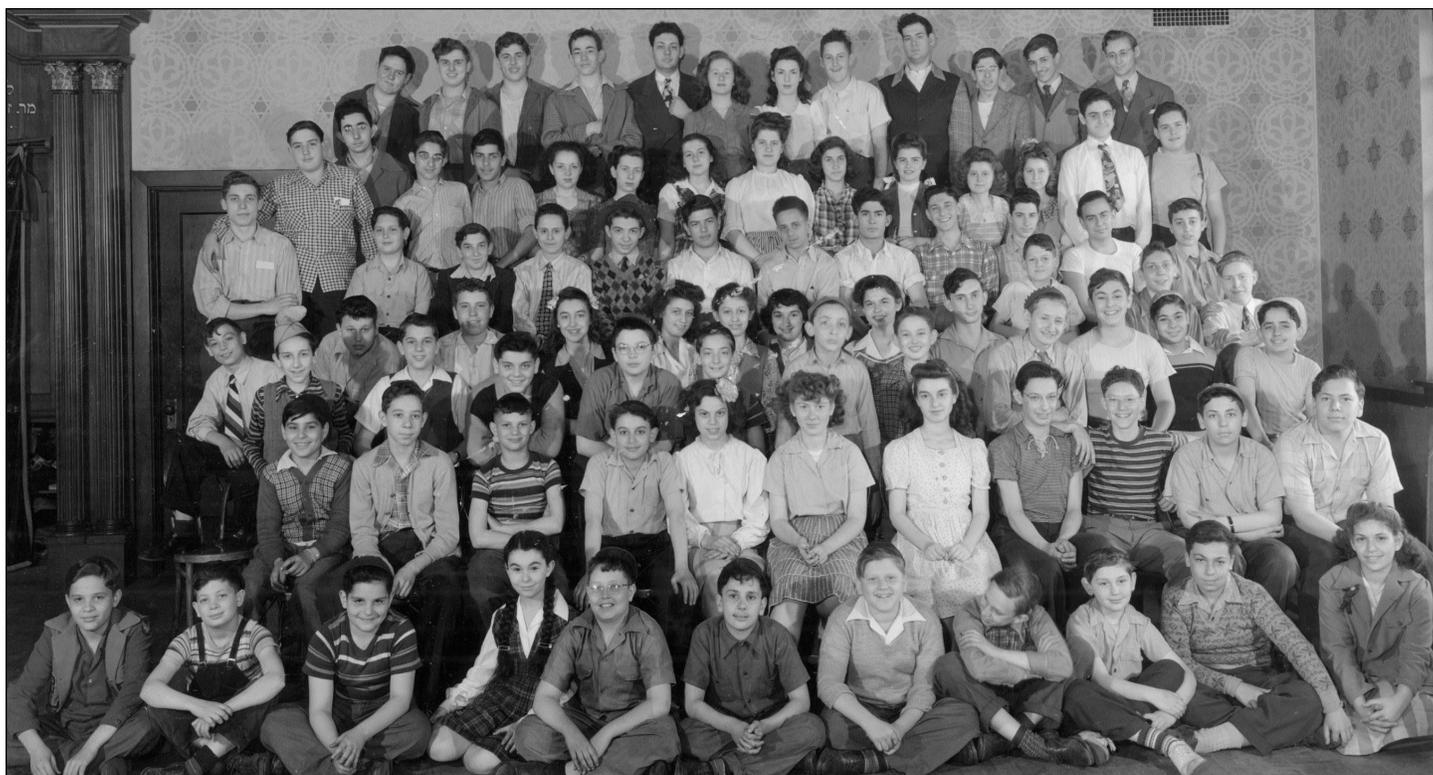




chicago jewish historical society

chicago jewish history



Chicago Jewish Academy Students, 1946-47. Chicago Jewish Archives.

Save the Date! Sunday, March 10: Society Program on History of Ida Crown Jewish Academy

The next CJHS Open Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2002, at Ida Crown Jewish Academy, 2828 West Pratt Avenue, Chicago. The program will start at 2:00 p.m. after a social hour with refreshments at 1:00 p.m. Docents will lead tours of the building during the social hour.

ICJA is a high school that provides both a secular and Jewish education to about 400 students. It was founded sixty years ago (as the Chicago Jewish Academy) on the city's West Side, and has been a vital presence in the Chicago Jewish community ever since. Three distinguished Academy alumni will review the school's history: Rabbi Bernard Neuman, Rabbi Harvey A. Well, and Rabbi Leonard A. Matanky, presently ICJA's dean.

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Women and Roosevelt
High Mini-Reunion**

President's Column



Walter Roth

"1001 AFTERNOONS IN CHICAGO," A PLAY ADAPTED FROM THE LIFE AND NEWSPAPER COLUMNS OF BEN HECHT by Paul Peditto, was performed in November-December, 2001, by the Prop Theatre Group at the Storefront Theater, 66 East Randolph Street. The 99-seat Storefront is one of the new additions to Chicago's lively downtown Theater District.

