern of CJHS since its founding. Its collection of oral history now approaches sixty interviews.

The complicated oral history technique, which involves careful selection of interviewers and interviewees, background preparation, knowing how to deal with various personalities, various interviewing techniques, technical expertise, transcribing tapes onto paper, and skills in cataloging began under the energetic and devoted leadership of Moselle Aison Schwartz shortly after the Society was formed and has since absorbed the energies of many members. Current oral history chairmen are Sidney Sorkin and Dr. Adele Hast.

List To Be Published

In the next issue of Society News we hope to publish the names of individuals who have been recorded on tape as a part of this ongoing activity. Most, though not all, of these tapes or their transcriptions can be made available to historians and scholars. A few cannot be used at this time because of conditions set down by the person interviewed, but all will eventually become available.

Looking back at the oral history program, Mrs. Schwartz emphasized the fact that the success and broad scope of the project were made possible only because of the many individuals who gave unstintingly of their time and energies. She referred in particular to those who have chaired or co-chaired the oral history committee: Mark Mandle and Dr. Curtis Melnick.

Learning the Techniques

She recalled that Dr. Ed Mazur served as the primary instructor in the techniques of oral history and that Nancy Cohen, Judy Klowden, and Marcia Ross, among others, were responsible for a sizable donation from the West Valley Section of the National Council of Jewish Women which made the program finan-

Moselle Schwartz: Started
Oral History Project



cially feasible.

Mrs. Schwartz also singled out the contribution of Sol Brandzel, a CJHS founder and board member, who has been extremely helpful in arranging for and conducting interviews with outstanding members of the Chicago Jewish community, including leaders of government.

Many Persons Involved, More Needed

She also paid tribute to a host of other volunteers who have assisted in one or another facet of this important project, including especially Leah Axelrod, Charles Bernstein, Marion Cutler, Elizabeth Gerson, Rachel Heimovics, Joseph Landy, Rosalie Oberman, Elsie Orlinsky, Frances Posner, Muriel Robin, Norman Schwartz, and Mildred Stern.

To this list the Society would like to add the names of yet other members who might (1) be able to suggest candidates for oral history interviewers, (2) assist with interviewing, or (3) transcribe tapes into transcripts. If you can help, please contact Sidney Sorkin evenings or weekends at 221-4096.

Project Achieves Recognition

Mrs. Schwartz noted that the Society has received considerable recognition for its work in oral history. It participated in the Sangamon State University Oral History Research Project in 1981 and is listed in the Directory of Illinois Oral History Resources published by that university. It is also invited to send a representative to that institution's oral history conference in April.

Perhaps an even better indication of the Society's achievement in oral history is the fact that when University of Illinois at Chicago Professor Dominic Candeloro received a large grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study Italians in Chicago he turned to CJHS for advice and instruction in, among other things, oral history techniques!

I.J.S.

GROWING UP ON MAXWELL STREET IN THE EARLY 1900'S--
 REMINISCENCES OF AN ALUMNUS OF THE JEWISH TRAINING SCHOOL

The Privileges of Living
 In an Underprivileged Area

By Morris Yellin

Carl Sandburg once said that the human mind can be likened to a huge vault filled with filing cabinets in which you deposit your memories each day as you live it. Most generally the cabinets are not completely opened until you pass the Biblical three score and ten and then you are permitted, nay urged, to start withdrawing your treasures. For the mind performs the impossible for man. It holds together past and present. It is a healing tonic to the heart to close one's eyes for fleeting moments and to relax in the soothing glow of nostalgia.

Let me reminisce about my formative years in the Maxwell Street area, that teeming and vibrant neighborhood where I spent so many happy hours during the first years of this century.

A Ghetto? Yes and No

There is no doubt that by today's standards my old neighborhood would now be called the ghetto--but to us it had no stigma of shame. And it was a place of opportunity. In fact, our parents were proud of our neighborhood; for within three square blocks there were three large public schools, the Oliver Goldsmith School on Maxwell Street, the Foster School on Union Street and the Washburne School on Fourteenth Street, in addition to the privately endowed, and in my opinion, the most advanced school at that time in the entire nation, my beloved Jewish Training School on Judd Street between Jefferson and Clinton. Our parents' chief concern was that the children receive a good English education. In my case, I had to keep up with my Hebrew lessons as well.

