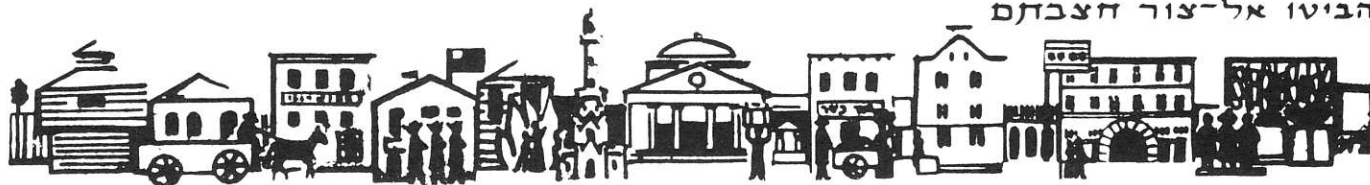


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chicago jewish historical society

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society news

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER, 1983

CJHS COMPLETES ANOTHER SUMMER
OF SUCCESSFUL HISTORICAL TOURS

Tours Director Axelrod Seeks
Suggestions for 1984 Series

Over one hundred Society members and their friends learned more about local Jewish history this summer by one of the most enjoyable means possible. They spent an afternoon exploring historical sites in air-conditioned buses under the guidance of highly qualified guides.

They participated in one or more of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society's three summer tours during July and August. The tours were, as usual, organized and supervised by Leah Axelrod, a CJHS founder who is herself a well-known Chicago area tour guide.

Cutler Tour a Sell-out

The first tour, a sentimental journey through Maxwell Street, North Lawndale, Humboldt Park, Logan Square, Albany Park and West Rogers Park, was on July 10 and was led by Dr. Irving Cutler. A repeat of our most popular tour, it was sold out very early. As usual, members were given special rates although non-members were also welcome.

A capacity crowd also attended the first Jewish labor tour on July 24. This group visited locations of importance to the Jewish labor movement in Chicago and was led by Professor Stanley Rosen and Sidney Sorkin. Also new this year was a tour of Jewish art in the area, held on August 21. It included visits to synagogues, Jewish schools and artists' studios and was co-sponsored by the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Needlework.

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PAST LOCAL ATHLETIC STARS TO BE
SUBJECT OF OCTOBER 2 MEETING

Founder of Hall of Fame
To Discuss Past Sports Heroes

Chicago's many Jewish athletes and especially the great among them will be recalled at the October 2 meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society to be held in Bederman Hall, Spertus College of Judaica, at 618 South Michigan Avenue. The meeting, which begins with a social hour at 1 P.M., is open to the public at no charge.

The speaker will be Harry Heller, himself a well-known athlete, who is highly qualified to address his topic, "Chicago's Jewish Sports Hall of Fame," inasmuch as he is both founder and executive director of that group. His presentation will begin at 2 P.M.

Speaker a Star Athlete Himself

Mr. Heller is president of the Sportsmen's Lodge of B'nai B'rith and until recently was owner and director of the National Athletic Camp in Northbrook-Glenview. He is familiar to many as a professional baseball player both in the farm system of the Chicago Cubs and that of the Cleveland Indians.

His most recent activities have centered around the establishment of the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, which was inaugurated last year and inducted its first members in November.

"Our first fall meeting represents attention to a facet of local Jewish life often overlooked by historical societies," said Program Chairman Burt Robin. "We are happy that Mr. Heller will be present to inform our members about the many contributions made by Chicago Jews to sports in America."

President's MessageSOCIETY GUARDS MEMBERSHIP LISTS,
NEVER MAKES POLITICAL MAILINGS

Rosh Hashannah greetings to all our members and readers! And let us all welcome the new year of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

Because of a recent misunderstanding, I would like to explain the policy of our organization regarding the sharing of our membership list with others. As a matter of absolute policy, our Society has never given our membership list to others, no matter how worthy the cause and no matter how closely associated the cause may be with local Jewish history.

The misunderstanding arose because someone used "Jewish Historical Society" when addressing a political invitation sent to at least one of our members during the recent heated Chicago mayoral election. That loyal member of our organization, not realizing we had such an ironclad rule, believed that we had in fact given out our membership list. No way!

