

## chicago jewish historical society

618 South Michigan • Chicago, Illinois 60605 • Telephone: (312) 663-5634

## societ news

VOLUME X, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER, 1986

### SOCIETY ACQUIRES SEVERAL ADDITIONAL ORAL HISTORIES FOR ITS TAPE COLLECTION

### ATTRACTIVE COLOR BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE TO EXPLAIN SOCIETY'S WORK

An attractive color brochure explaining the work of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society has been produced and is available for distribution to potential members and friends of the organization.

The brochure, which features rare historical photographs, details the various activities of the Society and explains its membership structure. The product of a committee headed by CJHS Board member Jan Hagerup, it was made possible by the donated services of several members of the graphic arts industry. Mrs. Hagerup was assisted by committee members Doris Minsky, CJHS vice-president, and Elaine and Irwin Suloway.

Donated services included artwork and layout by Vito DePinto of DePinto Graphics, typesetting by Jerry Rosenberg of Keystrokes of Lincolnwood, and printing by Lotte and Al Gruen.

## LIST INCLUDES LEADERS AS WELL AS ORDINARY PEOPLE WITH TALES TO TELL

The taping of the historical recollections of key individuals in the local Jewish community continues under Society auspices. According to Sidney Sorkin, committee co-chairman, the Society's oral history collection now contains reminiscences of almost 100 different individuals in addition to taped records of CJHS meetings and various other historical programs and events.

The March, 1983, issue of Society News contained an up-to-date listing of all individuals in the CJHS Oral History Collection. Since then histories have been recorded by the following persons. In each case the person is identified and some of the general topics included on the tape are listed.

Samuel Deitch. Businessman, Yiddishist, and philanthropist. Largely family history from Eastern Europe to Palestine in

[continued on page eight]

Open Meeting

Sunday, January 4, 1987

Free Admission

Spertus College

Program "Chicago Jewish Women" Dr. June Sochen

1 PM: Refreshments

2 PM: Program

See Page Three for Details

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#### President's Message

## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT LAWNDALE'S FORMER SYNAGOGUE BUILDINGS

A newspaper announcement that a renewal project was being considered for Lawndale (at Kedzie Avenue and Roosevelt Road) caught my eye. I wondered if it might involve the demolition of some former synagogues or other Jewish institutions in the area. The least I could do was to investigate to determine what might be lost before there was a chance to record it



President Schwartz

or collect documents. I later determined that, from the point of view of Chicago Jewish history, that project does not endanger an existing structure of any importance. However, the area remains an "endangered species."

The fact that so many building still stand in Lawndale testifies as to how vibrant the Jewish community must have been in this Chicago neighborhood. Both magnificent synagogues of architectural beauty and converted two-flats or individual homes used as synagogues tell us of a real dedication to the practice of Judaism.

#### Names Indicate Diverse Origins

The sheer number of houses of worship and the different names indicating the place of origin of the members are evidence of the strength in diversity of the community. In these names are to be found Wilno, Lida, Pinsk, Shavil Ve-Yanove, Odessa, Kovne, Motele, and many more. They also include references to the Bible such as "Tents of Jacob" and "Mishne u' Gemorah." Lawndale is now all past for the Jewish community, but some of the buildings have been put to good use. Many of those remaining serve as churches.

Theodore Herzl School stands, its name

## WHO CAN TELL US MORE ABOUT MOLNER HALL AT OLD BETH F12



This former building of Temple Beth El (right) stands with Molner Hall barely visible on the left at 2124-26 West Crystal Street. It later became Dorshe Tov. In his <u>History of the Jews of Chicago</u>, H. L. Meites says that Molner Hall, apparently originally an apartment building, was named after a member of the congregation. Can anyone tell us more about this building or the man it honored?

a memorial to a great man and recognition of the hero of former inhabitants of Lawndale. The Jewish people have moved elsewhere and relocated their synagogues, usually carrying the same name But in the old area not all synathem. gogue names have been obliterated nor all cornerstones removed nor all religious symbols replaced. There are still some familiar names and dates on cornerstones in Hebrew or with the Jewish year indicated.

#### Tours Recall Lawndale Life

The tours of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society show those who participate many of the places to which I refer and leave a lasting impression of what life must have been like in Lawndale in the period 1910 to 1955.

