



chicago jewish history

Society Elects Board Members, Hears History of Cong. Kol Ami

The CJHS open meeting on Sunday, September 7, was held at Congregation Kol Ami, 845 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 913-E.

The synagogue is located on Chicago's "Magnificent Mile," amid the professional offices on a floor above the elegant indoor shopping mall, Water Tower Place.

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Summer Tours: Hillel Foundation at the University of Illinois (UIUC), southeast corner of John and Fifth Streets, Champaign.

Article begins on page 12. Photograph by Norman D. Schwartz.

IN THIS ISSUE

Demise of the Foreman-State Bank: "Shylock in Reverse"?

Jewish Book Month: The Society's Published Writers

From the Archives: Publisher L.M. Stein

2003 Summer Tours: Rich Chicago Jewish History Rests in Waldheim

Save the Date—Sunday, Dec. 7 Health Care Leader Ruth M. Rothstein to Address CJHS Open Meeting

Ruth M. Rothstein, nationally renowned health care administrator, will be the featured speaker at our next open meeting on Sunday, December 7. The program will begin at 2:00 p.m., following a social with refreshments at 1:00 p.m., in the sanctuary of Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive. Admission is free and open to the public. Parking is available in the Temple lot.

Ms. Rothstein, Chief of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services, has had a distinguished career dedicated to serving the underserved and underprivileged. In her 20-plus years as the President and CEO of Mount Sinai Hospital and Schwab Rehabilitation Center on Chicago's West Side, she created some of the nation's most effective models for access and delivery of health care. Ms. Rothstein is credited with saving Sinai from a likely economic death in the early 1970s. She will speak to the Society about her life and career.

President's Column



Walter Roth

“JUDGMENT AT NUREMBERG” BEGAN as a courtroom drama for television. The author, Abby Mann, later developed it into an Academy Award-winning screenplay, and then reshaped it for the stage. “Judgment” is based on actual events, the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials, held by the Allies after World War II to try German leaders of the Nazi regime in a court of law.

The play was presented locally last year by the Shattered Globe Theatre Company at Victory Gardens on Lincoln Avenue. The production was very well received by the critics and the public. My wife, Dr. Chaya H. Roth, and I attended a performance and found the actors remarkable in their ability to depict the tension caused by complex, conflicting opinions. Chaya and I participated in a post-performance discussion with the cast and audience. The production was so successful that Shattered Globe restaged it this summer at the Loop Theater, Eight East Randolph Street.

The Nuremberg War Crimes Trials were meant to be a warning to the world that genocide would never be tolerated again. Robert H. Jackson, an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, took a leave of absence to act as Chief Prosecutor. Bernard Melzer, a law professor at the University of Chicago, was attached to Jackson's team of attorneys.

Nuremberg soon had implications for cases arising under American law, as in *Terminello v. Chicago* (1949). Terminello, a defrocked priest, had made a public address in Chicago in which he attacked Jews as “filthy scum” and accused them of an “organized conspiracy” to inoculate the entire German population with syphilis. The speech provoked a near riot, and Terminello was convicted of disorderly conduct. The United States Supreme Court, in a five to four decision written by Justice William O. Douglas, upheld Terminello's right to speak publicly.

Justice Jackson wrote a minority opinion. He called the Court's decision an invitation to “suicide.” He recalled the agitation by the Nazis and Communists in Germany which led to riots during the Weimar Republic. Jackson ascribed the same terror tactics to the “fanatics” on both sides in the Chicago riot. He felt that Chicago had the right to enforce a “mild law” to prevent this type of speech and not to do so fulfilled the “extravagant hopes of right and left totalitarian groups.”