We do not give out our membership list because we believe we have an obligation of trust to our members. We will, however, include in our Society News, or even mail to our own members, information related to Chicago and American Jewish history that has been supplied us from other organizations.

Some Interesting Mailings

While I believe in the sanctity of our policy and urge that it not be changed, I also must admit that I enjoy receiving mailings that pertain to areas of my own interest. And some of these mailings must come because other organizations to which I belong do share membership lists.

Just the other day, I received two mailings having to do with Jewish genealogy. Because there is so much interest in this field among our members, I will pass on the intent of these mailings to you.

One was a letter from the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington having to do with the International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Jerusalem April 29 to May 13, 1984. A detailed packet of information with agenda topics, itineraries,

registration information and fees plus travel arrangements will be available in October. Anyone interested in receiving this packet should contact the International Seminar, 3305 Macomb St., N.W., Washington DC 20008; 202/362-4367.

Computerized Family Finding

The second letter came from the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., a national organization based in New York City. Our own founding board member, Charles Bernstein, is an Associate of the JGS, Inc. This particular mailing had to do with JGS's five month old Computerized Family Finder, where anyone researching family trees may place family names and town names into the computer. The cost is only \$2.50 for each 16 entries or part of 16 entries.

The compilation already includes over 2000 entries of surnames and towns in over 45 countries. Print-outs are provided at no charge to Jewish genealogical societies throughout the United States, including the Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois. For further information contact either the Jewish Genealogical Society c/o Data Universal Corporation, 1485 Teaneck Road, Teaneck NJ 07666 or the Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois, P.O. Box 481022, Niles IL 60648; 312/965-8277.

Religious Textile Exhibit at Library

Two more items, both local, that I'm sure will interest you: the exhibits on Maxwell Street at the Chicago Historical Society, from September through the end of the year, reported elsewhere in Society News; and the exhibit of Ceremonial Textiles from Chicago Area Churches and Synagogues at the Cultural Center, from August 29 through the end of October.

The textile exhibit is co-sponsored by the Chicago Council on Fine Arts and the Chicago Public Library and funded in part by a grant from the Folk Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibit will be on the fourth floor of the Chicago Public Library Cultural Center and includes, among other ritual textiles, tapestries, Torah mantles, kippot, tallitot and wimpels. For further information call 346-3278.

Happy New Year to you all!

Rachel B. Heimovics

HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXHIBITS FEATURE PHOTOS, PROGRAMS ON MAXWELL STREET

December CJHS Meeting Planned In Conjunction with Exhibits

Because of the role that Maxwell Street played for half a century in local Jewish history, CJHS members will be especially interested in the Maxwell Street exhibits now at the Chicago Historical Society. The exhibits will be there through January 2.

In addition to displays of photographs and other memorabilia, there will be a series of programs on Maxwell Street. A December meeting of our own group, to be held in the Historical Society building near Clark Street and North Avenue, is currently in the planning stage. More information concerning that meeting will be sent to all members.

One Exhibit Focuses on Early Years

There are two concurrent exhibits. One centers on early views of Maxwell Street and covers the market area from the 1880's to the 1920's, the major years of heavy Jewish involvement. It includes photographs, posters and publications and was assembled by Alan Teller, a historical photographer who was one of the speakers at our June meeting.



The less familiar: Maxwell Street as a residential area for Eastern European Jews. Photo courtesy of Chicago Historical Society and Irving Cutler.



The more familiar: Maxwell Street market in the early years of the century. Photo courtesy of Chicago Historical Society and Irving Cutler.

The other, larger display is of more than 200 photographs of Maxwell Street taken from 1930 to the present by professional photographers Nathan Lerner and Jerome Newbery. These photos, documenting the depression years and the years of great change which followed them, were assembled by the historical society's curator of graphics, Larry Viskochil, who organized both exhibits.

Ira Berkow To Speak on October 23

Among the programs scheduled during the exhibit will be one featuring a lecture by Ira Berkow, author of the popular book Maxwell Street and columnist for the New York Times. Mr. Berkow's talk, titled "The World of Maxwell Street," is scheduled for the Historical Society auditorium at 2 pm on October 23.