When the play begins, Hecht is a 27-year-old genius—a whirlwind reporter for the *Chicago Daily News*, who can develop a simple story into a heartbreaking tragedy or a sardonic comedy. It is June, 1921, and his editor, Sherman Duffy, assigns Hecht to write a daily column for the paper, under the heading "1001 Afternoons in Chicago." (The column would continue until October of 1922, appearing in a featured position on the back page.) Playwright Paul Peditto's dramatizations capture the colorful, corrupt Chicago that young Hecht saw and described.

Sherwood Anderson, an older writer who has already achieved fame, is depicted as Ben's sometime mentor; but his cynical and often untrustworthy advice is shown to irritate his young friend, though Hecht could hold his own when it came to cynicism.

One scene finds Hecht and Anderson in a tavern. A waiter comes over to tell them that a stranger, Sam Sklarz, sitting alone in a corner, has offered to buy drinks for everyone in the place. Hecht is intrigued, and asks Sam to join them. Sklarz says that he is a businessman, things are looking up, and he has \$700 he wants to spend on his friends to celebrate the turn of events. Hecht and Anderson think it peculiar but join in the free drinks. Sam leaves happily. The next morning, Anderson phones Hecht to tell him of a news item he has read: Sam's body has been found in a drainage canal. He committed suicide, leaving a note saying that his business was bankrupt and that he could not go on living. The story is typical Hecht, with goodness mixed with tragedy.

The play deals movingly with Hecht's relationship with a young woman whom he helps to climb out of poverty. He falls in love with her, intends to marry her, only to be told by Anderson that his love had been a "whore." Hecht breaks off the relationship with her, and his friendship with Anderson is over, as well. This story of Hecht's youthful disillusion is adapted from his autobiography, *A Child of the Century* (Simon and Schuster, 1954).

In another scene, the circus knife thrower, the Great Salvini, complains to Hecht about his young wife. She had been beautiful and slender—a perfect partner in his act, in which he threw knives around her figure as she stood against a wall. But lately she had grown fat and unhappy, always crying. Salvini can't understand her, nor can he aim his knives accurately. One day he throws a knife that pierces her arm, drawing blood. He is distraught, telling Hecht that

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chicago jewish historical society

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Chicago Jewish History

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Corrections and Clarifications

■ Books by CJHS Authors: the list published in our year-end 2001 issue omitted **BRIDGES TO AN AMERICAN CITY: A Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften, 1870 to 1990**, by Sidney Sorkin (1993), *Peter Lang Publishing, 480 pages, \$68.95*. This book is a thorough study of the hundreds of service organizations, named after their old world origins, that were a significant part of the immigrant experience.

■ In the article about the George Washington-Robert Morris-Haym Salomon Memorial Monument, the first name of Allen Dropkin was misspelled. Also, the monument is not currently standing in Heald Square. It has been put in storage until completion of the Wacker Drive reconstruction project.

■ In the report on our 2001 summer tours, the last name of Rabbi Ira Youdovin was misspelled.

■ In our inquiry into reader interest in reprinting *History of the Jews of Chicago* by H.L. Meites, the first name of the author's grandson, Jerome Meites, was misstated.

CJH regrets the errors.

CJHS Open Meeting *continued from page 1*

Admission is free and open to the public. Members and friends are urged to attend. The Academy has a large parking lot. Public transportation is available, but please note that the CTA #93 North California bus does not run on Sundays, so some walking is required.

From north side lakefront neighborhoods, take the CTA #36 Broadway bus northbound to Devon & Sheridan/Broadway (6400 N), transfer to the #155 Devon bus westbound to California Avenue (2800 W) and walk 1/2 mile north to Pratt Avenue (6800 N).

From the northern suburbs, take the #290 PACE bus to Touhy (7200 N) and California and walk 1/2 mile south to Pratt. For schedules, call the RTA Travel Information Center (312) 836-7000.



Ida Crown Jewish Academy; Architect's Drawing.
Chicago Jewish Archives.

Maxwell Street: A Living Memory Premieres to Packed House

It required two showings to accommodate the crowd that came to the Chicago Historical Society auditorium on January 27 to view the premiere of the Maxwell Street documentary by Shuli Eshel.

Ms. Eshel is a sixth-generation Israeli who has resided in Chicago for just over a decade, yet she created a "living memory" of a place she never knew—by filming the sons and daughters of the Street's resourceful Jewish entrepreneurs reminiscing about the past; by using footage from previous films and vintage photos; and by enlisting Dr. Irving Cutler as narrator.

Elliot Zashin of the Maxwell Street Historic Preservation Coalition initiated the project with a grant from the Illinois Arts Council. Generous funding came

from the Maxwell Street interviewees.