Our Society is trying to preserve or at least record Chicago Jewish history. You can help by retaining your membership, becoming a member, or encouraging your friends to become members.

## JANUARY MEETING AT SPERTUS FEATURES TALK ON LOCAL JEWISH WOMEN

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WILL INSURE CONTINUATION OF BENEFITS

Readers are reminded that membership in the Society needs to be renewed at the start of each year. Individual notices will be in the mail at the close of the holiday season.

The many benefits of membership include notices of regular meetings and receptions, a subscription to Society News, discounts on the Society's summer bus tours and purchases at the Spertus Museum, admission to the annual closed brunch, and free or reduced admission to other events of Jewish historical interest.

President Norman Schwartz advises members that, in addition to providing the benefits above, the dues structure also makes possible exhibits, the making of oral history tapes, the collection of archive material and other activities which help to preserve local Jewish history. "The only reason we can do all this with a very low dues structure is that our membership continues to increase—our old members are loyal and they also bring us new members. We must keep it that way."

Regular annual dues begin at \$15.00 per year. Senior citizens and students pay ten dollars--less than three cents per day. A full schedule of dues appears on the last page of this issue.

### OLD PHOTOS OF WESTSIDE ATHLETIC CLUB MEMBERS ARE DONATED TO THE SOCIETY

A collection of group photographs of members of the Buckeye Athletic Club, a sports organization founded in the early 1900's by young Westside Jewish men of modest means, has been donated to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and may become the subject of a future Society exhibit. The donor is Dr. Burton Roth of Oakbrook, whose father-in-law was a member of the organization.

According to Doris Minsky, Society vice-president and exhibit chairman, the photos, more than two dozen in all, were made into large posters by Judge Abraham L. Marovitz, himself an early member, back in the 1920's to celebrate the club's tenth anniversary. The young men are assembled in various teams, wearing the ath-

# DR. JUNE SOCHEN WILL DISCUSS THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH THE YEARS

Ever since the insistence of an early Jewish woman settler resulted in the arrival of Chicago's first rabbi in 1847, Jewish women have played an important part in both the religious and secular life of the area. Some of their many contributions will be the topic of the next meeting of the Society, scheduled for 1:00 PM, Sunday, January 4, at Spertus College, 618 South Michigan Avenue.

"Chicago Jewish Women" is the subject of the talk to be given by Dr. June Sochen, professor of history at Northeastern Illinois University and a nationally recognized authority on women's history. The address, scheduled to begin at 2 PM in Bederman Hall, will be preceded, as usual, by a social hour and refreshments at 1 PM.

#### Speaker a Specialist in Women's History

"Because Dr. Sochen's specialties include both American Jewish history and U.S. women's history, there is perhaps no one better qualified to speak about Jewish women through the years," said Program Chairman Burt Robin. "We are indeed fortunate to have her address us."

Among her many publications are the book, Consecrate Every Day: The Public Lives of American Jewish Women, 1880-1980, and articles on Jewish women writers, on Fanny Brice and on Sophie Tucker. Dr. Sochen also edited a special issue of the journal American Jewish History devoted to Jewish women.

#### Admission Free to All

Admission is free and guests are welcome. Social hour refreshments will be supervised by Hospitality Chairman Shirley Sorkin and a membership table will be available for those wishing to pay annual dues in person.

letic uniforms of the period.

"We are in the process of identifying each individual and, if possible, summarizing his subsequent history in order to produce an exhibit of broad appeal," said Mrs. Minsky. "We are grateful that Dr. Roth has given the Society the opportunity to preserve the photos and, perhaps, to exhibit them as well."

### REVIEW NEW SENTINEL HISTORY OF CHICAGO JEWRY, POPULATION STUDY REPORT

# BOOKS REFLECT CONTINUING INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

By Mark Mandle

Two exciting books on Chicago Jewish history have appeared recently. They are especially to be welcomed because of the paucity of current information about our area, a major world Jewish community. They are  $\frac{\text{The Sentinel's History of Chicago}}{\text{Jewry 1911-1986}}$  and a specialized work,  $\frac{\text{A}}{\text{Population Study of the Jewish Community of}}$  Metropolitan Chicago.