Other programs scheduled for 2 pm in the auditorium involve two relatively recent films on the peddlers and people of the neighborhood (Sunday, September 25); a slide-lecture by Alan Teller on photographing street life (Sunday, October 9); and a slide-lecture by Mary Ann Johnson of Hull House on the cultural history of the Maxwell Street area (Sunday, November 6). Mr. Viskochil will give a gallery talk on the Lerner-Newbery photos on Sunday, November 12, at 1:30 pm.

Admission to the historical society building, which includes entry to all exhibits and any program offered on the day of admission, is \$1.00 per regular adult, \$.25 for senior citizens and \$.50 for children. Members of the Chicago Historical Society are admitted free at all times.

THE SAGA OF JEWISH BOXERS IN CHICAGO: AN INTERLUDE IN THE AMERICANIZATION OF EASTERN EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS

Success of Barney Ross and Others Was Source of Great Local Pride

By Steven A. Riess

The American image of the Eastern European Jew was that of a weak, timid, cowardly and unhealthy race of people. The immigrant males did not hold "manly" jobs but were concentrated in sedentary occupations like merchandising or tailoring. Their sons were also regarded as singularly unfit, having grown up in crowded slum districts where there was little fresh air and limited space to play. These Jews did not come to Chicago with a sporting tradition which reflected the pre-modern world which they had left, where sports were mainly the preserve of the elite.

The immigrant generation discouraged their children's interest in American sports because they wanted to protect them from the bad influences of the host society. Boys like Eddie Cantor who were baseball fans had to sneak out in order to play. When Yekl the tailor, the protagonist in an Abraham Cahan short story, exhibited an interest in baseball and boxing, his peers ridiculed him for trying to become a "Yankee."

Physical Training Begun for Health Reasons

This stereotyped perspective was accepted by the German Jews although they themselves were active in athletics, particularly as members of the local Turnverein. After the turn of the century, German Jews organized the Chicago Hebrew Institute (later the Jewish People's Institute) in the West Side ghetto to serve as a settlement house and community center. Its goal was to acculturate newcomers without destroying their religious and ethnic heritage. One of its most important activities was physical training to promote sound health among ghetto youth.

Dr. Riess, an associate professor of history at Northeastern Illinois University, would welcome hearing from anyone connected with prizefighting in Chicago for another article on the topic scheduled for publication in American Jewish History.

The sport which fit in best with the ghetto experience was boxing. Unlike baseball, which required a lot of open space, hardly available in the West Side, boxing could be learned in small gyms which were open day and night. Boxing was also a very useful skill for youths who daily encountered Polish, Irish or Italian toughs in school, on the street or in the park and needed to be able to defend themselves. One of the major functions of Jewish youth gangs was to protect their friends, peddlers and junk dealers from racial slurs and physical beatings, and figures like Nails Morton and the Miller brothers became community heroes for defending their people.

English Jew First Succeeds as Boxer

Chicago's first prominent Jewish fighter was bantamweight Harry Harris, who weighed about 100 pounds. Harris and his twin brother began fighting at stags and other similar affairs in 1897 when they were seventeen. They were English Jews, and there was a prominent history of Jewish fighters in England dating back to Daniel Mendoza, the English champion in 1795. Harris learned his craft from the great middleweight Kid McCoy and toured with him for two years. In 1901 Harris went to England where he dethroned the incumbent champion Peddlar Palmer in an upset. Harris became the first Jewish-American fighter to hold a world's title. In his career, Harris had about sixty bouts, and lost just two. After he retired, Harris became a successful businessman in the theater and later as a curb market broker in New York.

American Jews were very prominent in boxing in the 1910s and 1920s. Jewish youths admired heroes like Abe Attell, a Russian Jew from San Francisco who was world champion in the featherweight division. These men earned a lot of money, associated with famous people, and were adored by beautiful women. Poor Jewish boys who were uneducated, unskilled, and had no useful connections saw prizefighting as a potential source of social mobility and prestige. As a result, there were three Jewish champions in the 1910s, equal to the number of Irish and Germans. In the 1920s there were seven, putting Jews third behind the Irish and

Italians.

