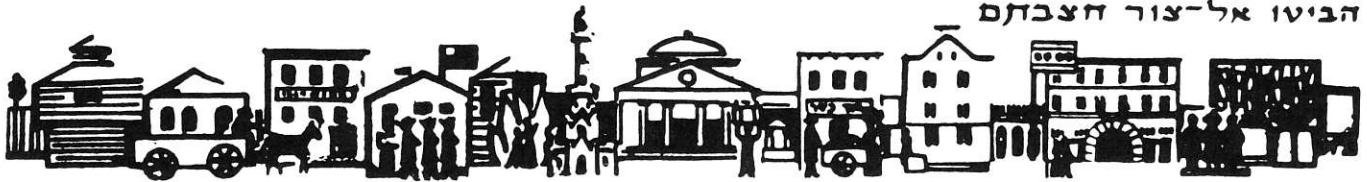


Look to the rock from which you were born
הביטו אל-צור חצבתם



chicago jewish historical society

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society news

VOLUME X, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1987

SOCIETY MARKS ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY,
PLANS CELEBRATION, PUBLICATION

First Public Meeting Was Held
Ten Years Ago this Month

1987 marks an important milestone in Chicago Jewish history and an even more important milestone in the preservation of Chicago Jewish history. It marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Ten years ago this month the Society held its first public meeting.

A series of events celebrating the anniversary began January 7, when the CJHS Board had a festive meeting at the home of Founding President Muriel Robin. The first planning meeting for the Society had been a brunch meeting at her home on January 9, 1977.

An anniversary party for the general membership will be held May 31 at Spertus College. Details will be sent to all members at a later date.

Also in the planning stage is the pub-

[continued on page 2]

Remember To Renew Membership
To Insure Continued Participation

Renewals of membership in the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, almost all of which expired in January, have been coming in at a gratifying rate, according to Membership Chairman Marian Cutler; but of course there have been some individuals who put aside the notices and have yet to renew.

Mrs. Cutler urges those people to act promptly to insure continued receipt of Society News, meeting notices and admission to the closed meeting in May. Summer tours, most of which will be entirely new ones this year, are also offered at a substantial discount to members.

The dues schedule appears on page 12, and anyone can renew by sending a check for the appropriate amount together with his or her name, address and the word Renewal (or New). Dues should be mailed to the Society at 618 South Michigan Ave., Chicago 60605.

In late Spring the Society removes from its membership and mailing list all persons for whom dues have not been paid.

Open Meeting

Sunday, March 22, 1987

Free Admission

At the Hebrew Theological College, Skokie

Program

Training Rabbis in Chicago: The Hebrew Theological College

Rabbi Don Well

1 PM: Refreshments, Tour

2 PM: Program

Free Bus Service: See Page 3

President's Message

'Odds and Ends' Are Major Means Of Preserving Local Jewish History

Philosophers and other writers often have something to say about history. The "Home Book of Quotations" by Burton Stevenson is full of quotes from famous people on the subject. I have used some quotes in previous columns and now I have another. Carl J. Burkons, president of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, said in its Jan-Feb 1987 official publication that "History is what none of us can resign from." That is what we of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society have decided. We have been working for ten years to save Chicago Jewish history.

Other local Jewish historical societies are engaged in the same activities. Here is a recent message from Geraldine Foster, president of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association:

"The Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association collects many kinds of things: minutes of organizations, research papers, Judaica, photographs, invitations, passports, pamphlets, scrapbooks, and private papers. The list goes on and on. Our archives accommodate the distinctive and the commonplace, the select and the haphazard; in short, anything that concerns the history of the Jews of our state. They offer a wealth of source materials for scholarly research, student projects, and inquiries about family genealogy. The artifacts housed in our archives provide a fascinating view of Jewish life in our state. Through the papers which have been published in the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes, the Association illumines aspects of our rich history. All of these collections are sources of pleasure and edification available to everyone. They fill a vital need, for they gather treasured memories and knowledge about this community, its organizations, its people.

"Yet, there are gaps in these memories, and the Association needs your help in filling them. Hidden away in closets or attics may be minutes, photographs of organizations and groups that flourished and disappeared or of organizations continuing their work but whose records are dispersed. Many, too many, of these materials have already been discarded; others will be tossed out because their importance

Society Welcomes New Members

In addition to the annual inpouring of membership renewals, new members have been joining the Society in substantial numbers.

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society welcomes the following new members who have joined during the past few months. Their membership indicates their interest in preserving the history of Jewish Chicago and their desire to become a part of that effort.