Almost six decades have passed since the Nuremberg trials and the results are clouded in controversy and confusion. We now have the spectacle of the United States withdrawing from the World Tribunal at the Hague because of fear that it would be used to try American leaders. Belgium has created an international court, arrogating to itself the right to try “war criminals” of other countries, such as Henry Kissinger and Ariel Sharon. Spain has created a similar tribunal intent on trying the former leaders of Chile and Argentina for “war crimes.” The Chicago production of Abby Mann's play serves as a reminder that the struggle to grant justice and protect civil liberties at the same time is never easy. ❖

Let me take this opportunity to thank our Board of Directors, Executive Secretary Eve Levin, and Editor Bev Chubat, for their commitment to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. I also want to wish all our members and friends a quite belated Happy New Year. Shanah Tovah!



chicago jewish historical society

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Chicago Jewish History

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Burt Robin, Walter Roth, Norman Schwartz, and Milton Shulman

Letters to CJH

The Peoria Street Riots of 1949

I read with great interest Walter Roth's excellent article [*CJH* Summer 2003] on the infamous Peoria Street riots in which I played a very small part.

I was one of the investors in and staff members of radio station WMOR-FM, located at 188 West Randolph Street, which was founded by a group of American Veterans' Committee members and WWII vets to bring a new type of radio to Chicago. We played classical music all day (before the advent of WFMT) and broadcast progressive-oriented news. We also created a number of documentaries.

President of the station was Ralph Woods, now a Chicago-area insurance man. Jules Power, who later produced "Mr. Wizard" and became a vice-president of ABC-TV, was our program director. Bernard Miller, who served as assistant program director, later produced "Bringing Up Baby" with the original Ann Landers on WGN-TV. Bernie became a Chicago investment advisor. I served as public relations director.

Among our reporters were Robert Schakne, later a well-respected CBS Radio news correspondent, and Jack Geiger, now a world-famous physician at Tufts University. Our chief announcer was Jack Pitman, a West Side boy who later became head of the London office of *Variety*.

Incidentally, Aaron Bindman [a central figure in the Peoria Street story] and I were pre-WWII undergraduates at the University of Illinois where we were both members of the Philosophy Club.

When the Peoria Street story broke, WMOR decided to cover it thoroughly, and do a documentary. Schakne and Geiger, both students at the University of Chicago, were assigned to cover it. They interviewed a number of civic leaders, including the late, great Archbishop Bernard Sheil. Mayor Kennelly refused to be interviewed.

We cut some records of our documentary and offered them for sale. I still have a few in my possession and would be happy to contribute one to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

The riots were among the most horrifying events in our young lives, and the scars remain.

Herbert M. Kraus
Chicago

Mr. Kraus heads the public relations and public affairs consulting firm Herbert M. Kraus & Co.

Chicago's First Jewish Alderman

In the recent article [*CJH* Summer 2003] mentioning sites honoring Jews in the city one honoring a distant relative of mine was omitted. It is Greenebaum Park (or playlot) located at Wabansia and Kildare Streets. It is named for Henry Greenebaum, the brother of my great-grandfather.

This Henry (there was another) was the first Jewish alderman of the city of Chicago, and was a real estate developer of the near northwest side. He and his wife had no children, so there are no direct descendants. Therefore I am speaking for him. He and my great-grandfather Elias were organizers of KAM, and later, Sinai congregations.

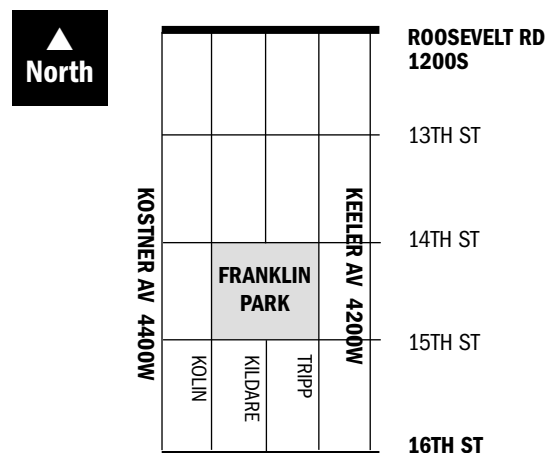
James E. Greenebaum
Highland Park

Memories of Franklin Park

My husband and I received the Society's recent publication, *A WALK TO SHUL: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way*, and thoroughly enjoyed it. Inasmuch as I was raised on the West Side, it brought back very pleasant memories to me. The purpose of my letter, aside from expressing my appreciation for the book, is to list some items that I think were omitted.