In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, Jewish immigrants came pouring in from Russia, Romania, Galicia, Poland, Lithuania and other European lands, each with their own cultures and customs. The all-embracing arms of America's freedom encircled them all and quickly poured them into the melting pot of Americanism. It is to the everlasting

credit of the Chicago Public Schools and of course to my own beloved Jewish Training School how quickly they taught us the three R's and other, advanced courses; but the most important lessons they taught us were to cherish freedom and to appreciate the opportunities offered us.

Yearning for Citizenship

The first quest of the new immigrant was to become a citizen of the United States. Well, our alderman, 20th Ward Alderman Fick, at that time owned the saloon on Twelfth Street near the Chicago River. All one had to do was go down and see Alderman Fick, who gave you \$5.00 and had your first papers made out for you. Believe me, Alderman Fick had no trouble being re-elected.

My folks lived on Maxwell Street near Jefferson Street in a building we did not own. To the west of us was Fire Engine Company #6. Many of us used to hang around the firehouse. Once in a great while, we would go along to a fire.

It was a very busy station. Close your eyes and picture it. You will see what happened when the alarm sounded a call for Engine #6. The firemen would slide down the brass pole. The ticker watcher would snap a button: the doors of the horse stall would fly open, and the two brown horses would charge into their place at the hose cart while the two gray ones would go to the engine. The harness, which hung up in the ceiling, would come down and be quickly snapped in place. The engineer would immediately start a fire in the engine, and--with both drivers in their places, with gong banging away and with smoke belching from the engine, away they would go. What a thrill it was for us, and how envious we were of the firemen. Many of us kids dreamt of being firemen when we grew up.

Yet on the old West Side we rarely forgot our Jewish heritage. For we remembered we are a people by virtue of our Torah. There were many outstanding synagogues, many of them farther west on the new West Side. I will never forget the great and beautiful Russische Shul. As the Palace Theater in New York was the

[Continued on next page]

These reminiscences by Morris Yellin about growing up in the old Maxwell Street Jewish community are adapted from a presentation he made some years ago in his role as historian for the alumni of the Chicago Jewish Training School. That unique institution played a valuable role in the Americanization of East European Jews during its short history. The Society plans to devote considerable attention in the coming months to the school, its unusual history and its important contributions to local Jewish life.

pinnacle of success for an actor, so was the Russische Shul the highest attainment for a cantor. One year I was a choir singer under the renowned Hersh. For the High Holidays I received \$5.00. Yes, we did not neglect our Jewish tradition.

Shopping on Halsted Street

One of the main streets in our neighborhood was Halsted Street. This was the Great White Way for us youngsters. It was the State Street of the West Side. Remember Friedman's Nickelodeon? Remember Bronco Billy Anderson? And what about Pearl White? That heroine would make us gasp with horror when she would be tied down to the railroad tracks with the train bearing down upon her. But thanks to the hero, she was always rescued in the nick of time. A three-hour show would cost us kids a nickel.

From the show we would generally go to Nathan's Ice Cream Parlor. Remember those colossal sodas, with a maraschino cherry topping off the huge scoop of ice cream floating in sparkling soda water? That too set us back a nickel. Were we hungry? On O'Brien Street was the Bremmer Cookie factory. For five cents we would get a big bag full of broken vanilla wafers and coconut bars, warm and delicious, --what a feast! Yes, the affluent youngsters of today might really envy us, the so-called ghetto kids of yesteryear.

When holidays arrived, shopping would be done in the two department stores on Halsted Street, The 12th Street Store and L. Klein's Department Store. These were one-price stores, with Klein's carrying a little better merchandise than The 12th Street Store.

Jefferson Street for the Immigrant

For the newly-arrived immigrant Halsted Street was out of reach. Jefferson

Street was his shopping center. Did he need a "Shiffcart" (a ticket for a steamship line), did he want to send a few dollars to Europe, did he want to open a savings account with a few dollars? Why, go to Schiff the Banker on Jefferson Street. Did he want to become a customer peddler? Go to Philipson's. Did he need a suit? New or second hand, Jefferson Street merchants were there to take care of his needs. When ready to furnish a small flat, one needs a linoleum. What better place to get it than at Pinsky's on Jefferson Street near Maxwell? Yes, Jefferson Street was our street, and all who lived close by can never forget it.

Maxwell Street: Pushcart Paradise

Through the years, my wife and I have traveled to several countries and have visited many flea markets, but not one could hold a candle to Maxwell Street for bargains. Maxwell Street, the flea market capital of the midwest. The pushcart center of America. Extending from Jefferson Street several blocks to Morgan Street, it abounded with bargains. Pushcarts were lined up side by side not only on the sidewalks but also on both sides of the street itself.