Gerald Berstell	Judith Zuckerman Kaufman
Robert A. Dinerstein	Suzanne Krill
Annette Figatner	Gertrude Hagarick
Anne Flax	Marie Ogden
Rosalie Gittelson	Natalie Pelser
Rabbi Norman Goldberg	Pritzker Foundation
Lois M. Golub	Natalie Scher
Mr.&Mrs. Sherman Greenberg	Julie Schlossberg
Hillel Torah Day School	Natalie Singleton
Mrs. Shirley B. Hurwitz	Mary Solinsky
Caryl Kahn	Mr.&Mrs. Melvin B. Trager
	Kal & Enid Wenig

--Marian Cutler
Membership Chairman

Anniversary Plans

[continued from page 1]

lication of a monograph summarizing the activities of the Society during its first ten years.

"Ten years is a short time in Chicago Jewish history," said CJHS President Norman Schwartz, "but they mark unparalleled achievement in the collection, publication, preservation and dissemination of the record of our people in Chicago. Many persons, not the least of which are our loyal members, have reason to be proud. During this year we hope to remind them of their many achievements."

is not recognized. Please remember--they are valuable additions to our archives. Tucked away in boxes or bottom drawers are old business papers or scrapbooks or invitations. Please remember--contributions of these items are welcome and needed. It always saddens me to hear the words: 'I didn't know anyone would be interested in those old things, so I threw them out.'"

The above message is equally applicable to our organization. The need is the same wherever one is.

Join us and learn what you can do to preserve Chicago Jewish history through the collection of archives.

--Norman D. Schwartz

RABBINICAL TRAINING TO BE TOPIC OF MARCH 22 MEETING

Offer Free Roundtrip Bus Service For March Meeting in Skokie

Free bus service will be provided to and from the Society's first suburban meeting on Sunday, March 22. The service will insure that non-drivers will be able to attend the Skokie meeting at the Hebrew Theological College.

Buses will leave from the rear entrance of the Marriott Chicago Hotel on Rush Street south of Ohio Street at 12:30 PM and return to the hotel around 4:30.

"We have for a long time wished to hold occasional meetings in suburban locations," said CJHS President Norman Schwartz "but have postponed doing so until we could make certain that all members would be able to attend regardless of the places chosen. Our free bus service, which Leah Axelrod has efficiently arranged for us, makes it easy for all to participate in what should be a very interesting meeting."

ARCHIVES ACQUIRES MEMENTO OF CHANGE AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Jews Ultimately Win Exemption From Compulsory Chapel Attendance

Among the many items recently received for the Chicago Jewish Archives was one which constituted an interesting historical footnote to local Jewish-Christian relations. The item is a card issued to Lester Asher as a student at the University of Chicago in 1927 which marked the favorable climax of a disagreement that had been a source of polite friction between Christians and Jews at the university almost since it opened its doors in 1891.

From the start, all students regardless of religious belief were required to attend Christian chapel services weekly. Local Jewish leaders, several of whom were early and major financial contributors and served on the faculty and even on the board of trustees, had quietly objected to the requirement as it applied to Jewish students but to no avail. The university was, after all, still a Baptist institution and its first presidents were ordained ministers.

But changing mores and looser ties to the church were working in the favor of

First Suburban Meeting Will Be At Hebrew Theological Seminary

The history of rabbinical training in the Chicago area will be the topic of the Society's meeting on Sunday, March 22, to be held, appropriately enough, on the Skokie campus of the Hebrew Theological College. Speaker will be the College's president, Rabbi Don Well.

In addition to Dr. Well's talk, the usual discussion period and the social hour and refreshments preceding the meeting, tours of the college campus will be conducted both before and after the program. Free round-trip bus service will be provided from the Marriott Chicago Hotel to this first Society meeting to be held in a suburban location. Details appear elsewhere on this page.

The social hour will begin at 1:00 PM on the first floor east of the Administration Building at 7135 N. Carpenter Road and a tour will follow. The meeting itself will begin at 2:00 PM in the Goldberg Auditorium in the same building. Free parking is available.

Since 1987 marks the Theological College's sixty-fifth year, Rabbi Well is expected primarily to deal with the development of that institution, which is the alma mater of so many local orthodox, traditional and conservative rabbis. Dr. Well is himself a 1961 graduate of the College and has headed it since 1981. He had previously served the College as a dean.

As usual, the meeting is open without charge both to members and friends.

Jewish students, and as Lester Asher's chapel attendance card for the spring quarter of 1927 (a gift to the Archives from David Passman) indicates, Jewish students were finally excused from attendance. Almost immediately thereafter compulsory chapel attendance was abolished for all.