The Sentinel's history has succeeded in the purpose stated in its foreword by its dedicated, long-time editor, Jack Fish-"to give future generations of Chicago Jews some basic understanding of how this city's Jewry met and faced the challenges of these seven and a half decades." The collection features an excellent overview by Dr. Irving Cutler and some fascinating articles by Dr. Leonard Mishkin. Several other articles are well-written and make interesting reading. The book is a worthwhile contribution to the understanding of Chicago Jewish history. The book's first printing has sold out and a new printing is being prepared.

#### Overview Articles Tie History Together

A few shortcomings detract from the history. The book suffers from a lack of focus. Anita Libman Lebeson's earlier contribution (here reprinted) and Dr. Irving Cutler's overview tie the history together, but they cannot completely compensate for the lack of focus found in the more specific articles. Some articles start in 1911 (reflecting the title of the book), some in 1961 (starting where the last Sentinel history left off), and some go back

Books recording the history of Chicago Jewry are few in number and slow in appearing, but the past year has seen two valuable ones: one a 330-page publication of the Sentinel Publishing Company, the other a product of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. They are here reviewed by Mark Mandle, a library specialist, CJHS Board member and former officer who is himself an avid student of local Jewish history.

to whatever year the group they discuss began.

Two important parts of the community—chavurot (non-synagogue minyans, which now exist on a regular basis in many parts of Chicago) and Jewish cemeteries are not included. The book's pictures are uneven. Some are very good, while others are dated or inappropriate. An index would have made the volume much more useful since the work constitutes an important fact book and reference tool.

#### Sampling of Jewish Households

The writing of American Jewish history has changed dramatically since World War II because of applications of demography, statistical sampling, and sophisticated analyses to Jewish communities. Some of these changes are reflected in an excellent short book (fifty pages) published by the Jewish Federation's Research and Planning Department: A Population Study of the Jewish Community of Metropolitan Chicago.

book's purpose is stated as "a study of the Jewish population of Metropolitan Chicago in the Fall of 1981 to serve as a basis for community planning in the 1980's." The Federation prepared its sample by interviewing 1,247 Jewish households. The five chapters include major demographic trends, socioeconomic profiles, geographic profiles, household and family profiles, and facts about Jewish identification and involvement. The report is polished and does not read like a stuffy academic study. There are some good charts and tables.

#### Heimovics Book Remains Valuable

I mentioned previously that the Sentinel history does not cover chavurot or cemeteries. These areas and other topics were covered in Rachel Baron Heimovics' The Chicago Jewish Sourcebook (1981). Heimovics (a former president of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society) admirably succeeded in her goal of providing a "broad objective survey of the community's resources."

Heimovics' book is dated, but it has aged well. It is a valuable study of our community and remains indispensable both for newcomers and for lifetime residents.

The three books here mentioned provide a firm foundation for the study and teaching of Twentieth Century Chicago Jewish history.





The former home of KAM Temple at 33rd Street and Indiana Avenue, built by Dankmar Adler (left, as a young man) and his partner Louis Sullivan in 1890. It is now the Pilgrim Baptist Church.

--Photo by Irving Cutler

## JEWS HELP CHURCH RESTORE DISTINGUISHED FORMER SYNAGOGUE

## OLD KAM BUILDING WAS DESIGNED BY ARCHITECTS ADLER AND SULLIVAN

A distinguished and historic former home of Chicago's first Jewish congregation is in the process of restoration by the church which currently occupies it—with a little help from its friends, many of them Jewish.

The building, at Thirty-third Street and Indiana Avenue, was built in 1890 by KAM Synagogue and remained its home for more than thirty years before the congregation followed its members to the Hyde Park area. Since then it has been occupied by the Pilgrim Baptist Church, which—assisted by students of architecture and current members of KAM-Isaiah Israel—is restoring the building to its original architectural splendor.

#### Architect's Father Was KAM Rabbi

The building was designed by Dankmar Adler, son of KAM's distinguished rabbi, Liebman Adler. Its interior decoration was the work of Adler's partner, Louis Sullivan. The firm of Adler and Sullivan had just completed the famous Auditorium building, hotel and theater; and there are many stylistic similarlities between it and the synagogue building. Both have been subsequently declared national landmarks.