Did you need fruit, did you need vegetables, did you need garlic, spices? You would have been sure to find them there at reduced prices. In the pushcarts on the street the flea market flourished. Did you need a wallet, a deck of cards, a motor, some bicycle parts, pictures or frames? Anything the mind conceives of would be there. All you had to do was look--look and walk. To give you the needed strength, the red hot man was ever ready to serve you. It was also an antique lovers' paradise. How much pleasure

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ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE THE PRODUCT OF A LOCAL B'NAI B'RITH LODGE,
MARKS SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING IN CHICAGO

Midwest Office Still Fighting
Discrimination and Promoting Rights

In 1908, Sigmund Livingston, a Chicago lawyer and B'nai B'rith member, wrote to a company that published a travel booklet which featured advertisements for hotels and summer resorts. He pointed out that many of the notices had contained the offensive phrase "no Jews wanted." The president of the company promptly replied: "the matter was never given any thought...in the future we can eliminate anything of that kind...and we will be glad to do so." Another correspondence of Livingston's, this time to the Postmaster General, pointed out the obnoxious nature of postcards going through the mail that had disparaging caricatures of "Jews." It brought the response that the "Post office department would be glad to see that proper action is taken."

Adolph Kraus, president of B'nai B'rith at the time, also carried on some correspondence that year. His was with Melville E. Stone, president of Associated Press. In a letter to Stone, Kraus addressed the custom Associated Press had adopted of identifying Jews, and only Jews, by religion in reporting a crime. Kraus wrote that if the accused is a non-Jew, we never learn "whether he is a Methodist, a Catholic, or of another denomination...is there any good reason for making such a distinction?" Stone didn't think there was, and he discontinued the practice at the wire service.

Committee Works To Change Attitudes

Livingston and Kraus were members of the Publicity Committee, a standing committee established that year by the Midwest District Grand Lodge of B'nai B'rith in Chicago to consider the problem of defamation of Jews. The committee had been Livingston's idea, an idea that had grown after he witnessed the effect that the large, turn-of-the-century wave of East European Jewish immigration had upon the American image of the Jew. In the mass media, the entertainment field, the vaudeville stage and the early cinema, the Jew had become the subject of derogatory portrayals and caricatures. Living-

ston suggested to his fellow B'nai B'rith members that an anti-defamation program be developed to counter the problem of public ridicule of Jews, and thus the Publicity Committee was born as a result of local initiative.

In the first instances, what Livingston and his group were primarily concerned with was the defamation of the Jew. In the course of their work, the people they approached were newspaper publishers, the vaudeville bookers, and other such "people of influence." Armed with a pile of correspondence which had yielded favorable results, at the end of one year Livingston was able to show that his idea could work.

Additional Need Results in ADL

Not all representations of the Publicity Committee had received positive responses. In fact, Livingston and his colleagues found, quite shockingly, that "men of high moral reputation and considerable intellectual attainments could be badly infected with anti-Semitic prejudice." Furthermore, the committee continued to find expressions of anti-Semitism everywhere. After five years of vigilance and action by the Committee, it was clear that a more widespread--and organized--effort was needed. In response to this, the members of the committee mobilized a broad cross-section of Jewish communal leadership to form the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Established in October of 1913, seventy years ago, the League had a well-defined set of broad principles and a program clearly ahead of its time. The League's ultimate purpose, as stated in its charter, read "to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens alike and to put an end forever to unjust and unfair discrimination against...any body of citizens." The League's immediate objective was to stop the defamation of the Jewish people through appeals to reason, conscience, and if necessary law. A three-pronged program to address this concern was developed, and it consisted of educational endeavors, vigilance and legislative advocacy.

[Continued on next page]

Chicago Was Home to First Headquarters

Chicago Jewry had led the way again. The ADL's first headquarters was in the Kraus Lodge office at 100 North LaSalle Street. It was to be years before it moved to national headquarters in New York.

Through its seventy years, the League has remained true to its founding principles. However, its program has broadened considerably in response to the changing nature of anti-Semitism and the changing needs of the Jewish community. The League has also grown in the physical sense; it is now an international organization with thirty offices in the United States as well as offices in Europe, Israel and Latin America. A closer look at the "eras of ADL" which led to these changes will also reveal some of the work the League has accomplished in the Chicago metropolitan area through the years.