Thus an irritant in the generally cordial relations between Jews and the University of Chicago had been removed. In years to come, the university would select as its president Edward C. Levi, a Jew who was the son and grandson of prominent Chicago rabbis (Gerson B. Levi and Emil G. Hirsch). The wheel had turned full circle!

--I.J.S.

NEW BOOK EXPLORES LIFE OF COLORFUL LOCAL CHARACTER

Ben Reitman's Unorthodox Activities Shocked the Staid, Helped the Outcast

By Walter Roth

Dr. Ben Reitman was born to poor Russian immigrant Jews on New Year's Eve, 1879, in St. Paul, Minnesota, and died more or less a Baptist in Chicago on November 17, 1942. His last will began with: "I wish to testify that life has been good..." and concluded with, "\$250 shall be spent for food and drink for hobos and unemployed who will be invited by my son to a funeral dinner. I should like the service to be in a big hall, with drink, fun and a happy good time for all." Besides his son, Brutus (who died in a plane crash shortly thereafter), he left four daughters, Mecca, Medina, Victoria and Olive, and some wives, to one of whom he was married legally. There is controversy over whether the funeral dinner was actually ever held.

Hundreds of hobos attended his funeral services and accompanied his body to Waldheim (not Jewish Waldheim) Cemetery, where it was buried near the Haymarket monument under which lay the remains of the martyred anarchists August Spies, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fisher and George Engel. A few feet away was the grave of Emma Goldman, another anarchist equally famous or infamous, depending upon one's point of view.

An Editorial Evaluation

The Chicago Daily News editorialized at the time of his death: "It was not that Ben Reitman was a great man or that he was a national figure; but he was a Chicago figure...He was a publicity hound and an opportunist. But beneath the phony properties...was a man who had a real understanding of his fellow men and a genuine sympathy for those who dwelt outside the pale of social sanctions and in the drab penumbra of the half world....With his passing, Chicago loses another of the rugged individuals whose personalities contributed to the vitality that made the Chicago of a quarter century ago one of the most colorful and dynamic cities of the world...."

New Book Looks at Reitman's Life

Who was this unique man? The answer

He was old and seedy as he talked to a group of young Jewish college students in language they had never before heard from a podium, but this editor will never forget his brief encounter with Ben Reitman. In this review of a recently-published biography of Dr. Reitman, bohemian par excellence, Walter Roth traces the life of an outrageous Chicagoan, places him in his milieu and leaves judgment to others. Mr. Roth, a CJHS board member, is a practicing attorney and a student of the anarchist movement in Chicago.

is given in part in a new book by Roger A. Bruns, director of publications for the National Archives in Washington, D.C., titled The Damndest Radical. The Life and World of Ben Reitman, Chicago's Celebrated Social Reformer, Hobo King and Whorehouse Physician.

Bruns' story begins after Ben and his mother, abandoned by her itinerant-peddler husband, had moved to a predominantly Irish slum in Chicago's Near South Side vice district. Here Ben ran errands for the prostitutes he learned to love and used boxcars in the nearby rail yards as playrooms. His neighborhood friends called him "Sheeny Ben," and the hobos who frequented the rail yards filled him with tales galore of the virtues of tramping.

From the age of ten, Ben often rode the rails and saw America. He became a fireman on a steamship which sailed to Europe and the Middle East. He returned to his mother's abode in Chicago and went to work as a laboratory boy for a Dr. Maximilian Herzog, a pathologist and bacteriologist. Ben met other doctors who were impressed with the young man, and they arranged for Ben's entry into the College of Physicians and Surgery in Chicago (later the University of Illinois College of Medicine) from which he graduated with an M.D. degree in 1904.

Marriage, Medicine and Hobos

In the meantime, he had ventured into his first marriage, to May Schwartz, on July 4, 1901. The couple sailed for Europe, where Ben promptly deserted her in a pregnant condition. After graduation Ben taught medicine and opened a private office in Chicago. But he often

closed his medical office and took to the rails. On one of these trips, he learned about the Brotherhood Welfare Association in St. Louis, better known as the Hobo College. This group provided food and housing for the unemployed and disabled; and these men, like the prostitutes, became his pals. He organized a Chicago branch of the Hobo College and through it became involved with unemployed workers in Chicago.

In January, 1908, Ben led a protest parade of thousands of unemployed on Chicago's City Hall, only to be confronted by numerous policemen whose clubs dispersed the crowd. Reitman was arrested, but the parade brought him to the attention of the police, the media and radicals.