Included in the renovations completed

or planned are the intricately decorated oak ceiling, a prominent Star of David, and original stained glass windows. John Vinci, a local architect specializing in historic restorations, is overseeing the project.

#### Designed Home for Sinai Congregation

The Adler and Sullivan firm later went on to design the old Stock Exchange Building, whose trading room and entrance arch have been re-erected at the Art Institute of Chicago. Adler, the first local Jew to attain prominence in architecture, was also the designer of a former temple for Chicago Sinai Congregation. After his early death, his partner, Louis Sullivan, became even more famous and designed the landmark building for Carson Pirie Scott and Company.

The old synagogue is but one of many former centers of Jewish worship which have become churches as neighborhoods have changed. Less fortunate have been several others which became factories, warehouses, or even parking lots, the buildings having been demolished.

--I.J.S.

#### DRAZNIN SUPERVISES SOCIETY FUNDS

Our September issue inadvertently omitted the name of our treasurer, Herman Draznin, who has been carefully supervising our finances since last Spring. We regret the omission. Mr. Draznin also serves as a member of our board.

He succeeded Board Member Sol Brandzel.

History is more than a record of facts: it is also an accumulation of attitudes, behavior patterns, and emotions. Indeed, these are what motivate the facts we think of as the basis of history. The Chicago Jewish Historical Society has frequently elaborated upon the facts of Maxwell Street Jewry, both from the platform and through exhibits. Now, in the poem below, we can focus as well upon the attitudes, behavior patterns, and emotions of that area and era as spelled out by Sally Levin—herself a one—time resident there.

#### ODE TO MAXWELL STREET

\_\_\_\_\_\_

Maxwell Street is vanishing. One of the last frontiers Of the pioneers of the pushcarts, The heroes of immigrant years.

Here they came, the greenhorns, Humble and God-fearing Jews In search of a little Parnosoh, The disinherited with nothing to lose.

Lithuanian, Romanian, Polish, Galitzianer, Pushing, shoving, peddling every ware. This was the Golden America, A joyous Laissez Faire.

You got to be an alrightnik, With, "Mind your own business," "I don't care." Not like by "Fonyeh Gonef" With restrictions everywhere

Peddlers shouted, "Vibaleh a cholent,"
"A-Tzimmis," "A Carpaleh for Gefilte Fish,"
What a sweet aroma for Shabbos
And the taste was so delish.

Halsted was for the big "Machers." Here the fancy stores would grow. Here was the birth of an empire, The start of the Nickel Show.

Admissions were two-for-a-nickel. How kids shivered with fear and delight At William S. Hart in Cowboys and Indians And the mysteries of lovely Pearl White.

The milliners were Mademoiselles from Slobodka On whose best hats ostrich feathers would perch. You were sure to look like Lillian Russell As you strolled to synagogue or church.

Glickman's Yiddish Theatre Was on Halsted and Fourteenth Street, Where lonely souls of the Ghetto Found a glorious musical treat.

The women thrilled to Boris Thomashefsky And remembered him for evermore,

## TEST YOUR HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE WITH THE CHICAGO JEWISH TRIVIA QUIZ

#### Trivia Quiz Number 5

Test your knowledge of local Jewish history by attempting to answer our regular Chicago Jewish Trivia Quiz. Then check with your friends to see how well they can do.

- 1. In February of 1861 when Abraham Lincoln left Illinois to assume the presidency, a Chicago Jewish friend of his gave him a special American flag upon which was inscribed in Hebrew an apt biblical quotation. Who was this friend?
- 2. Many Chicago public schools have been named after prominent local Jews. Can you name at least five?
- 3. Only two Jews have become governors of the State of Illinois. Can you name them both?
- 4. What was the earliest Zionist organization in Chicago?

#### Trivia answers are on Page 9

Recalling with vicarious pleasure As they scrubbed the kitchen floor.

At the Maxwell Street Dispensary You were treated fair and square. For ten cents you bought a ticket And got excellent medical care.

Babies were born in abundance, Obstetrics by Doctor DeLee. Praise be to the Almighty For this blessed care that was free.

On every block a synagogue, Replicas of old shuls they had known, Built with the pennies of peddlers Who did not live by bread alone.