The next two scheduled public screenings are:

Sunday, March 17 at Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive. Kosher hot dogs—Maxwell Street style—will be served at 12:30 p.m. The video will be shown at 1:00 p.m., followed by a discussion with Shuli Eshel and Elliot Zashin.

Sunday, May 19 at Spertus Institute, 618 South Michigan Avenue. (Time to be announced.) Irving Cutler and Steve Riess will make introductory remarks. Shuli Eshel will join them for Q & A afterward.

The VHS video can be purchased directly from Eshel Productions, 3600 North Lake Shore Drive #1205, Chicago, IL 60613. Send check for \$34.95 (\$29.95 + 5.00 s/h). The video will also be available at the Chicago Historical Society Store, 1601 North Clark Street, and the Bariff Shop at Spertus.



Left: Many old friends stopped by Nate's Deli before the final day. Jerry Portnoy (left), harmonica player with Eric Clapton's band, returned to Maxwell Street where his father previously had a carpet shop. (Photo by Carolyn Eastwood)

Below: Portnoy Carpets, owned by Jerry Portnoy's father at 958 Maxwell Street, disappeared with the building of the Dan Ryan Expressway. (Photo courtesy of Phillip Albert)

**Spring 2002 Publication Date
for Book by Carolyn Eastwood**

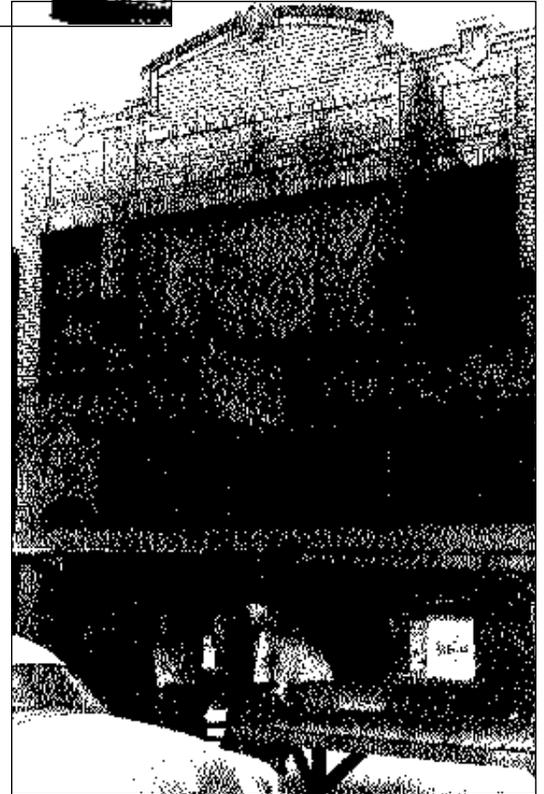
Near West Side Stories: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood

Through the oral histories of four extraordinary "ordinary" people: Harold Fox, Florence Scala, Nate Duncan, and Hilda Portillo (one Jewish, one Italian, one African-American, and one Mexican), we learn of the catastrophic effect of urban renewal in altering the nature of the neighborhood. These and other concerned citizens fought an impossible battle against the interests and influence of City Hall, the University of Illinois, the Chicago Roman Catholic Archdiocese and real estate developers.

Carolyn Eastwood is an adjunct professor of anthropology at the College of DuPage and a member of the adjunct faculty in the Sociology Department at Roosevelt University. Dr. Eastwood is recording secretary of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. She became associated with CJHS when she was awarded the Society's first Doris Minsky Memorial Prize in 1991 for her study, *Chicago's Jewish Street Peddlers*.

One of the heroes of her new book, Hal Fox, was the subject of a profile she published in *Chicago Jewish History* (Winter, 1994). Now you have an opportunity to read more about about this flamboyant clothing designer (he created the zoot suit), leader of the Jimmy Dale band, and all-around colorful character.

Florence Scala is still widely remembered for the fight she led against Mayor Richard J. Daley and his plans for the neighborhood. Nate Duncan (see picture)



worked in a Maxwell Street Jewish deli, which he later bought. It flourished as a cross-cultural meeting place for the neighborhood. Hilda Portillo fought to save St. Francis of Assisi church from demolition. St. Francis had become her "home" since she came to Chicago from Mexico as a teenager.

The publisher is offering autographed copies of *Near West Side Stories* to our readers at the special pre-publication price of \$16.00 (tax and shipping included). Lake Claremont Press, 4650 North Rockwell Street, Chicago, IL 60625. (773) 583-7800. ❖

Chicago Jewish Archives and Asher Library

Variations on a Theme: Chicago Jewish Music in the Twentieth Century and Beyond

The photograph below is one of the items now on display in an exhibition assembled from the collections of the Asher Library and the Chicago Jewish Archives. Included are original musical scores, sheet music, posters, programs, record albums and compact discs, covering a range of Jewish music and musicians in Chicago from cantorial to klezmer. Selections of recorded music are piped into the gallery.