Begins Affair with Emma Goldman

Two months later, in March 1908, began the great passion of Ben's life--his affair with Emma Goldman. On March 2, Chicago's intemperate police chief shot and killed an apparently innocent young Russian Jewish immigrant, Lazarus ("Jeremiah") Averbuch, a caller at the chief's home. The chief said he suspected Averbuch of being an anarchist-assassin. The Chicago newspapers immediately launched an anti-anarchist campaign, for they saw in this incident a repetition of the Haymarket "conspiracy" of earlier years. Even though no evidence connected the Jewish boy to any anarchist, the police went on a vengeful rampage throughout the Jewish ghetto in the South Halsted Street area, arresting Jews who were thought to have anarchist connections. Reitman was immediately brought into custody to view Averbuch's body, since the police were convinced they had seen Averbuch in the parade of the unemployed. Reitman could not identify the body and was released.

The next day Emma Goldman came to Chicago. Her outspoken anarchist views and her prior arrest in Chicago in connection with the 1901 shooting of President William McKinley by Leon Czolgosz had made her a persona non grata to the Chicago police. Emma Goldman could not find anyone who would rent her a hall in which to speak. Reitman contacted her and offered her the use of his Hobo hall. The police prevented use of the hall, but Ben and Emma met and the spark was lighted.

Ecstasy, Anarchy and Branded Buttocks

While the newspapers thought she was



Ben Reitman ca. 1912

(From the book)

ill and unavailable, Emma, at the age of thirty-nine, found love and ecstasy in the arms of her "beautiful tramp," ten years younger. Young Averbuch's name was never cleared, but Emma and Ben began a romance that lasted over ten years. Their correspondence has been largely preserved, and their astounding letters throb with a passion that would, at times, shock even today's readers.

Ben now began his career with the anarchists in general and Emma in particular. He became Emma's manager, wrote articles, delivered speeches on birth control and free speech and edited Mother Earth, the anarchist magazine, for a time. He and Emma went to San Diego in 1911 during bitter labor strife involving the I.W.W. (called "I Won't Work" by some but actually the International Workers of the World, the "Wobblies"). Ben was dragged out of his hotel and into the desert by a mob, who stripped him and burned the letters IWW onto his buttocks with cigar butts. He was then tarred and freed, barely alive. He would later often drop his pants at the end of a speech to display his wounds, much to the chagrin of his beloved Emma.

Breaks with Emma and Anarchists

The ensuing years brought World War I and Emma Goldman's extreme opposi-

[continued on next page]

More about Ben Reitman

[continued from previous page]

tion to the war and conscription. Emma was arrested and she broke with Reitman. The affair was over. She was deported from the United States to Russia in 1919, and except for a brief visit, she was never allowed to live here again.

Reitman returned to live in Chicago, no longer an anarchist. In the 1920's, he practiced medicine among his favorite clients, the prostitutes and hobos. A new class was added to his "crowd"--underworld and vice characters who were now making Chicago notorious. Al Capone and his like became Ben's friends. He obtained a job with the city as a doctor specializing in the treatment of venereal diseases. He earned a new nickname, "The Clap Doctor." While he helped to establish the first venereal disease clinic at the Cook County Jail, he also treated the prostitutes owned by the vicelords.

Orator and Author

The Hobo College was active under his deanship. Later he became active in the famous Dill Pickle Club on Chicago's Near North Side, where the famous and the infamous came to talk. He also published two books--The Second Oldest Profession (1931), a study of pimps; and Sister of the Road: The Autobiography of Box-Car Bertha (1937). When the speakers went outside to vent their spleen in Bughouse Square, the crowds would see "Ben and his flowing cape, the walking stick, the fedora and the Windsor tie."

Throughout his life he had numerous affairs, and his ability to seduce young women and others was said to be legendary. His later political views were strange and perverse at times. He thought Franklin D. Roosevelt to be as much to blame for World War II as Hitler and Mussolini. He was said to have no sympathy for the Jews being persecuted in Germany and thought they could take care of themselves. His preoccupation with VD and its prevention remained until he died.

An Affectionate Portrait

The Damndest Radical treats Ben and his escapades with warmth and affection. The nostalgia for the "rugged individuals" of the past permeates the book. This is not a book that seeks to explore the psychological trauma experienced by a poor

DR. BEN L. REITMAN
Chicago's noted Physician and Social
worker.

Tuesday October 2nd. At 9 p. m.

Satisfying Sex needs without trouble.
Avoiding Venereal disease practicing Birth
Control, sidestepping "jams," experiencing
joy and romance in love, finding variety
in monogamy.