I think the western border of your map should have been extended past Keeler (4200) to Kostner (4400) between Roosevelt Road and 16th Street, to include the Franklin Park area.

continued on page 4



Letters to CJH

Franklin Park *continued from page 3*

Franklin was a wonderful park, complete with swimming pools, ball fields, tennis courts, and fieldhouse—a magnet for the large Jewish population in the area. I'm certain that as many Jewish courtships began in Franklin Park as at the JPI Roof Garden.

Beside the park itself, congregating places for young Jewish men and women were the corners of 14th and Kildare at Zimble's Deli, 16th and Kolin at Galler's Drugstore, and Roosevelt and Keeler at Jastromb's Drugstore and Nasatir's Deli.

With respect to elementary schools, you omitted Bryant, Delano, Mason, and Sumner.

The book names only two Jewish funeral homes in Lawndale: Piser and J. Weinstein & Sons. But Palmer & Lauer, located in a very good-looking Art Deco building on the southeast corner of Roosevelt and Tripp, was just as significant as the other two at that time.

Also, the Castle Baking Company (Jewish rye, etc.) had their plant and a retail store on the north side of Roosevelt Road at Tripp, across from the Palmer & Lauer chapel.

Ronnie I. Robbins
Highland Park

Norman Schwartz, co-author and principal photographer of A WALK, took note of Mrs. Robbins' comments and returned to Lawndale to take more pictures. He found and photographed the former Palmer & Lauer building and obtained prints of the elementary schools from the Chicago Public Schools.

Delano (3937 West Wilcox), Mason (1830 South Keeler), and Sumner (715 South Kildare) are still functioning, but Bryant (1355 South Kedvale) was torn down some years ago.

A Walk Through the JPI

Thanks to Walter Roth for writing his book, *LOOKING BACKWARD: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past*. He deserves a *yasher koakh!*

I would like to add some remembrances and comments about the JPI, the Jewish People's Institute, erected in 1926 at 3500 West Douglas Blvd., and where I worked for over 12 years. Really, this institution deserves a book of its own.

In *LOOKING BACKWARD*, Mr. Roth notes that philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, when funding the Museum of Science and Industry, "maintained his consistent position that his name not appear on any objects of his charity." Julius Rosenwald gave a substantial amount of money to build the JPI, and his name was completely absent from its walls.

Among the names used for the rooms of this magnificent building were: Ahad Ha'am, Bialik, Thoreau, Grace Aguilar, and George Eliot. The third floor science lab was called Darwin Hall. The only facility in the building named for a donor was the Herman Schur Reference Library. One of the librarians who was there for many years was Janet Adler MacDowell. In later years, it was Betty Deitz Dreizen, who became one of the librarians at Roosevelt University after the JPI closed its doors.

The Hebrew Theological College was directly across the street. They had a very fine library, too, and an excellent librarian, Leah Mishkin. However, many of the HTC students preferred to come and study and write their papers in the Schur Library.

The JPI had a fine theater seating 792 persons. (It had to have under 800 seats so as not to compete with the movie houses on Roosevelt Road, only two or three blocks away.) There was a large stage, main floor and balcony seating, a projection booth, and backstage dressing rooms. The Institute Players regularly presented productions. Walter Eisenstein directed them until his demise. There was also the *dramatische gezelschaft* that produced plays in Yiddish and succeeded in getting stars such as Maurice Schwartz to appear in their productions.

Blintzes Inn, the restaurant on the lower level, had two kosher kitchens. There was divided seating for the patrons; the western half was for meat and the eastern half for dairy, and a soda fountain, too.