West Side Boxers Emerge in the Twenties

Chicago did not produce its share of Jewish fighters until the late 1920s. One contributing factor was that professional boxing was not permitted in Chicago from 1904 until 1925, which meant fewer opportunities for local boys to make good. However, by the mid-1920s, the West Side was becoming an important source of pugilists like Ray Miller, at one time the sixth-ranking lightweight in the world.

Even more successful was Jacob Finkelshtein (born 1908), who was not a poor boy. His father had a butchering business which supplied meat to over one hundred restaurants. Jake grew up on Maxwell Street and often got into fights: "In that neighborhood you had to be tough. A kid that couldn't take it--you'd call him a sissy." He and his friends often had to fight their way at the local swimming pool in order to get into the water. They would be greeted by the fighting words, "What are you doin' here, you Jew bastard?" By age eleven he was a chronic truant who would watch pros work out at a downtown gym and learn from them the tricks of the craft. His idol was Benny Leonard, the Jewish lightweight champion from New York.

The family moved to Los Angeles in 1921 due to his father's ill health. Jake continued boxing and decided to give himself a new name because people in the West did not think Jews were tough. He renamed himself Jackie Fields, after the department store. Fields became an outstanding amateur boxer, and in 1924 won the Olympic championship in the featherweight class. He turned professional a year later after the death of his father. Fields boxed his way to the welterweight championship in 1929. He was dethroned in 1930, but came back to regain the crown in 1932, and held it for another year. During his boxing career he grossed over \$500,000, but was wiped out by the Depression. He periodically returned to Chicago where he was a great hero, especially along Maxwell Street.

Heyday of Chicago Jewish Boxers

In the 1930s there were eight Jewish champions, second in number only to the Italians, and the decade was the heyday of Jewish pugilists in Chicago. There were



Barney Ross: Success Story and Tragedy

probably a half dozen contenders in the city, including Joey Medill, who once won forty-eight straight fights; Davey Day, who lost a close decision to Sammy Angott for the lightweight championship; and Kingfish Levinsky, a heavyweight contender, who fought such former champions as Primo Carnera and Max Baer and was defeated by Joe Louis before the Brown Bomber won the title. Local matches between a West Side Jew and an Italian fighter would draw capacity crowds to such arenas as Mills Stadium and the Chicago Stadium.

Barney Ross--the Tragic Hero

The most important Chicago fighter at this time was Barney Ross (born Barnet David Rasofsky). Ross's life was the stuff from which grade B movies were made. His parents were Russian immigrants who first settled in New York, where his father sold groceries from a pushcart. Barney was born in 1909, and two years later the family moved to Chicago, where they ran a general store in the Maxwell Street area. Barney was not the best behaved boy and got into many scrapes. His Orthodox father tried to discourage his interest in fighting and promote education instead. He told his son, "Let the atheists be the fighters, the trumboniks the murderers. We are the scholars." In 1924 hoodlums came into the store and killed his father.

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CHICAGOANS PLAYED INSTRUMENTAL PART IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HILLEL FOUNDATIONS ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

An International Movement Began Under Local Leadership in 1923

By Benjamin M. Kahn

Six decades in the perspective of 4,000 years of Jewish history seem but a fleeting moment in time. Yet in 60 years the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations have grown from a mere vision in 1923 to an international movement on over 400 campuses in 13 countries of the world, from a budget of a few thousand dollars to one of over \$12 million.

How and why did this phenomenon occur? For several reasons: the astronomical increase in the numbers of Jewish students on the campus; the general acceptance of the Jewish experience by both the non-Jewish and the Jewish communities; the felicitous circumstances of B'nai B'rith's adoption of the Hillel program; and the right community leadership.

In all these the Chicago Jewish community has played a significant part. It is time to tell the story of its important role, particularly in Hillel's beginnings.

Originated at University of Illinois

American B'nai B'rith, in 1923 as it is now, was divided into districts, and Chicago was the center of District 6. Chicago was also then, as it is now, the major Jewish community in the midwest, with distinguished Jewish personalities at its helm and by its side.