The show continues until June 30, 2002, in the Sixth Floor Exhibition Gallery, Spertus Institute, 618 South Michigan Avenue. Hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.; closed Saturday; Sunday by appointment.

CJHS Romance Video to Air on Cable TV April 14 & 15

The Romance of A People will be aired on the Jewish Film Showcase. Based in Chicago, the Showcase is produced by the Jewish Broadcasting Network in association with the Jewish Education Leadership Institute. The Showcase airs on AT&T cable, on different channels in different communities. Below is a channel guide and schedule:

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 via AT&T cable

Community	Channel	Time
CHICAGO	26 or 53	7:30 p.m.
Highland Park	71	7:30 p.m.
Northbrook	3 / 96	1:00 / 7:30 p.m.
Skokie	3 / 96	1:00 / 7:30 p.m.
Wilmette	3	1:00 p.m.

For other suburbs' channels/times contact JBN: (312) 332-4172 or www.jewishbroadcast.org.

MONDAY, APRIL 15 via ALL cable services

CHICAGO ONLY	25	3:00 p.m.
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Halevy (sic) Musical Club 1926. Chicago Jewish Archives; Halevi Choral Society Collection.

Salzenstein's Store: Abraham Lincoln Shopped Here

We appreciate reader response to articles in *CJH*; just about every letter or e-mail offers something that enriches our publication—further information, correction or clarification about a subject we have covered, or an idea for a future article. Last February we received this letter from Society member Robert S. Frisch of Morton Grove:

"I found the article, *Living Waters...A Tour of Jewish History in North Central Illinois* [Year-End 2000], of great interest, particularly since ancestors of mine were early pioneers in downstate Illinois, particularly in the Springfield area.

"My great, great uncle, Louis Salzenstein, was born in Halsdorf, Hessen, Germany in the early part of the

19th century. As you can see in the enclosed reprint from a history of the village of Athens, Illinois, he came to this country and settled in Baltimore, Maryland, and came to Athens around 1831. Two brothers came with him, one settling in Pleasant Plains and the other in Salisbury, Illinois. Each founded a branch of the family.

Louis brought all of his nieces and nephews (six in all) from Germany, most of whom settled in Athens (which is about 12 miles from Springfield), and founded a branch of the family.

Another brother, Solomon Salzenstein, remained in Germany, and passed away in 1864. At the end of the Civil War, Louis brought Solomon's widow, Henrietta Wertheim Salzenstein, and her daughter, Sophie, to Athens. (Sophie was my grandmother. She married Isaac M. Frisch in 1876.)

"The home that Louis built still stands on the main street of Athens (with a population of about 700 in the 1800s—now about 1,000). The "Long Nine Dinner" was held in that building: It was a dinner attended by nine state legislators on their way to Springfield after the state capital had been moved from Vandalia. A museum was established in the home some years ago, but it failed, as there weren't enough sightseers passing through Athens. They primarily go to New Salem."

Here we will insert historian David Herbert Donald's explanation of the origin of the nickname "Long Nine," taken from his Pulitzer Prize-winning biography, *Lincoln* (Jonathan Cape, 1995):

"The Sangamon delegation in the 1836-37 session of the legislature became known as the "Long Nine," because the two senators and the seven representatives were all unusually tall in an age when six-foot men were rare; some, like Lincoln, were veritable giants. Their collective height, it was said, totaled fifty-four feet. But they were distinguished even more by their enthusiastic support of two objectives: promotion of Springfield, and state support for internal improvements. The delegation looked to Lincoln, now an experienced legislator though the next-to-youngest member of the group, as their floor leader."

ILLINOIS

By thy rivers gently flowing, Illinois, Illinois,
O'er thy prairies verdant growing, Illinois, Illinois.
Comes an echo on the breeze,
Rustling through the leafy trees,
and its mellow tones are these, Illinois, Illinois...

From a wilderness of prairies, Illinois, Illinois,
Straight thy way and never varies, Illinois, Illinois,
Till upon the inland sea,
Stands thy great commercial tree,
turning all the world to thee, Illinois, Illinois...

When you heard your country calling, Illinois, Illinois,
Where the shot and shell were falling, Illinois, Illinois,
When the Southern host withdrew,
Pitting Gray against the Blue,
There were none more brave than you, Illinois, Illinois...

Not without thy wondrous story, Illinois, Illinois,
Can be writ the nation's glory, Illinois, Illinois,
On the record of thy years,
Abraham Lincoln's name appears,
Grant and Logan, and our tears, Illinois, Illinois
Grant and Logan, and our tears, Illinois.