There is much more to be said of the activities at this wonderful institution, and about its director for many years, Dr. Philip Seman.

Fagel R. Unterman
Chicago

Many of the papers of the JPI, its predecessor CHI, and successor JCC, are archived at the Chicago Historical Society. Elliot Zashin wrote a fine article about Dr. Philip Seman for that Society's magazine, Chicago History, a few years ago. Now, in the centennial year of the JCC, articles are appearing in the local press.

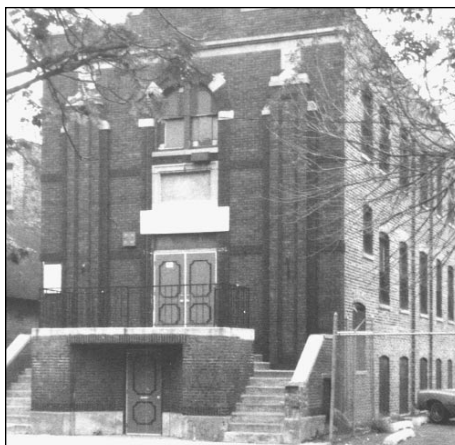
Corrections: A WALK TO SHUL

Lakeview Anshe Sholom Center. The center opened in 1940, not 1956. (Page 101.) The *Sentinel*, dated September 12, 1940, announced:

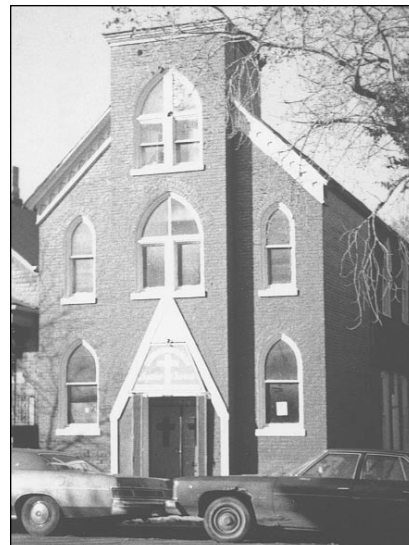
“Dedication of the new Lakeview Anshe Sholom Center at 540 West Melrose Street will take place on Sunday, September 15, 1940, at 2 p.m. Sponsored by Congregation Anshe Sholom, the new center’s scope of activities includes prayers, learning, clubs, and problems of youth. First branch to be opened will be the synagogue, which is ready for the Holidays. The Hebrew school will be opened shortly.”

Rabbi Saul Silber and Dr. A.E. Abramowitz spoke at the dedication of the center.

Thanks to Sanford M. Altschul of Chicago for sending us the magazine clipping.



Mikro Kodesh Anshe Lida and Pinsk.
1253 South Lawndale Avenue.