In 1923 there were 300 Jewish students at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Although statistics on their home towns are not available, it can be assumed, on the basis of later knowledge, that at least half came from Chicago. There was a modicum of Jewish activity on the campus: a small Menorah group existed, with occasional lectures, and a small Zionist group. The bulk of Jewish students had few Jewish contacts and little basic knowledge of Judaism. Sinai Temple, the only congregation in the community, was served on a bi-weekly basis by Benjamin Frankel, then a student at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. When he was ordained in June of 1923, he decided to continue as rabbi of the congregation on a half-time basis, so long as he could function

also as rabbi for the students--the seeds for a Hillel Foundation.

The groundwork had been laid earlier by three men of Champaign: Isaac Kuhn, a local businessman deeply devoted to the students; Simon Litman, the outstanding Jewish professor at the University; and Edward Chauncey Baldwin, professor of literature, a Congregationalist, teacher of Bible. The three had for some years tried to interest others in support of programs for the students. They made contact in person and by letter with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, with Benjamin Samuels of B'nai B'rith in Chicago, and with Julius Rosenwald. Baldwin, in April of 1923, appeared before the Chicago Board of Rabbis to plead for their support for Jewish student activity at Illinois.

Rabbi Mann Secures the First Funds

It was Ben Frankel, however, who turned the tide in 1923. When his appeal to the UAHC to take over the newly-named Hillel Foundation failed, he went to Rabbi Louis L. Mann, who had just come to Chicago to serve as the rabbi of Chicago Sinai Congregation. Rabbi Mann invited a dozen men to luncheon at the Covenant Club, ten of whom were members of Sinai. They included A. G. Becker, Samuel Deutsch, a Mr. Greenebaum, Julius Rosenwald, Charles Shaffner, Harry Stern and Leo Strauss. Before the luncheon was over, \$10,000 was raised for the Hillel Foundation's first year.

Rabbi Mann next arranged, through his father-in-law, Alfred M. Cohen of Ohio, to meet Adolph Kraus of Chicago, president of the "Independent Order of B'nai B'rith." (Cohen succeeded Kraus as president.) The executive committee of B'nai B'rith was to meet at the Standard Club on April 28, 1924, and Frankel was invited to address the group, which included Chicago's Leon L. Lewis, secretary, and Benjamin Samuels, representing District 6. Sigmund Livingston of Bloomington, already the head of the new Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, also attended.

B'nai B'rith Takes Over in 1924

Frankel's address so stirred the committee that it accepted sponsorship of the Hillel Foundation, contingent upon available funds to be determined by the B'nai

Dr. Louis L. Mann, then the newly-installed rabbi at Chicago Sinai Congregation, invited twelve men to lunch and raised the initial \$10,000 for the first Hillel Foundation. More than any other Chicagoan, he was instrumental in the development of the movement.



B'rith finance committee. The finance committee reported favorably and recommended a first-year allocation of \$25,000, to include money for a second foundation at the University of Wisconsin. Hillel was off and running.

Henry Monsky, of Omaha, reported the action of the Executive Committee to the District 6 Convention (May 28 to June 1, 1924) and was heard by the 49 accredited delegates from the three Chicago lodges: Ramah, Adolph Kraus and David Fish. Mr. Kraus then established a B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Commission, which met on June 19, 1924, at the Covenant Club. Kraus became chairman; Rabbi Mann, vice chairman; Leon Lewis, secretary. The membership included Chicagoans James Becker, Judge Harry M. Fisher, Julius H. Meyer, Israel Shrimski, as well as Isaac Kuhn, Sigmund Livingston and Frankel.

New Foundations Follow Quickly

Within three years new Foundations were established at Ohio State and the University of Michigan, and applications for units were coming in from all over the country.

When Rabbi Frankel died in 1927 at the young age of 30, he was succeeded as Hillel director at the University of Illinois by Dr. Abram Leon Sachar. When Rabbi Mann, who served as acting national director from 1928 to 1933, resigned that part-time volunteer post, Dr. Sachar became Hillel's national director.

Chicago Continued to Provide Leadership

The City of Chicago continued as the nerve center of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations. For some time it was the location

of the National Hillel office. Rabbi Solomon Goldman of Anshe Emet Synagogue; Dr. Philip Seman, director of the Jewish People's Institute; and Rabbi Man were the Hillel Commission's personnel committee for many years.