Sunday March 1st
Dr. Ben L. Reitman
"The 2nd
Oldest Profession"
DILL PICKLE
858 N. State St.

Dr. BEN. L. REITMAN'S
Social Outcast Clinic
Dope Fiends Joy-ladies
Joy-men Pi's Ex-cons
Christians Atheists
and Racketeers

BIG DEBATE
at THE DILL PICKLE CLUB

Tuesday, September 25th. at 9 p. m.

Resolved that Perversion Indolence
and Drug Addiction are Unnatural.

yes! Dr. Ben L. Reitman
no! John Laughman

Some of Reitman's topics at the Dill Pickle Club
(From the book)
Jewish boy raised among Irish ruffians, or
what the impact of living next to whore-
houses had on his relationship with
women when he reached adulthood.

These are left for the reader to explore himself. The author is at his best when he deals with incidents well documented by other sources. There is a colorful account of the labor strife in San Diego, the infamous Miners Strike in Ludlow, Colorado, the management of the Hobo College(s) and Ben and Emma's travels preaching birth control.

But Bruns has not gone behind the secondary sources on other incidents. In the Averbuch affair, he accepts the incredible stories published by the Chicago newspapers without inquiring further. In another instance he refers to a "Selig Cohen seen frequently at radical anarchist meetings" as the person who attempted to throw a bomb on March 28, 1908, in New York's Union Square during a labor demonstration only to blow himself apart. Further research would have led the author to discover that Selig's name was Silverstein, not Cohen, and that there was no direct evidence that he was a radical anarchist.

But the Riddle Remains

Brun's book should be read as a co-

Test Your Knowledge of History With the Chicago Jewish Trivia Quiz

Jewish Trivia Quiz Number 6

Here is another in our series of quizzes concerning facts of local Jewish history. Test your knowledge and then check with your friends to see how much history they know. And if you are aware of some other interesting facts about our past history, send them in to the editor for inclusion in future quizzes.

1. Which Chicago Jewish lawyer served both as a U.S. cabinet member and a Supreme Court justice?

2. At which synagogue did Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann, choose to pray when he visited Chicago?

3. What major Chicago museum was given to the city by a Jew with the provision that it NOT bear his name?

4. What local physician was known as the best friend of premature babies during the early years of this century?

Trivia Answers Appear on Page 10

Ben Reitman (cont'd)

[continued from previous page]

hesive collection of many of the stories, songs and poems concerning a legendary Chicago character. As the full title suggests, Reitman's life spanned a wide range of activities, which are all encompassed under one book cover for the first time.

But the book does not give us an insight into our protagonist's psyche nor look at him as a product of the great Russian Jewish immigration that came to our shores in the late nineteenth century. Many of these immigrants were peddlers, as were Reitman's father and grandfather. Most of their offspring swiftly graduated to a prosperous (upper) middle class life. Why did Ben Reitman go in an entirely different direction--a Jew who became the "Clap Doctor" and "King of the Hobos"?

Two of Reitman's daughters are said to be writing a new book about their father. Perhaps they will discuss this aspect of his life so that we can all get a better insight as to what made Ben tick.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS GIVES ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION TO SOCIETY

Tapes, Transcripts for Twenty Prominent Persons Are Included

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society collection of oral histories, already the most extensive of any in the area concerned with Jewish history, has recently been augmented by tapes and transcripts of twenty more individuals.

The new tapes were given to the Society by the Midwest Region of the American Jewish Congress, which had accumulated them over a number of years. They include interviews with Jewish communal leaders, academics, lawyers, jurists and editors.

As a result of this gift, the Society's oral history collection on tape and, partially, also in typed transcript form now contains reminiscences of over one hundred prominent Jewish Chicagoans and constitutes an invaluable archive for students of the local Jewish history of the past half-century or so.

The newly-acquired oral histories include ones for the following people:

Paul Annes
Elmer Gertz
Everett Goldstein
Helen Gould
David Kahn
Sheldon Kops
Esther Kopstein
Rosemary Krensky & Ted Haydon
Donald Lowitz
Byron Miller
Tillie Price
Walter Roth
Matilda Samuels
Milton Shadur
Manuel Silver
David Silversweig
Anne Sternberg
Paul Vishny
Arthur Weinberg

The value of these tapes was underlined by the recent untimely death of one of the persons interviewed, Donald Lowitz, who was serving as a disarmament advisor to President Reagan at the time of his demise.

Oral History Co-Chairman Sidney Sorkin reminds members that the Society is looking for volunteer typists to prepare transcripts of several oral history tapes. Interested individuals with transcribing skills should phone him at 221-4096.