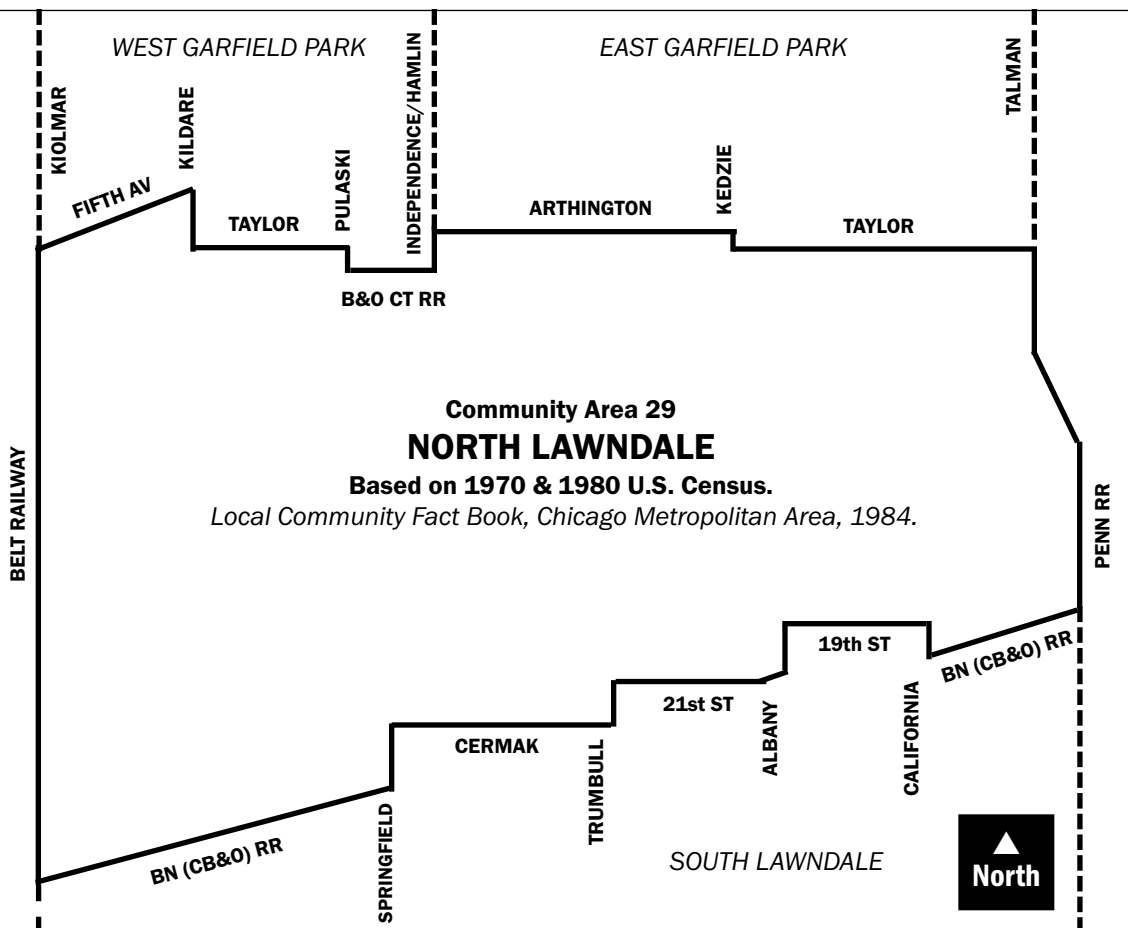


Agudath Jacob.
1318 South Keeler Avenue.

Picture Captions. Captions for the photographs of the Pinsker Shul and Agudath Jacob were transposed. (Pages 111 and 114.) Thanks to Sheldon Hayter of Naperville and Dr. David Sachs of Thousand Oaks, California, for notifying us of these errors in the book.

Dude, Where’s My Lawndale?

The authors of *A WALK TO SHUL* took us, street-by-street, through Lawndale in its half-century Jewish heyday. They stretched its official northern boundary a bit to include important Jewish institutions, but cinched its east-west “waistline” somewhat, and thus omitted some essential Jewish sites. We rely on you, our reader/historians, to tell us of any other overlooked places.



Demise of the Foreman-State Bank: Was It “Shylock in Reverse”?

BY WALTER ROTH

Early editions of the *Chicago Tribune* on Tuesday, June 9, 1931, carried the banner headline “Thousands Awed by \$200,000,000 Moving in Loop” and then reported: “While thousands of spectators stared with awe or curiosity a treasure valued at about \$200,000,000 was moved through the blocked off streets of the Loop last night in the consummation of the merger of the Foreman-State bank with the First National group.”

The story continued with a graphic description of the scene—hundreds of policemen and special guards (with guns at the ready) were posted along the streets as a fleet of armored trucks and other vehicles moved from the Foreman-State Bank at 33 North LaSalle Street, south along LaSalle to Monroe, then east to the corner of Clark, site of the First National Bank. There, all of the money, equipment, and other assets of the Foreman-State Bank were unloaded and became part of the First National.