Foundations were established at Northwestern University (1933) and the University of Chicago (1939), where the legendary Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky held sway from 1939 until his death in 1962. The Chicago Circle foundation was founded in 1965. One of the Hillel Commission's outstanding chairmen from 1963 until 1969 was the distinguished Dr. Louis Gottschalk, professor of history at the University of Chicago.

Other Local Campuses Benefit

Most recently, the local B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and the College Age Youth Service (CAYS) of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago merged, making possible service to an additional dozen campuses.

For the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, Chicago has indeed been a "wonderful town." Sixty years ago it helped give birth to Hillel. It has since nourished it and given it care and love. It will surely continue doing so in the critical times and challenges we now face.

Rabbi Kahn, himself a major figure in the Hillel Foundations' history, has served Hillel over thirty years, including twelve years as international director of the movement. He later served as B'nai B'rith executive vice-president. Currently Jewish Studies director at The American University in Washington, Rabbi Kahn is no stranger to Chicago. He served as an assistant rabbi at Anshe Emet in the late Thirties. He is now at work on a history of the Hillel Foundations.



The first graduating class of the Sholem Aleichem Schools in Chicago (1930). In the center are the guest speaker, Dr. Chaim Zhitlowsky (left), and the school director, Dr. Israel Chaim Pomerance, father of Clare Greenberg, author of this article.

THE SOHEM ALEICHEM SCHOOLS OF CHICAGO, A VENTURE IN NON-POLITICAL, SECULAR YIDDISH EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Schools' History Parallels Course of Local Yiddish Culture

By Clare Greenberg

Yiddish no longer enjoys the widespread popularity it once did. Things were quite different, however, in the Chicago of sixty years ago when tens of thousands of local Jews spoke it fluently, national Jewish dailies competed for readers, and Yiddish theater and literature flourished.

Riding this crest of popularity were a group of local Jewish educators and others committed to Yiddish culture. In an effort to pass on the torch to the younger generation for whom English was becoming the mother tongue, they created the first Sholem Aleichem School in Chicago in the Spring of 1925. It was of course named in honor of the famed Yiddish writer of the early years of the century.

School Promotes Yiddish Culture

The school was sponsored by the Sholem Aleichem Folk Institute, the Chicago branch of a national movement. Founded in the 1920's, the national organization had as its purpose the establishment and maintenance of Yiddish, non-political, secular schools and the promotion of Yiddish culture and literature. The first school was located at 1140 North Kedzie Avenue. Several months later a second school was started at 2444 West

Division Street. It later moved to 1214 North Washtenaw Avenue and became the headquarters for the Sholem Aleichim Folk Institute as well as the school. A third school was started in the Lawndale area, and later a Mitlshul (high school) was also established.

In 1930 there were approximately 200 students attending these schools. The language of instruction for all subjects was Yiddish. Subjects taught included Jewish history, Jewish literature, Yiddish language, some Hebrew, and music and art as well. (Todros Geller, the well-known Chicago artist, was the art instructor.) Holidays were celebrated with special programs prepared and presented by the children. Classes were originally held four afternoons a week and on Sundays.

First Class Graduated in 1930

The occasion marked by the above photo was the graduation of the first class of sixteen students in May of 1930. The guest speaker at this event, shown seated in the second row, third from the left, was Dr.

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Editor's Note: If readers can identify any of the graduates, most of whom would now be in their sixties, please pass this information on to the editor of Society News for placement in the Chicago Jewish Archives.

MEMBERS LEARN HOW TO PRESERVE OLD PHOTOGRAPHS AT JUNE MEETING

Speakers Dispel Commonly Held Ideas, Give Practical Advice

Many widely-held beliefs about how to preserve treasured old photos were declared to be wrong by three experts who addressed the June 5 meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Indeed, after the meeting as members and their guests left Bederman Hall at Spertus College, the most commonly heard remark was, "I've been doing everything wrong." The next most common remark was, "Who ever expected this program to be so interesting?"

Ira Berlin, archivist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital; Alan Teller, photographer and partner in The Collected Image; and Maureen Will, a graphics curator at the Chicago Historical Society, spoke on the value of old photographs, how to get the most from looking at them, and how to preserve them to insure their survival. The panel was moderated by Richard Marcus, administrator of the Chicago Jewish Archives.