*"Illinois" is the state's official song.
The words were written by C.H. Chamberlain.
The music was composed by Archibald Johnston.*

Mr. Frisch's letter continues:

"If you've read *A History of the Jews in America* by Howard M. Sachar (1992), you'll note that [it] tells of the Salzenstein family in Athens sponsoring the Myers family's move to Springfield to open a men's clothing store. Their entrance into Springfield was delayed because of the funeral of President Abraham Lincoln (who, you will note, in the enclosed historical reprint, was a friend of Louis Salzenstein's).

"The majority of the Salzenstein family is buried in Springfield, in the part of Oak Ridge Cemetery known as the "Old Jewish Section." It is the same cemetery where Abraham Lincoln's tomb is located. My grandparents and three aunts are also buried there. There's a Salzenstein gravestone showing a birth date of 1792."

Following are some excerpts from the photocopied pages Bob Frisch sent to us about his family, taken from a printed history of Athens, Illinois:

"Mr. [Louis] Salzenstein was one of the most successful of all merchants here and he became the wealthiest man in the community. Many of the enterprises were financed by him. He also loaned money to farmers in the community and probably did more than any other man toward bettering the improvements and the mode of living in this section.

"Abraham Lincoln and Louis Salzenstein were close friends and Lincoln often stopped at his store and his residence. Mr. Salzenstein built a sort of bar room where liquors were dispensed. Most of the stores in that age were selling whiskey. It is a tradition that Lincoln stayed in the front part of the store and many times refused to accompany his friends to the bar room for a drink.

"Mr. Salzenstein had a great deal of influence in the community, both political and otherwise. His influence extended to other parts of Menard County. He was a great deal of help in a political way to Abraham Lincoln.

"The goods to replenish the stocks of the early merchants were first transported from St. Louis by ox teams. Later, when Louis Salzenstein opened his store in Athens, he made trips on a flatboat from Beardstown on the Illinois, Mississippi and Ohio Rivers to St. Louis and Cincinnati to purchase goods and brought them back the same way. After making the journey

back as far as Beardstown, he had them hauled over the road that passed through New Salem and Athens. Some of these trips would take him longer than a month to complete and he was obliged to remain away from his store for that time, usually leaving a son, "Little Charlie" Salzenstein or his nephew Charles S. Salzenstein, in charge during his absence.

"Louis Salzenstein was succeeded by his son Meyer, in the same location down to the present generation. Charles Salzenstein, known as "Little Charlie," opened a store and ran [it] in competition to his father."

Bob Frisch's merchant forebears transported their wares via the great

waterways, the Mississippi and the Ohio Rivers, that frame our state, and the "gently flowing" rivers of Illinois.

These "Living Waters"—a biblical term—provided the theme for the CJHS summer tour on August 27, 2000, of Jewish communities in north central Illinois river towns—Sterling, Rock Falls, Dixon, LaSalle, Spring Valley, Ottawa, and Lockport. Our "Summer Safari" on July 15, 2001, took us to Elgin, Rockford, and Beloit—all river towns with significant Jewish communities.

Information about our tours for Summer 2002 will be contained in the next issue of *CJH*. The tours often sell out, so remember to sign up early.

A final note about Athens, IL: its name is pronounced *AY-thens*, just as our Cairo is pronounced *KAY-ro*. ❖



Society Plans Silver Anniversary Celebration

Planning is well underway for a gala celebration of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society's twenty-fifth year.

The main event will be an exhibition in the second floor gallery of Spertus Institute, displaying the activities of CJHS since its founding in 1977. The exhibition is scheduled to open in Fall 2002. Society Past President Adele Hast chairs the exhibition committee. A complete calendar of commemorative events and related articles will be published in upcoming issues of *Chicago Jewish History*.

FROM THE
CHICAGO JEWISH
archives

Preserving the Past On Shelves and Online

By Joy Kingsolver

My heart begins to pound, and I'm suddenly wide awake in the middle of a long afternoon. "I was cleaning out the attic," says the voice on the phone, "and I found a bunch of ledgers in Yiddish, and some scrapbooks. I don't suppose you'd want them for the archives?" Would I ever! After five and a half years at the Chicago Jewish Archives, I still look forward to the excitement of discovering new treasures of Chicago Jewish history. The thrill of reaching into a dusty box, or a tattered shopping bag, to bring out the real stuff of history has never left me and, I hope, it never will.

Though our mission to document the history of Jewish Chicago has remained constant, many changes have taken place over the years. When the archives was founded by Morris Gutstein in 1966, it consisted of little more than a few boxes of papers in a small storeroom. Rabbi Gutstein, a respected historian, worked hard to collect synagogue and organizational records and gave the archives a strong start. In his footsteps followed a succession of capable archivists, including Richard Marcus, who was also director of the Asher Library; Elsie Orlinsky, a beloved member of CJHS; Miriam Joyce Haron, professor of history; and Norma Spungen, who for ten years worked tirelessly to facilitate access to the collections, assisting with several dissertations and published works.