Gone with the wind is an era
Of few restrictions and frustrations.
With twenty-five dollars you were in business
Without chain-store strangulations.

We are the inheritors Of these grave, courageous men, Strong in their faith and spirit. Shall we see their like again?

Gone are the sights and sounds of "Old Jew Town."
The new entrepreneurs are black and brown,
Free still to choose to work and scheme,
New pioneers of the American dream.

--Sally Levin

#### NEW BIOGRAPHY EXAMINES THE LIFE OF AN UNFAMILIAR ROSENWALD DAUGHTER

## CHICAGO-RAISED CHILD OF GREAT JEWISH

A Passion For Sharing--The Life of Edith Rosenwald Stern by Gerda Weissmann Klein. Published in cooperation with the Greater New Orleans Section, National Council of Jewish Women. Chappaqua, New Rossel Books

#### A Review by Doris Minsky

Edith Rosenwald Stern was the middle child of Julius and Augusta Rosenwald. By that fact alone, her life story is important to Chicago Jewish history for it can reveal important insights into the lifestyle of Jewish society in the early part of this century. Her life story is significant in that her father, Julius Rosenwald, was the force behind the growth of Sears Roebuck, and he became one of Chicago's wealthiest Jews and one of its greatest philanthropists.

Her older brother, Lessing, will probably be remembered for his long opposition to the creation of Israel. Her younger brother, William, inspired their father to create the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry after he had visited the Deutsches Museum in Munich. Edith and her two sisters, Adele and Marion, the latter married to liberal magazine editor Max Ascoli, became important, meaningful participants in various social causes after having been raised in an environment of wealth coupled with close family ties.

#### Life-Long Friend Provides Information

Of particular interest is Edith's life-long close friendship with "Twinnie," born Julia Friedman, who grew up with Edith as close as "twins," Twinnie, who married Frederick Greenebaum, a member of the pioneer Chicago Jewish family, was to provide the author with significant personal details of Edith's rearing as part of the Rosenwald family.

Lessing, Adele and Edith were born when the family was still modest in wealth. This is in distinct contrast to the life-style and luxurious social comfort enjoyed by the two younger children, who were born after the family had achieved great wealth.

Of the many early local Jewish fami-PHILANTHROPIST LATER LIVED IN THE SOUTH lies, the name of Rosenwald is perhaps the most widely known and respected throughout the nation. Both in business philanthropy Julius Rosenwald's achievements are legendary. Those of his children are less well known. A recent biography of his daughter Edith, presented to CJHS by the Robert S. Adler Foundation, is here reviewed by Doris Minsky, a founder of the Society and its longtime vice-president. It shows that Edith Rosenwald Stern was an important personality in her own right whose removal to New Orleans was a real loss for Chicago Jewry.

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#### Marriages and Early Womanhood

The author traces the growth of Edith as a young woman, emphasizing her education, her early commitment to Judaism and, particularly, her following her father's footsteps in practicing "tzedakah"--justice through sharing. Her short, unhappy first marriage is detailed, followed by

her 1921 marriage to New Orleans philanthropist Edgar Stern, which lasted until his death in August, 1959. Their "railroad car" marriage in Indiana by Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch forms a fascinating anecdote on the life and mores of Chicago Jewish society in the Twenties.

For sixty years, Edith Stern was a social leader of New Orleans. This included leadership in Jewish charities, both national and local, the New Orleans Symphony, support for the development and growth of the National Council of Jewish Women, support of liberal political causes (particularly during the campaigns Adlai Stevenson) and philanthropic work extending from New Orleans throughout the United States.

#### A Talent for Philanthropy

Her soaring social imagination combined with a business sense made her an effective administrator and organizer of social benefits. She was referred to as an "Auntie Mame" with a social conscience. She had inherited her father's great talent for administrative detail, and she was able to apply that in her charitable

### NEW ADDITIONS TO SOCIETY'S ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION (CONT'D)

[continued from page one]

the Twenties, to Chicago; grocery business.

Bernard Epton. Lawyer, former state representative and candidate for mayor of Chicago. Local politics, the Republican party, family including brother, Judge Saul Epton.