Dr. June Sochen, January speaker, with Society President Norman Schwartz --Photo by Moselle Schwartz

TALK ON LOCAL JEWISH WOMEN ATTRACTS LARGE AUDIENCE

June Sochen Stresses the Varied And Important Roles Played in Past

The largest audience in many months attended the Society's January 4 meeting to hear June Sochen speak on Chicago Jewish women, and they were well rewarded. Dr. Sochen's incisive delivery and her well-selected information promptly enlisted complete audience attention and kept it throughout her talk and the subsequent discussion period.

Emphasizing the early and continuous involvement of local Jewish women in many major aspects of living, Dr. Sochen touched on the roles they played in social service, Zionism, suffrage, Americanization and labor unions. Familiar and unfamiliar individuals were referred to from Hannah Greenbaum Solomon and Sadie American across the spectrum to Bessie Abramowicz (later to become Mrs. Sidney Hillman).

Dr. Sochen, a national authority on American women's history and that of Jewish women in particular, is a professor at Northeastern Illinois University. She was introduced by Program Chairman Burt Robin. The meeting, at Spertus College, was preceded as usual by refreshments and a social hour hosted by Hospitality Chairman Shirley Sorkin.

--I.J.S.

MEMBER SHEDS FURTHER LIGHT ON BETH EL'S OLD MOLNER HALL

Businessman's Four Marriages Produced Many Descendants

In its January, 1987 issue Society News printed a photo of Molner Hall adjoining old Temple Beth El in the 2100 block on West Crystal Street and sought information concerning the former apartment building and the Molner after whom it was named.

An enthusiastic Society member reported that a search of public records indicates that the property was conveyed to Beth El by a Herman Molner in 1905. At that time there was a Herman Molner living on Leavitt Street who was president of the Illinois Moulding Company on 23rd Street and Western Avenue.

Congregation Bought Property

Apparently the property was sold to the congregation, which paid \$1,400 in cash and assumed a mortgage which was finally paid off in 1922 when the congregation sold both of its buildings and moved. Molner Hall appears originally to have been built as a two-story apartment building.

Herman Molner was probably born about 1866 and died in 1951. Although he seems to have been affiliated with Beth El and died as a member of Temple Sholom, another Reform congregation, it is likely that he had more Orthodox antecedents, for he was probably the same Herman Molner who is listed by Philip Bregstone as active in 1900 in efforts by immigrant East European Jews to establish the kosher home for the aged which became the BMZ Home.

Five years later he had become associated with Beth El.

Was Married Four Times

This member's research indicates that Molner was married four times and left descendants bearing the names Atz, Cohn, Glatt, Leeser, Mittleman and Reinhold, some of whom had dispersed to California, Florida, Kansas and New York by the time of his death in 1951.

In his will he was most generous to a variety of Jewish charities but there is no reference to Beth El.

Who can tell us more about the man, his family and the story of Molner Hall as a part of Temple Beth El?

--I.J.S.

A HERO DISGUISED AS AN ALBANY PARK CANDY-STORE OPERATOR

How an Immigrant Jew Distinguished Himself in Battle of Wounded Knee

by Irwin J. Suloway

For at least thirty years, the Jewish community in Albany Park harbored a hero in the guise of a candy store operator, according to a recent article in Indiana Jewish History.

The hero, decorated for extraordinary gallantry at the controversial battle of Wounded Knee (S.D.) in 1890, was a Nathan Feldman who operated a neighborhood candy store for about thirty years prior to 1934. Any reader who can tell us more about the man or his life should notify the editor at 348-2800.

Unemployed, He Joins the Army

Feldman was born in Lodz, Poland, in 1869 and migrated to this country alone at the age of seventeen. Two years later, according to the article written by Joseph Levine, the executive director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society, he was unemployed and living in Philadelphia. A friend suggested enlisting in the U.S. Army and in 1888 he did, for five years, signing the enlistment papers with an "X" and describing himself as a tailor.

In December of 1890 he found himself fighting Indians at Wounded Knee in an engagement recently labelled as a government massacre by descendants of the Indians involved.

In the course of the battle on December 29, 1890, a volunteer was sought to accompany a lieutenant on a hazardous ride to a location known as Pine Ridge Agency.

Feldman Was Sole Volunteer

According to government records,

When Lt. Preston asked for volunteers, Private Feldman was the only volunteer who asked if he could go. [The lieutenant reported] "I detailed Private Feldman for the duty and selected a good horse for him."