Each archivist added new collections and the archives grew quickly. Significant collections included the records of the Covenant Club, the ADL, the American Jewish Congress, South Shore Temple, the Alschuler and Adler families, and more. In 1972, the records of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago came to

the archives, becoming the largest single collection. Many of these collections were brought to the archives by members of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, which has played a crucial role in gathering the records of Jewish Chicago.

When I first began to work at the archives, I was joined by my colleague Andrew Wertheimer, who focused on acquiring synagogue collections and other papers. Andrew is now a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin. Currently the archives has a part-time assistant, Tina Nauha, who helps with processing and reference questions. Large collections such as the records of the University of Chicago Hillel and the Sentinel Photo Archive have been added, but also many single items and small collections. The CJHS continues to help us locate and gather material, and many times discovers the historical background which places it in context.



At the archives, collections are kept in acid-free storage containers and under strict temperature and humidity controls.

Until the renovation project in 1998, the archives had to make do with cramped quarters. Moving the archives from the third to the sixth floor of Spertus Institute—without jumbling the order of the boxes—proved to be a difficult and complex process. Many extra hands were needed; temporary workers were hired and library staff members were drafted into service. The archives now boasts new shelving designed specifically for archival boxes, a new climate control system, and most importantly, approximately double the space of the old archives.

Archivists are accustomed to watching eyes glaze over whenever they use the word "cataloging." But the truth is that without accurate records of what collections we have and what they contain, researchers would have a difficult time using them. For many years there was no

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Author	K.A.M. (Kehilath Anshe Maarav) Isaiah Israel Congregation (Chicago, Ill.).
Title	K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Collection, 1840-[ongoing].
Descr.	3.5 linear ft.
Location	Chicago Jewish Archives : (By appt.)
Abstract	Collection contains material from K.A.M. Isaiah Israel and some of its predecessor congregations (Temple Israel, Temple Isaiah Israel, K.A.M. Temple). Burial ground book from K.A.M. (ca.1840-1899); K.A.M. constitution (1891); issues of Isaiah Israel Scroll; bulletins, and other material.
Finding Aids	Inventory available in archives.
Historical notes	Temple Isaiah Israel was the result of three mergers: one in 1906 between Congregation B'nai Sholom (founded 1852) and Temple Israel, the second in 1924 between the new congregation and Isaiah Temple, and the third in 1971, when Temple Isaiah Israel merged with K.A.M. to become K.A.M. Isaiah Israel.
Provenance Note	Many donors contributed to this collection, including K.A.M. Isaiah Israel, Ann Barzel, and the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.
Subject	Jews -- Illinois -- Chicago -- History.
Add.Entry	Temple Israel (Chicago, Ill.)
Add.Entry	Isaiah Temple (Chicago, Ill.)

Archival collections such as the K.A.M. Collection will be listed in the Asher Library online catalog.

accurate list of collections. Eventually, a card file was begun, and Norma Spungen expanded this until it was an essential index to all the holdings of the archives.

My work in the archives coincided with the upgrading of computer equipment throughout the library and archives, and it was, for the first time, possible to catalog our holdings in a Microsoft Access database. And this past year has brought us to the next step: We are adding archives records, one by one, to the Asher Library's online catalog. The catalog is available via the web at <http://www.spertus.edu> and it is searchable by keyword. This is important because researchers can use a significant word or phrase to find different collections relevant to a topic. It will take some time before all our collections are listed, but the long-term benefit is incalculable.

Over the past five and a half years, I have watched with interest as use of the archives by researchers has changed. The numbers of students is about the same as it was in years past, but the number of genealogists has increased, as it has in most archives. An interesting sign of the times is the change in method of communication. Leafing through the files left by my predecessors, I find many letters, both handwritten and typed. Today, almost all contact with the archives is by phone and e-mail, rarely by letter. Users living far away have more ready access to the archives, thanks to the web and e-mail, and the archives plans to respond to their needs by placing inventories on the web for easy

access. Does this mean that someday you will be able to view all the documents in the archives over the web? Probably not—but some documents will be scanned and added to the website in the near future.

The purpose of the archives is not just to collect things, but to share them with the public, through research and through exhibitions. Since 1998 we have shared gallery space with the Asher Library, and we've mounted several exhibitions. One of our most popular was *Jewish Roots in Chicago: Family Papers at the Chicago Jewish Archives*. Others have featured the papers of Jerzy Kosinski and Chicago Jewish bookplates.

Our current exhibit (see article on page 5), surveys the Chicago Jewish music scene. We're excited to be able to show the unique items in the archives and make the history of Jewish Chicago come alive.