Eric Friedland. Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Sholom, founder of Beth Am Congregation. Reform Judaism and the rabbinate in Chicago.

Samuel Friedman. Union official, Amalgamated Clothing Workers. Union activities, 54 years at Hart, Schaffner and Marx.

Arthur Goldberg. Statesman, U.S. Supreme Court Justice, and labor lawyer. Growing up poor in Chicago, labor law, politics.

Samuel Goldsmith. For 38 years the executive director of the Jewish Federation of Chicago. The unification of Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative charities in Chicago, expansion of professional charitable work.

Morris Morowitz. Yiddishist, survivor of Holocaust. Coming to Chicago after World War II, an all-Jewish local of the carpenter's union, Workmen's Circle activities.

Jacob and Rose Nathanson. Business people and Landsmanshaft officials. History of the Pavolatchers in Chicago, family history, the laundry and dry cleaning business.

Manny Passman. Landsmanshaft official. History and current activities of the Mariampole Aid Society and walking tour through Ohave Shalom Cemetery, founded by Mariampolers.

<u>Walter Roth</u>. Lawyer, American Jewish Congress official. Growing up in Chicago as a refugee from Nazi Germany, activities of the Chicago branch of the American Jewish Congress.

Jerome Sachs. Northeastern Illinois University president emeritus, mathematician. Growing up on Chicago's South Side, Jews in higher education and in its administration.

Max Schrayer. Insurance executive, philanthropist. Recent history of KAM and Beth Am Congregations, Jewish community activities.

Lila and Alex Weinberg. Author, editor, activists. The Northwest Side Jewish neighborhood, Jewish and non-Jewish liber-

als, Clarence Darrow.

#### Tapes Have Unique Value

"These tapes constitute a unique record of events in the Jewish community as experienced first-hand by individuals, "said Sorkin. "They are different from and in a way superior to bare facts because they are spiced with emotions and attitudes. We are fortunate to have been able to preserve the reports of senior participants in history. Some of them, unfortunately, are no longer among us. We were lucky to be able to preserve their reminiscences before they left us."

Most of the above oral histories were made by Mr. Sorkin, Sol Brandzel, or Norman Schwartz. They involved preparing the individual, asking him questions, drawing him out, and guiding the direction of the conversation as well as the operation of the recording equipment.

#### Become Available to Students

After recording, the tape must be duplicated, the text transcribed into typescript, and the typescript submitted to the interviewee. Students and others interested in hearing a particular tape should apply to the Oral History Committee through the Society office. Dr. Adele Hast is also co-chairman of the Oral History Committee.

## ROSENWALD'S DAUGHTER (CONT'D)

[Continued from previous page]

work. She developed a tremendous ability to obtain "in kind" contributions from people who rarely had given to charity. Edith Rosenwald Stern developed a passion for sharing her good fortune and ability with others.

Lastly, she developed her estate, Longue Vue House and Gardens, into a spacious and serene spot of beauty that still remains open for public view, a life-long monument to her creativity. As a remembrance to Edith Rosenwald Stern, the New Orleans Chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women commissioned this biography. It is a worthy contribution to the history of those American Jews who, notwithstanding a life of great wealth, have been able to share that wealth and their capabilities with society to be used for the welfare and "good" of all.

## JEWISH PUBLICATIONS WAS TOPIC OF SEPTEMBER MEETING AT EMANUFI

Local Jewish publications were the focus of a wide-ranging presentation at the Society's September meeting by Rabbi Leonard Mishkin. The meeting, held at Temple Emanuel, featured a display of copies of rare Chicago publications which appeared in English and Yiddish during the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries.

Rabbi Mishkin also mentioned several interesting highlights of local Jewish history which he has personally witnessed during the past sixty years. An early graduate of the Hebrew Theological College, the speaker served for forty-two years as head of the Associated Talmud Torahs.

He was introduced by Program Chairman Burt Robin. Refreshments and a social hour preceded the program.