Later Feldman's company commander recommended him for a Certificate of Merit for distinguished service. Approving the recommendation, a Colonel Forsythe wrote

...that Private Feldman made a ride of

Appearances are often deceiving and Nathan Feldman's manner probably deceived many a customer who thought that this Albany Park candy-store operator had led a dull, prosaic life. That was not the case, we learn from Joseph Levine of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society who, from Feldman's surviving descendants, learned and published the story of the candy man's heroic past. This piece is adapted from his article.

16 miles in one hour and at its completion fell from the horse exhausted, that when he undertook it, it was more than probable that hostile Indians would meet him on the way.

The Certificate of Merit was awarded and it entitled Feldman to \$2.00 per month additional pay during his enlistment.

Settles in Chicago after Discharge

Upon discharge, Feldman settled in Chicago where a brother, Ben, owned a picture frame company. Later he went into business on his own with a candy store somewhere in the Albany Park area. It is interesting to speculate whether the youngsters he waited on in his store, doubtless full of lore about fighting the Indians, ever knew that their candy-store man was actually a decorated Indian fighter.

It is known that Nathan and his brother Ben married two sisters, Emma and Theresa Werthan, sent up from Nashville to find Jewish husbands. Nathan and Emma had seven children: Tillie Hammerman (deceased); Fannie Brenn (deceased); Theresa Shapiro, of Indianapolis; Hurley Feltman, of Huntington, Indiana; Esther Unger (deceased); William Feldman, of LaPorte; and Irene Goldstein of Niles, Michigan. Twelve of his thirteen grandchildren are still alive.

Buried in Chicago in 1953

Feldman apparently retired from business in 1934 and died in 1953 at age 84. He is buried in Jewish Waldheim.

Most of his family seems to have left the Chicago area, but someone must remember the hero who raised seven children with the earnings of his candy store in Albany Park -- a far better place, both for him and for Indians, than Wounded Knee.



Four rabbis, (l. to r.) Peter Knobel (Beth Emet), Herman Schaalman (Emanuel), Howard Berman (Sinai) and Alan Bregman (UAHC office) spoke at December meeting co-sponsored by the Society and marking 125th year of Reform congregations in Chicago.

--Photo by Moselle Schwartz

Answers to Jewish Trivia Quiz

For Trivia Questions See Page 7

1. Arthur Goldberg, a labor lawyer and product of the Jewish West Side, served as Secretary of Labor in John F. Kennedy's cabinet, was appointed by him to the United States Supreme Court and later resigned from the latter at Lyndon B. Johnson's request that he serve as Ambassador to the United Nations.

2. Chaim Weizmann chose to daven at Anshe Motele Congregation because it was founded by men from Motele, the town in White Russia of Weizmann's birth. It has since been humorously said that every Jewish family whose roots go back to that stetl claims to be related to Weizmann.

3. The Museum of Science and Industry was founded by Julius Rosenwald, and his generosity paid for the metamorphosis of a stucco relic of the 1893 World's Fair into its present magnificent building. Yet he stipulated that it should not bear his name. His brother-in-law, Max Adler, had shown no such modesty when he had earlier contributed the Planetarium to the city. Both were highly admirable philanthropists.

4. Dr. Julius Hess, who developed the first incubator and installed it in Michael Reese Hospital, made it possible for most premature babies to survive. He also trained generations of other pediatricians

Temple Sholom Initiates Congregational Oral History Project

Oral History--the taping of reminiscences by persons directly involved in or knowledgeable about past events--is one of the most vital means of preserving history and the Chicago Jewish Historical Society has been in the forefront of such activities locally. It is pleased to see that taking oral histories has recently been spreading to other Jewish organizations.

Among the latest to initiate an oral history project is Temple Sholom, the city's largest congregation, which hopes to interview and tape dozens of oldtimers who remember the good, and the bad, old days.

Work there has been begun under the direction of Moselle A. Schwartz, a temple board member who brings to her task a wealth of experience as the original oral history chairman for the Society. She has a great deal of history to record at Temple Sholom which, founded in 1867 as the North Chicago Hebrew Congregation, was the pioneer north side house of worship. A Reform congregation since the turn of the century, it absorbed Beth Am, formerly a South Shore congregation, in 1975.

Other congregations might well consider starting similar projects while the supply of "oldtimers" is still available. The Society will be pleased to assist in the initiation of oral history projects and the training of interviewers. Contact Adele Hast (256-5768) or Sidney Sorkin (221-4096) for further information.

--I.J.S.

Life Memberships Now Available

At its February meeting the CJHS Board voted to establish the category of life membership in the Society. To become a life member an individual, family or organization is assessed \$1,000.