Sometimes being an archivist is exhausting. There are so many different tasks to do: acquisitions, organizing and cataloging collections, responding to users' needs, curating exhibits—it can be difficult to keep up with it all. But to contribute to the documenting of Jewish history, to be one link in the chain of archivists who have helped to care for these collections, is a privilege. And, as always, I'm waiting for that next phone call. Scrapbooks? Photographs? I'll be right there! ❖

JOY KINGSOLVER is Director, Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. To contact her, phone (312) 322-1741 or e-mail: archives@spertus.edu

November 2001 CJHS Open Meeting: A Talk on Pioneering Chicago Jewish Women and A Roosevelt High School Mini-Reunion

Program Chairman Charles B. Bernstein opened the November 18, 2001 Open Meeting at Temple Shalom by describing the experimental nature of the afternoon's program. Included, in addition to our featured speaker, would be a mini-reunion of a Chicago public high school that once had a primarily Jewish student body.

First, Adele Hast spoke about her recently published book, *Women Building Chicago 1790-1990: A Biographical Dictionary*, edited with Rima Lunin Schultz. Of the 423 women in the book, forty are Jewish. We heard about:

Hannah Greenebaum Solomon

(1858-1942) is best known as the founder of the National Council of Jewish Women. She was part of the upper middle class German Jewish community. A recounting of all her achievements in social justice would take up the whole program!

Minnie Low (1867-1922) was a leader in social reform and social service in the Jewish community. She was appointed as the paid executive director of the Bureau of Personal Service, for which she worked for the rest of her life.

Fannie Bloomfield Zeisler

(1863-1927) achieved fame through her artistry as a pianist. Despite chronic ill health, she pursued a career on the concert stage. She married and had a child, and managed a home life and career.

Anna (Annie) Mindlin Livshis

(1864-1953) was a farmer, a union organizer, and an anarchist.

Russian-born; married to Jake Livshis. They made several attempts to escape sweatshop drudgery and live as farmers. Their Wicker Park home became a center for anarchists and socialists in Chicago.

Fritzi Schermer Brod

(1900-1952) was an active and important member of the Chicago art community. Born in Prague, she came to Chicago to marry Ozzi Brod. Already an accomplished textile designer when she came here, she chose to concentrate on painting in the modern style.

Pessie Hershfeld Pomerantz

(1900-1978) belonged to the first generation of published Yiddish women poets in the United States. She was part of the Chicago group of an international modernist Jewish literary movement called *Di Yunge*.

Libbie Henrietta Hyman

(1888-1969) was a world-famous zoologist, researcher, and writer. Iowa-born, a scholarship brought her to the University of Chicago. Her textbooks are much honored.

Pearl Hart

(1890-1975) left her mark in the field of law. She was a civil rights activist who defended individuals called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Her last ten years were devoted to securing gay and lesbian civil rights.

Celia Burg Warshawsky

(1921-1986) was a founder of Bene Shalom of the Deaf in Skokie, the only full-time synagogue of the deaf in the United States. She became the first hearing-impaired person to teach in a public school in Illinois.

Roosevelt High School was named after President Theodore Roosevelt, who pronounced his name RUE-*sevelt*, not RHO-*sevelt*, (the way FDR pronounced it.) The school opened in 1927, eight years after the death of TR, and before Franklin Roosevelt had been elected to any office. Yet FDR had such a great impact, it's hard for people not to fall into his pronunciation.

We were reminded of this by the first speaker at the mini-reunion, a distinguished Roosevelt High alum, ('31), retired Illinois Supreme Court Justice Seymour Simon.

Before continuing his talk, Judge Simon introduced Roosevelt alum Harriet Ellis ('56), who led the audience in the school song, *Go, Rough Riders, Go* from the piano, and a rousing *boom-chicka-boom* cheer. The song was written by alum Jerry Bresler ('32), who went on to become music director for Arthur Godfrey and Jackie Gleason.

Judge Simon resumed his talk with a brief historical sketch of Albany Park. The area began to develop quickly after 1907, when the "el" line was extended to Kimball and Lawrence.

In 1917, two synagogues were founded to serve the community: Temple Beth Israel at Bernard and Ainslie (now in Skokie), and Cong. Beth Yitzchok, on Drake between Wilson and Leland, called "the Drake Avenue shul." A few years later, the large Albany Park Hebrew Congregation was established at Wilson and Lawndale. Today only the Beth Israel building remains.

President's Column *continued from page 2*

he will probably lose his job, all because of his wife's overeating.

The play's most stunning scenes involve two condemned murderers—one a wife killer and the other a black labor organizer charged with a killing during a violent strike. Hecht interviews them in jail and witnesses their execution by hanging (shown on stage). Both men sing loudly until sudden death silences them.

Paul Peditto's play and the Prop Theatre production were lauded by the local reviewers. Peditto currently teaches screenwriting at Chicago Filmmakers. Several of his screenplays have been filmed.