### SOCIETY CO-SPONSORS PROGRAM ON 125 YEARS OF REFORM JUDAISM IN AREA

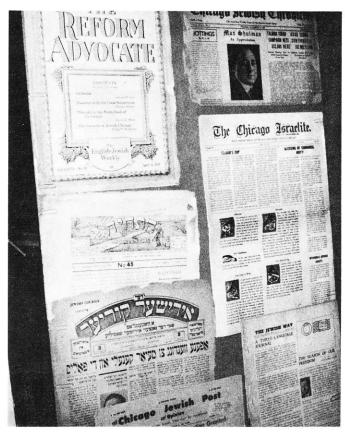
The Chicago Jewish Historical Society joined with Spertus College and the Midwest Region of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to mark the 125th anniversary of Reform Judaism in Chicago.

The Sunday, December 14 celebration at Spertus included a panel of speakers, a concert of liturgical music, an exhibit, and a champagne-hors d'oeuvres buffet. There was a ten-dollar fee, and the program began at 4 PM.

Members of the panel included Rabbi Howard Berman of Chicago Sinai Congregation, speaking on the emergence of Reform in Chicago; Rabbi Herman Schaalman of Emanuel Congregation, on the various reformed congregations; and Rabbi Peter Noble of Beth Emet, Evanston, on Reform rabbinical leadership in the area. Rabbi Alan Bregman, director of the regional UAHC office, served as panel moderator. A question period followed the panel presentation.

After a 5:30 buffet and a reception, there was a concert of liturgical music written through the years for Reform prayer services, with hymn singing by the audience. Featured at the concert was the Sinai choir, under the direction of Hans Wurman.

The formation of a society to study Reform Judaism a few years earlier bore fruit locally in 1861 when Chicago Sinai Congregation was formed as the city's first



Old Jewish publications on display at September meeting. ——Photo by Moselle Schwartz

### ANSWERS TO OUR JEWISH TRIVIA QUIZ

#### Trivia questions are on Page 6

- 1. Abraham Kohn, then the City Clerk of Chicago and a founder of the city's first congregation, KAM.
- 2. Any five of the following constitute a correct answer: Lorenz Brentano, Sol Crown, Herman Felsenthal, Edwin Foreman, Nathan Goldblatt, Julius Hess, Emil G. Hirsch, Henry Horner, Alfred Kohn, Charles Kozminski, Bernhard Moos, A. N. Pritzker, Julius Rosenwald, Hannah Greenebaum Solomon, and Louis Wirth.
- 3. Henry Horner, twice elected; and Samuel Shapiro, elected lieutenant governor but succeeded Otto Kerner, who resigned.
- 4. The Knights of Zion, founded in 1897, which became the first national Zionist organization. Its local chapters were known as gates, the Chicago chapter being Gate #1.

Reform house of worship. Today there are 31 Reform congregations in the Chicago area, 29 of which are affiliated with UAHC.



Ruth Brandzel and Mark Mandle were among the many who visited the CJHS exhibit at Spertus memorializing Sammy Mizenberg, whose 1914 death in service provided Chicago with an early Jewish war hero.

-- Photo by Moselle Schwartz

#### OFFER LOCAL JEWRY COURSE AT SPERTUS

Members might be interested to learn that Spertus College will be offering a course in American Jewish history this winter which will include study of the development of the Chicago Jewish community. The ten-week course will meet Monday mornings from 10 to 12:30 starting January 5.

It will be taught by Dr. Miriam Haron, a member of the Spertus faculty and curator of the Chicago Jewish Archives. Tuition is \$270 if taken for three quarter hours of credit or \$180 if audited on a non-credit basis. Registration details are available from the College at 922-9012.

### Society Welcomes New Members

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society welcomes the following new members. Their interest in preserving the history of Jewish Chicago, combined with that of hundreds of loyal members, make possible our broad scope of activities, which includes meetings, publications, tours, exhibits, the collection of rare material for archives, and the production of oral history records.

Tillie Baskind Gerald Frank Sylvia Halpern Annette Harris Jean Hunt Michele Matousek Jerry Rosenberg Marcy Simon Laurie Slaw Paul & Michele Vishny

--Marian Cutler Membership Chairman

## GLENVIEW CONGREGATION'S SCHOOL DONATES FUNDS TO AID CJHS EFFORTS

The Society gratefully acknowledges a contribution by the children of Congregation B'nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, who recently chose to donate one of their religious school's weekly tzedakah collections to our organization. The Glenview congregation permits students at its school to choose various institutions to benefit from their contributions.