Working Against the Fascists

From 1913 to 1930, the ADL was almost solely an anti-defamation organization, primarily concerned with anti-Semitic libels and caricatures. In the 1930's, the ADL entered a new phase of activity: the surveillance of fascist activities in this country and, of course, here in the Chicago area. Though still a small organization at that time, the League set up a system of volunteers to infiltrate fascist groups like the German Bund and the Silver Shirts, which were springing up like mushrooms all over the U.S.

A. Abbot Rosen, who has been the ADL's midwest director since 1948, received his first taste of the League during this time. He was a lawyer for the Espionage and Sabotage Unit of the U.S. Justice Department, and in that capacity he saw and used ADL files on these organizations because the ADL's files were far more comprehensive than those of the FBI. The FBI made considerable use of these files, and to this day the ADL still monitors the activities of hate groups and individuals whose basic purpose is damage and harm to Jews and others.

The True Affirmative Action Concept

A third era in the work of the ADL began at the end of World War II. Until that time, if there was a particular case of discrimination or defamation, the League would respond specifically to it

Parts of this article were adapted from A Promise To Keep by Nathan Belth and from materials provided by A. Abbot Rosen. Thanks for assistance are also due to Lisa Z. Skolnik of the Midwest office of the Anti-Defamation League.

as best it could. But at that time the realization surfaced that an endless amount of time could be spent working on these individual cases with limited overall result. So the League determined to address the total "Jewish circumstance," and did so by examining the important American institutions of the day. Its goal was to try to bring American institutions and Jews together, through a program the League called "affirmative action," which they defined as "broadening the pool from which qualified people are chosen." (The ADL may have been the first to coin this phrase, which is still used --and often misused--today.)

The first thing the ADL did in its program for affirmative action took place here in Chicago. At this time, some of the best colleges and universities in America still had a quota system operating against Jews. A member of the League's Chicago staff, Stella Counselbaum, felt this discrimination must be fought head on. She was the major force behind a national conference convened here with the American Council of Education to look at admission practices at colleges and universities. The deans, presidents and admissions officers of the top institutions in America attended the conference, at which a series of programs and resolutions was adopted to lead to the dropping of these artificial barriers in American higher education.

Efforts at Northwestern University

The League believed that many institutions were not discriminating against Jews by turning them away (be it for employment, insurance, loans or higher education), but rather by adopting recruitment programs which assured that Jews would not appear "at their doors." So the League's affirmative action program made good sense for the times.

An example of its success can be seen in the case of Northwestern University, where there were very few Jewish students in its Technological Institute.

[Continued on next page]

LOOKING AT THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE AFTER SEVENTY YEARS

[Continued from Page 7]

The ADL asked the institute where it was doing its recruiting, knowing that one of the finest technical high schools in the United States, the Bronx High School of Sciences, had a large proportion of Jewish students. As it turned out, Northwestern had never sent a recruiter to that high school. The League said if they were sincere about taking people on merit--including Jews--then they should go there. They did--and more Jewish students were enrolled.

Reports about Northwestern's reputation as a discriminator surfaced again in the early 1960's, but closer examination by the League revealed the culprit was not the institution but a biased employee. Jewish parents from around the country were letting the League know that their children were rejected for admission to Northwestern while their gentile peers were all being admitted. The ADL investigated the matter by contacting admissions counselors around the country, and found that there was a dean of admissions at Northwestern who was anti-Semitic--and anti-black and anti-Catholic as well. Armed with documentation, the ADL approached Franklin Kremel, who was then the vice-president in charge of administration at the university. He was aghast, and the situation was remedied immediately.

Broadening Employment Opportunities

Other areas where this policy of affirmative action was making great headway were employment and housing. Midwest Regional Director Abbot Rosen waged a campaign to implement these programs throughout the Chicago area, and his files show a number of cases where the strategy was very effective.

In one instance relating to employment, Rosen received a complaint that a large Loop insurance company was anti-Semitic. He arranged a meeting with an official there, and on the appointed day, as he found himself walking through the company's huge office, he noticed all the employees were white. While discussing Jewish employment in his meeting with the executive, he also mentioned the obvious lack of other minorities and learned that the company recruited for secretaries and stenographers from only a handful of

Chicago high schools. But after this meeting, the company began going to every high school in the city which gave courses pertinent to the skills they were looking for in employees. Here the ADL was living up to the broad goals of its original purpose.

At this time, the ADL also undertook a survey of employment conditions in Chicago to determine the opportunities that were available to Jews. Contact was made with a number of commercial employment agencies which supplied the League with copies of job orders detailing the positions that were available in the city at the time. Although this was in the early Fifties, at a time when it was almost impossible to find secretaries, fully one out of three job orders said "No Jews" in bold lettering. Others did not use such explicit language but had the same restriction.