"While we do not expect large numbers of such members," said President Norman Schwartz, "interest in life memberships has been expressed; and they make wonderful gifts to newly-married couples or college graduates."

as chairman of the department of pediatrics at the University of Illinois Medical School. He died in 1955.

(Prepared by Norman Schwartz)

Personal, Congregational Documents Recently Contributed to Archives

Among items collected by the Society for inclusion in the Chicago Jewish Archives have been three batches of materials which demonstrate the wide variety of items that help constitute the historical record.

Abe Sanders donated a copy of the original (circa 1903) constitution and by-laws of the Anshe Motele Congregation, known then as Congregation Ezras Israel Anshe Motele. Founded by immigrants from the stetl of Motele in White Russia, the congregation is now located in West Rogers Park. The constitution is unusual in that it is printed in the Hebrew alphabet although the words are English words, apparently because at that juncture most of the congregation spoke and understood English but were not able to read easily the still unfamiliar Roman alphabet in which English is normally printed.

Foundation Gives Personal Papers

From the Robert S. Adler Foundation came a series of personal papers which included the following:

- genealogy of the Bavarian parents of Michael Reese, itinerant peddler whose will endowed the hospital.
- papers relating to the home owned by Max Adler (of Planetarium fame) and Sophie Rosenwald (sister of Julius) Adler at 4939 Greenwood Avenue.
- papers concerning the estate of Henry L. Frank, a bachelor philanthropist who died in 1926.
- papers regarding a Willy Seibert and a Dr. and Mrs. Tiefman. (If a reader can tell us more about these two names, please let us know.)
- a recent clipping about Julius Rosenwald from the Charlotte Observer.

Other Congregational Data

Additional congregational memorabilia were provided by Bea Rosenblum, a longtime Chicago Sinai Congregation member. These included histories marking that congregation's centennial and 125th anniversary celebrations, programs of the dedication of its present building in 1950 and excerpts from sermons by the late Dr. Louis Mann, its rabbi for nearly forty years.

Contributions for the Chicago Jewish Archives at Spertus College are always welcome. Contact Norman Schwartz at 944-4444 or Elsie Orlinsky at 643-9666.



The former Temple Emanuel building, now slated for demolition. --Photo by Norman Schwartz

Seek Photographic Record of Former Temple Emanuel Building

Steps are being taken to preserve some history of the Lakeview Jewish community through the efforts of Norman Messer, who recently acquired a financial interest in the building which for nearly a half century housed Emanuel Congregation.

The former Temple Emanuel building at 701 Buckingham Place is about to be demolished and replaced by a residential development. Despite its use for almost three decades as a Christian church, many of the building's Jewish artifacts are still intact, including nine stained-glass windows, the ark and candelabra.

Mr. Messer has been in touch with Society President Norman Schwartz with a view to providing the Chicago Jewish Archives with photographic records of all the artifacts before they are removed. Mr. Messer hopes that at least one window and perhaps other items might be safely removed to a location where they can be preserved.

The Buckingham Place building, Emanuel's fifth home, was built in 1907 and, for most of its years as a synagogue, was the pulpit of the late Rabbi Felix A. Levy. Emanuel, a Reform congregation founded in 1880, moved to its present Sheridan Road building in the mid Fifties. Rabbi Herman Schaalman was its spiritual leader at the time.

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

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

To this end the Society seeks out, collects and preserves appropriate written, spoken and photographic records; publishes historical information; holds meetings at which various aspects of Chicago Jewish history are discussed; and offers tours of historical Jewish sites. Muriel Robin was the founding president.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to Society News, discounts on other Society publications and at the Spertus Museum Store, information about Society meetings and other activities, and the opportunity to learn and inform others concerning Chicago Jewish history and its preservation.

Membership in the Chicago Jewish Historical Society is open to all interested persons and organizations. The membership year is from January to December; however, non-members may join at any time.

Committees currently active and seeking members include Oral History, Archives, Exhibits, Photography and the Speakers Bureau. Requests for additional information and membership inquiries may be addressed to our office (Phone 663-5634). We welcome your membership and active participation.

JOINING THE SOCIETY

Annual Dues Categories

Regular Membership	\$15.00
Senior Citizens & Students	10.00
Sustaining Membership	25.00
Patron Membership	50.00
Sponsoring Membership	at least 100.00
Synagogue & Organization Membership	at least 25.00

Make checks payable to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and mail to our office at 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

society news

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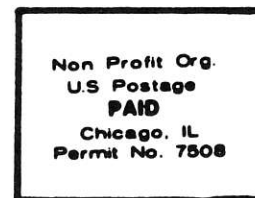
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