"We are pleased that young people appreciate the need for the preservation of local Jewish history and recognize that our efforts, although satisfying for the adults involved, are in a large part for their benefit and their children's benefit as well," said Society President Norman Schwartz. "We hope the idea appeals to other religious schools."

### MAXWELL STREET EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY AT B'NAI ZION THROUGH DECEMBER

The Society's popular photo exhibit on Maxwell Street when it was Jewish has moved again—this time to Congregation B'nai Zion, 6759 North Greenview Avenue, where it will be on display through December.

The exhibit, which consists primarily of enlarged photographs of the Maxwell Street area when it was a center both for Jewish residence and business, originally appeared at the Chicago Historical Society and was then placed on long-term loan to CJHS. Informative captions describe the photographs.

Since being placed in CJHS's care, the exhibit has been set up at the Rogers Park Library and at North Shore Congregation Israel as well as at B'nai Zion.

"We are especially pleased to have the exhibit at B'nai Zion because the varied JCC programs there attract both old timers for whom the display will be nostalgic and recent immigrants from Russia who are unaware of the earlier Jewish immigrant experience," said CJHS President Norman Schwartz, who set up the exhibit there.

It will be available for display by organizations during 1987. Interested groups should contact the CJHS at 663-5634 or in writing.

### NOVEMBER MEETING FEATURED TALK ON LOCAL JEWISH PHILANTHROPY

### JAMES RICE'S RECOLLECTIONS INCLUDE SEVERAL CHANGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Highlights of a career in Jewish philanthropic endeavor that began in Chicago in 1938 and later involved two decades of achievement here were the subject of the CJHS meeting on November 9. The speaker of the afternoon was James Rice, who in 1966 became executive vice-president of the Jewish Federation of Chicago.

Rice told the gathering Mr. Temple Sholom of his early Chicago years as a social worker in the Thirties, when the local community was aiding German Jews both here and abroad and went on briefly to discuss the years after World War II when he served overseas with the Joint Distribution Committee and as executive director of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS).

#### Major Emphasis upon Local Achievements

But the bulk of his address dealt with recent achievements of the Jewish Federation of Chicago. Among those mentioned were the consolidation of fundraising efforts into the United Jewish Appeal, the provision of financial aid to Jewish education at all levels, the dispersal of Jewish community centers to new local areas of Jewish residence, the shifts from highly centralized institutional care for orphans and the aged, and new programs for Jewish poor.

important have been Equally expanding programs of support for Israel political action in such matters as the projected Nazi march in Skokie, a local professor's denial that the Holocaust happened, and American financial aid to Israel.

#### Importance of Continued Efforts

Mr. Rice retired in 1979 but still assists the Federation and the community as a volunteer. His presentation served both to instill pride in past achievement and to continuing emphasize the role philanthropy must play if local Jewish life is to flourish.

The speaker was introduced by Program Chairman Burt Robin. Refreshments at the preceding social hour were under the direction of Hospitality Chairman Shirley Sorkin.



James Rice (left), speaker at the CJHS November meeting with President Norman Schwartz.

-- Photo by Moselle Schwartz

### SOCIETY MEMBERS CAN ASSIST JEWISH MONUMENT SURVEY GROUP IN ITS WORK

A visual and verbal record of Jewish monuments throughout the world--perhaps relics is as good a word--is being prepared by an international survey group headquartered at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Members of the Society, especially those who travel, are in a position to assist the group in its work.

Monuments as defined by the survey include structures, plots of land, and memorials in the form of statues or plaques which are or have been directly associated with the Jewish people. Because of the transient nature of Jewish settlement throughout the world and the centuries, many of them are in danger of being lost completely if they are not already gone, or recorded only dimly in individual memories or old documents.

The International Survey of Jewish Monuments seeks to establish a photographic and verbal record of former synagogue buildings, old cemeteries, and other structures and has prepared a leaflet explaining how the lay person with an ordinary camera can record such monuments and have them included in the record.

Society members willing to photograph any such monuments they come across while traveling can receive "Guidelines for Photographing Monuments" by writing to the International Survey of Jewish Monuments, Department of Art and Design, 143 Fine and Applied Arts Building, Champaign, Illinois 61820.