Old Photos Are Clues to Bygone Times

Ms. Will likened old photos to potsherds--bits of ancient pottery which serve as clues to civilizations of days gone by--and reminded her audience that very ordinary, "boring" photos of today will be interesting, significant and informative to persons in the future trying to understand the past. She showed slides of very routine Chicago activities of years gone by and demonstrated their value to today's audience.

Mr. Teller discussed how old photos affect the viewers, causing them to think, to trigger their memories and to respond emotionally. Photos provide insight and reveal the personalities both of the photographer and of the viewers. He also instructed the audience how to study photos in order to learn as much as possible from them.

Kinds of Photos Needed

Mr. Berlin enumerated the need for preserving photos of synagogues, businesses, institutions and organizational gatherings as well as groups of people and suggested that the expense involved in photos donated

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DO'S AND DON'TS WHEN PRESERVING THE FAMILY'S PHOTO COLLECTION

When mounting and storing family pictures, whether old or new, so that they will be preserved for future generations, many of us do exactly the wrong things, according to Alan Teller, who spoke at the June meeting of the Society. Listed below for the benefit of members who were not present are some do's and don'ts we can all follow.

What To Do

\$Mount photos with old-fashioned slip-in photo corners or with linen tape.

\$Mount photos on pages made of rag-content paper instead of sulphite paper.

\$Use pages of rag paper to separate pictures which would otherwise face each other.

\$Identify all photos in full (time, place, occasion, who).

\$Write on backs of photos only with soft pencil.

\$Remember that black-and-white photos outlast color prints. For important photos have a black-and-white print made from a color negative.

What Not To Do

\$DON'T use glue, rubber cement or scotch tape to mount photos. All of these destroy photos within twenty years or so.

\$DON'T mount photos on pages made of paper with acidic content (this includes most ordinary sulphite paper, cardboard or that heavy black or gray paper in many albums).

\$DON'T mount photos between layers of vinyl plastic. The plastic eventually destroys the photos.

\$DON'T write on backs of photos in ink or magic marker.

\$DON'T store photos in cardboard boxes, wooden boxes or plastic containers.

\$DON'T expose photos to unnecessary sunlight.

HELP AVAILABLE TO PINPOINT LOCATION OF EUROPEAN TOWNS, SHTETLS

Many Jewish individuals interested in searching out their family roots have been impeded by the difficulty of locating accurately their families' Eastern European towns or villages. Few current available maps indicate them--especially the shtetls or all-Jewish villages--and many have changed names in this century. Thanks to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, however, assistance is now available.

The Society's map specialist, Freya Maslov, has a vast collection of Eastern European maps, some dating to 1790. If you would like a detailed map with your village highlighted, send the following information:

1. The phonetic spelling of the village name and the various ways it might have been spelled.
2. The approximate area to be searched, listing the province or guberniya (district).
3. The names of other towns near your village.

Print all information and include a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope and \$2.50 for each village you wish to locate. Make checks payable to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and mail to:

Map Department, JGSI
Mrs. Freya Maslov
5819 West Keeney Street
Morton Grove, IL 60053

If your village or town cannot be located, your check will be returned.

June Meeting Report

[Continued from Page 9]

to the CJHS for archive purposes can be tax-deductible. He also stressed the flammability of old negatives and the importance of indexing photographs in collections.

The most interesting and useful information mentioned at the meeting, however, dealt with what to do and what not to do when collecting, mounting and preserving photos for family or organization use. Many valuable suggestions made by the speakers have been assembled and are printed elsewhere in this issue of Society News.

A display of old family photos and other memorabilia brought to the meeting by Society members was an additional highlight.

CJHS FOUNDER BRANDZEL ON THE MEND AFTER HEART SURGERY

The past months have been busy and hectic for Sol Brandzel, a CJHS founder and board member. First he was elected president of the Chicago Board of Education, which he ad served as a member since 1980; then, during the summer, he underwent coronary bypass surgery.

We're happy to report that the surgery, which was elective rather than emergency in nature, has been a complete success and that Sol anticipates resuming his full calendar of activities as a civic leader, a major figure in the Jewish community, and an elder statesman in the American labor movement.