To combat this, the League arranged a series of meetings with the heads of the firms who were using these discriminatory practices. They found that in large institutions the chief executive was not making these policies, but rather the personnel and placement workers were mistakenly assuming the "boss" would not want to hire Jews. The ADL also approached large employers with no record of discrimination during this period to further its affirmative action program and discuss Jewish employment. Of course it is now illegal for large employers to discriminate in this way, thanks to fair employment legislation--the sort of legislation for which ADL had long worked.

Working for Open Housing

During these times, the ADL also received many individual complaints about housing discrimination. Employing the assistance of cooperating realtors, the League examined the listings of the Evanston/North Shore Real Estate Board. Many carried the statement "the owners reserve the right to reject any or all offers," gratuitous language useful at that time primarily to bar sales to Jews. The League tried to determine the specific areas which were restricted, and after a lengthy investigation did indeed discover where Christians were buying and Jews

[Concluded on next page]

On the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, it is especially fitting that we honor A. Abbot Rosen, its Midwest Office Director for the past thirty-five years--exactly half of ADL's history. A graduate of Yale College and Columbia University Law School, Mr. Rosen joined the Chicago ADL office in 1948 and has guided its activities with skill, determination and tact while acquiring a national reputation in his field.



were not. They went public with the story, which appeared in all the Chicago newspapers and caused quite a stir. Although this did not put an end to housing discrimination, it was certainly a good beginning.

New Problems Require New Strategies

In the Sixties new civil rights legislation made the kinds of discrimination which the ADL had been fighting far less acceptable than ever before. Thus the League in Chicago turned its efforts toward a more insidious and subtle form of anti-Semitism. When some of Chicago's leading banks were found to be aiding and abetting the Arab boycott in the Seventies, the ADL confronted these institutions and helped resolve the matter. When the Neo-Nazis threatened to march in Skokie in 1978, the ADL devised a strategy to contain the situation. And when a tenured Northwestern University professor, Arthur Butz, wrote a book that called the extermination of six million Jews during the Holocaust a myth and put Northwestern into the forefront once again, the ADL worked with the institution on joint programs on Holocaust studies and is still counseling the school's administration regarding this matter.

In Chicago as well as nationally and internationally the Anti-Defamation League continues its seventy-year-old efforts to make the world safe and comfortable for Jews. Chicago is proud to have given it birth and, like all fond parents, wishes its offspring continued success.

Year End Is Dues Renewal Time For Most CJHS Members

The year's end is membership renewal time for most Chicago Jewish Historical Society members. Except for those who have joined and paid dues within the last six months, all memberships come up for renewal January 1.

Membership fees continue to be the same as they were last year with basic annual dues for regular members being \$15.00. Senior citizens and students pay \$10.00. A complete dues schedule, including those for special categories of members wishing to contribute additional sums to the work of the Society appears on page 12 of this issue.

In return for their dues, members continue to receive notices of CJHS meetings and other activities; all issues of Society News; reduced rates for summer tours of local Jewish interest; and, perhaps most important, the pleasure, the fellowship and the appreciation of local Jewish history fostered by the Society's Sunday afternoon meetings. Members also receive a 10% discount on purchases at the Spertus Museum Store.

Renewal notices will be in the mail within the next few weeks. When yours comes, don't put it aside. Renew at once and look forward with confidence to another enjoyable and informative year in 1984.

Inquiries concerning dues status may be made by phone to the Society office at 663-5634.

Growing Up on Maxwell Street

[Continued from Page 5]

I received walking good old Maxwell Street!

Medicine and Maxwell Street

Maxwell Street was also the Mayo Clinic of the West Side. On the corner of Newberry and Maxwell Streets was the world-renowned Maternity Center founded by Dr. Joseph DeLee, while on Maxwell and Morgan Streets was the Michael Reese Dispensary where for a fee of ten cents you received good medical treatment, always with courtesy.

If perchance they could not cure you, there was still another way to try to help yourself. All you had to do was to come down to Maxwell Street on a Sunday and there on the southeast corner of Maxwell and Jefferson Streets was the great Indian Herb Healer. This tall, muscular Indian, dressed in full costume with a feather bonnet extending down to the ground, had the elixir to cure you (so he said). Did you have a cold, kidney or heart trouble? This bottle of Indian herb medicine would do the job--cost only twenty-five cents a bottle. Down the street a way, in order to avoid competition, was another healer: the snake man, whose medicine was guaranteed to cure gout, rheumatism--you were even able to retain your youthful vigor, all for twenty-five cents a bottle.