After leaving Chicago, Ben Hecht gained fame as a playwright (*The Front Page* and *Twentieth Century*) and screenwriter, (over 70 movies, including *Scarface*, *Gunga Din*, *Notorious*, *Kiss of Death*, and portions of *Gone with the Wind*); but in his memoirs he always regarded Chicago in the 1920s as the high point of his career.

His second wife, Rose, brought him back to Chicago, in a sense, by donating his papers to the Newberry Library. On December 5, 2001, there was a showing at Newberry of *Underworld*, the silent movie that earned Hecht the first Oscar ever awarded for Writing (Original Story). The evening's lecturer, Rebecca Epstein of UCLA, told of Hecht's dismay when director Joseph von Sternberg turned his Chicago crime story into a tale of romantic salvation.

Rose Hecht, it is said, also brought Ben back to Judaism and the Jewish community in the 1930s, when he became a leading propagandist for the Revisionist Zionists in the struggle to save the Jews of Europe from Nazism, and to create the State of Israel. But that is another story. ❖

From 1920 to 1950, the Albany Park Jewish community grew. There were great schools and safe streets. Jewish culture was mostly Zionist, with many Young Judea groups.

Lawrence Avenue, between California and Pulaski thrived, with restaurants, butchers, bakeries, and shops. Elegant fashions for women were sold at B. Nathan, and the necessary foundation garments were fitted at Schwartz's.

Roosevelt High was mostly Jewish, with students of Scandinavian and German heritage as well. Its graduates include as many prominent people as any high school in the city. Al Klein ('31), retired teacher and coach, who edits the quarterly *Roosevelt Alumni News*,

helped Judge Simon to compile a "Who's Who" list for CJHS. Here are just a few of the notables:

Hon. Marvin Aspin, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for Northern Illinois, and many other judges; **Nelson Algren**, **Carl Foreman**, and **Shel Silverstein**, writers; **Faye Weinberg Goldman**, dean, Stockton College, CA.; **Morry Kaplan**, founder, Sealy Mattress Co. (Mayer Kaplan JCC is named after his father); **Leo Melamed**, Chairman Emeritus, Chicago Mercantile Exchange; **Fred Rosen**, owner, Sam's Wines & Spirits; **George Gobel** and **Bob Sirott** of television; and cartoonist **George Baker**, creator of "Sad Sack" for *Stars and Stripes* in WWII.

Welcome to New Members of CJHS

Members who have joined the Society since Summer 2001:

Jack Ardell
Sondra Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Fox
Myron H. Fox
Werner Frank
Edbird Hoffman
Jack & Selma Hoffman
Julia Merkin
Dr. David Sachs
George Sackheim
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Seidenfeld
Sarah Stafford
Irving Ungar

It is through the generosity of our members that the Society is able to accomplish its goals. Thanks to all of our members, new and continuing, for your interest and support. If you would like to join CJHS, see the back cover for dues structure and procedure.

Manny Weincord ('50), delighted our audience with his heartwarming recollections. A living legend, he began teaching physical education and coaching basketball at Roosevelt in 1965, under Sam Edelcup, and retired in 2000.

He recalled the Max Strauss JCC: its gym was so small, you could install wall-to-wall carpet! In 1952, his buddies from that gym, "Mookie" Miller, "Moose" Malitz, "Itchy" Novak, and others, won the city basketball championship for Roosevelt. Coach Manny Weincord remained at his school through its years of ethnic change. He has a special place in his heart for the old and the new Albany Park. ❖

About the Society

What We Are

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

What We Do

The Society seeks out, collects and preserves appropriate written, spoken and photographic records; 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.

Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to become more involved in the activities of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society? We'd love to have you! Following are the various committees on which you can serve. Contact the Society at (312)663-5634 or any of the Chairpersons listed here.

■ PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Do you have a great idea for a meeting topic? If you are organized and creative, friendly and outgoing, the Program Committee would welcome your help in planning and implementing our bi-monthly and annual meetings. Call Charles Bernstein (773)324-6362.

■ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Society's membership continues to grow, and you could help us introduce Chicago Jewish history to even more people. Share your ideas and energy! Contact Janet Iltis (773)761-1224 or Clare Greenberg (773)725-7330.

■ TOUR COMMITTEE

Bring your creativity and organization to planning and promoting our popular roster of tours on Jewish history. Contact Leah Axelrod (847)432-7003.

■ EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Do you like to write? Are you a great proofreader? You can contribute to our quarterly publication, *Chicago Jewish History*. Contact our editor, Bev Chubat (773)525-4888.

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
Historian	500
Scholar	250
Sponsor	100
Patron or Family	50
Individual or Senior Family	35
Synagogue or Organization	25
Senior Individual or Student	20

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

Look to the rock from which you were born
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