Stay well, Sol. We all need you.

I.J.S.

Sholem Aleichem Schools

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Chaim Zhitlowsky (1865-1943), a philosopher and leader of the Yiddish Culture Movement and theoretician of the Jewish Socialist Movement.

Seated on Dr. Zhitlowsky's left in the photo is Israel Chaim Pomerantz (1905-1962), director and teacher of the Chicago Sholem Aleichem Schools for many years. A leader in the field of Yiddish culture and education, he established many innovations in Jewish pedagogic methods. He was the first person in the United States to receive a doctorate (from Yeshivah University) for a dissertation written in Yiddish in 1954. While serving as executive director of West Suburban Temple Har Zion in River Forest, he initiated a series of classes on Jewish subjects at Roosevelt University and in 1960 was appointed Associate Professor of Jewish Studies there.

An Era Ends

To commemorate the first graduation there also appeared a collection of graduation essays entitled "Sixteen" and printed experimentally exactly as written in Yiddish by the students.

As the years went by, decreased immigration and the increasing Americanization of American Jews took their toll on Yiddish institutions nationwide. The last Sholem Aleichem School in Chicago merged with the Workmen's Circle School before ultimately closing its doors.

Local Jewish Boxers

[Continued from Page 5]

Barney was badly shook up by this tragedy, quit school and the synagogue, and became an active participant in gang fights. He tried to get in with local gangsters and eventually was hired by Al Capone to do odd jobs.

As a teenager, Barney and his friends were enormously proud of the fistic accomplishments of Jackie Fields, who had been from their neighborhood, and they began training at gymnasiums like the Marcy Center. Barney became an excellent amateur boxer and changed his name so his mother would not know what he was doing. When she found out, she called Barney a bum who was shaming his father's name.

Good Years and Bad Years

Barney's fame in the ring made him a local hero, and all his neighborhood pals came to see his amateur bout. The crowds often included famous gangsters like Capone, who one night bought out the entire gym. Ross's amateur career climaxed with his victory in the Golden Gloves in 1929. He then turned professional. Three years later, on June 21, 1932, a crowd of 13,000 at the Stadium saw him defeat Tony Canzoneri for the lightweight and junior middleweight titles. He became a great hero in Chicago, and an even greater hero in the ghetto, where youngsters would follow him in the streets. Two years later he fought middleweight champion Jimmy McLarnin in New York before 60,000. McLarnin was renowned for his defenses against Jewish challengers, but Ross defeated him in a fifteen-round decision. He was the first man to simultaneously hold two major divisional titles. Ross had to vacate the lightweight title because he could not meet the weight, but he held on to the middleweight crown until May 31, 1938, when the great Henry Armstrong decided

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Summer Tour visits the old Ohave Sholom (Mariampoler) congregation building on the near West Side. Photo by Marian Cutler.

Tour Season Ends

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"Hundreds and hundreds of our members and their friends have had enlightening and enjoyable experiences on our annual summer tours," said CJHS President Rachel Heimovics. "We are greatly indebted to Leah for her imaginative and energetic leadership of this project, and we look forward to her plans for next year."

Ms. Axelrod invites suggestions for 1984 tours. She can be reached at 2100 Linden, Highland Park 60035 or at 432-7003.

him in Barney's seventy-ninth and last fight.

Ross's retirement years were filled with great pathos. He had squandered nearly all of his \$500,000 in earnings at the race-track. He was a war hero on the Pacific Front, getting wounded and winning a Silver Star. But while in the hospital recuperating, he developed an addiction to his medication which continued after his discharge. In 1948 his life story was portrayed by John Garfield in "Body and Soul," one of the finest boxing movies ever made. The producers refused to pay Ross anything, ostensibly claiming that the story was fiction. But the real reason was his addiction and the adverse publicity that it had generated.

The Jews Leave the Ring

After World War II, there were still a large number of Jewish trainers, managers and promoters, but very few Jewish fighters. Even the poorest Jewish youths no longer had to rely on their fists to get ahead. Jews were replaced by Blacks and Latins, and those impoverished groups became the new sources of Chicago's prizefighters.