Maxwell Street on a Sunday was so crowded you had to elbow your way through the street.

Stomachs Were Not Underprivileged

For youngsters, Sunday was something special. In wintertime the hot sweet potatoes, the roasted chestnuts; in the fall the buttered sweet corn; in the summer the ices and ice cream goodies. All for pennies. What a delight!

How many of you remember Saturday's gourmet treat, the Shabbos cholent? Pheasant? Two-inch steaks? Nothing could compare with this miracle. On Friday our mothers would prepare, in a heavy cast-iron pot, meat, large firm lima beans and potatoes. Then they would bring this over to Kaufman's Bakery where for ten cents it was placed in the large oven to bake all night. Just about noon the shabbos goy would go over to pick up the pot and bring it to the house. For this we gave him five cents. When the lid was

Nebraska Group Seeks Former Residents for Jewish Roster

If you ever lived in Nebraska or across the river in Council Bluffs, Iowa, the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society is looking for you. The newly-formed group is compiling a register of former area residents which will be known as the "Great Address Book."

One-time Nebraskans now in the Chicago area--like Philip Klutznick, for example--are asked to send their names, addresses, and phone numbers to the Great Address Book at 333 South 132nd Street, Omaha 68154

The Nebraska group is among the latest of numerous state and local Jewish historical societies to be organized. Slowly but surely just about every area of established Jewish settlement in the country is beginning to look to the rock from which it was hewn.

Board of Jewish Education Honors Curtis Melnick

Curtis Melnick, a former board member of the Society, will be the guest of honor at the Sixtieth Anniversary Dinner of the Chicago Board of Jewish Education on December 11.

Combining a distinguished career in secular and religious education, Dr. Melnick is currently Dean of the College of Education at Roosevelt University. He also had a long career in the Chicago Public Schools, where he attained the rank of associate superintendent before his retirement some years ago.

His efforts for CJHS include program presentations, oral history interviews and many other activities.

Congratulations, Curtis.

I.J.S.

opened, the aroma could not be matched by the finest perfume. The golden-brown potatoes, the whole but now-brown lima beans, and the meat just ready to melt in your mouth. Yes, the tom was a taste of Gan Aden--Heaven.

Slum? Ghetto? Call it what you wish, we lived like kings on the old West Side. I pity the youngsters of later generations. They missed out on so many thing we poor but happy youngsters enjoyed.



Joining the October meeting speaker, Harry Heller, at the podium (second from left) were Program Chairman Burt Robin, President Rachel Heimovics and Treasurer Norman Schwartz.
(Photo by Rebecca Rosenfield)

JEWISH ATHLETES REMEMBERED AT OCTOBER CJHS MEETING

A frequently overlooked facet of Jewish social history was the subject of the Society's October 2nd meeting at which Harry Heller discussed the contributions of local Jews to the sports scene.

Mr. Heller, an athlete of distinction himself and the founder of the Chicago Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, recounted the role which athletics played in the success of dozens of Jewish young men from the area. His capsule biographies and personal recollections with accompanying slides produced many nods of agreement and comments of recognition from a nostalgic audience.

Hall of Fame Also Discussed

After Mr. Heller had reminded his listeners of the boxers; the wrestlers; the baseball, basketball and football players; and those who coached them, he explained how the Chicago Jewish Sports Hall of Fame is keeping their achievements alive for future generations.

The speaker encouraged and received contributions from the audience as several persons present took turns reminiscing about athletes they knew personally and told of yet other athletes who contributed to local Jewish pride. About a dozen persons made such remarks.

Among these was Steven Riess, whose article on Chicago Jewish boxers in the Society News sent to members shortly

before the meeting had generated additional interest in the meeting topic.

Audience Participation Valuable

Program Chairman Burt Robin, who introduced the speaker, commented afterwards that he was particularly delighted by the wide audience contribution. "Our members are beginning to realize just how important their active participation in programs is to the Society. Their knowledge and reminiscences are valuable additions to the local Jewish historical record."

The meeting was held in Bederman Hall at Spertus College. Refreshments were served before the meeting under the supervision of Moselle and Norman Schwartz,

I.J.S.

HELP WANTED

The Society Needs A

Membership Chairman
To Keep Membership Records

Must like detail work
Typing a plus

Work at Home or Office

Call Rachel Heimovics at 831-2548