In the summer of 1931 America was sinking into the Great Depression. Many banks had failed. Others, in danger of collapse, were forced to move their assets to stronger institutions and go out of business. This was the fate of the Foreman-State Bank—but was its demise unavoidable?

The third largest bank in Chicago at the time, the Foreman-State was the largest and one of the oldest Jewish-owned banks in the city. Its demise dealt a cruel blow to its investors, including many Jews. At the time there were rumors (which persist to this day) that the Foreman family lost their bank to the First National because they were Jewish and thus did not receive financial support from other Chicago banks. A brief recap of the events leading to the end of the Foreman-State Bank may be helpful in deciding whether anti-Semitism did indeed play a role.

The first Foreman Bank was established in 1862 by Gerhard Foreman (1823-97), an immigrant to America from Darmstadt, Germany. He came to Delphi, Indiana, and moved to Chicago in 1857. The previous year he had married Hannah Greenebaum, whose family had established a mortgage-based lending institution in our city. Gerhard’s bank prospered, and when the building burned to the ground in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, it soon resumed business in new quarters in the Loop. Gerhard retired in 1885, transferring his interests to his sons, who conducted the business as a family partnership until 1897. In that year, the bank was incorporated under the name of the Foreman Brothers Banking Company.

One of Gerhard’s sons, Oscar G. Foreman, became most prominent in the management of the business; first he became Vice-President, and then President in 1915. In 1923, the bank, having grown substantially both in the Loop and in outlying areas, was reorganized as the Foreman National Bank and the Foreman Trust and Savings Bank, with Oscar as Chairman and Harold E. Foreman, a third generation Foreman, as President.

Then, in 1929, came a momentous step: the Foreman Bank merged with the State Bank of Chicago, which eventually made the institution one of the three largest banks in Chicago.



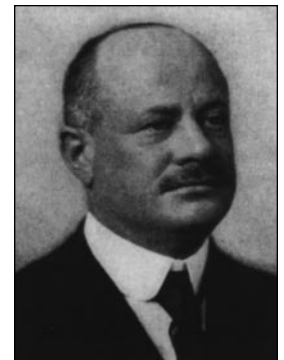
Edwin G. Foreman
(1862-1915)

Son of Gerhard and Hannah; became president of Foreman Brothers Bank in 1897; first president of Associated Jewish Charities; first president of the Standard Club. Edwin G. Foreman High School, 3235 North LeClaire, was built in 1928.



Gerhard Foreman
(1823-1897)

Son of Gerhard and Hannah; elected to presidency of Foreman Bank in 1915; named chairman of Foreman National Bank and Foreman Trust and Savings Bank in 1923.



Oscar G. Foreman
(1863-1933)

The State Bank of Chicago had been established in 1889 by persons of Norwegian origin, Helge A. Haugan and John J. Lindgren. The State Bank's deposits had grown to over \$64,000,000, and it had many branches in outlying areas of Chicago. All of the State Bank's assets were transferred to the Foreman Bank in December 1929. Harold Foreman was made chairman of the directorate; Walter Head, formerly of Omaha, Nebraska—a selection of the State Bank owners—became President. Oscar Foreman became Chairman of the Executive Committee. Stocks of both companies were selling at about \$1200 a share when the merger was agreed to in July 1929.

In October 1929 came the great market crash that signaled the coming economic depression. Throughout 1930 and early 1931 as the Hoover administration found itself unable to halt the downward spiral, businesses began to fail, which in turn endangered banks, particularly the smaller ones whose borrowers defaulted on their loans.

An article entitled "Week-End in the Loop" in the September 1931 issue of *Fortune* magazine, offered a concise analysis of the banking situation in Chicago in January 1931. Some of the old prominent banks in the Loop, such as Greenebaum & Sons Banking and Investment Co., had already disappeared through mergers. The five largest banks in the Loop were the First National Bank, the Continental Illinois National Bank, the Foreman-State Bank, the Harris Trust and Savings Bank, and the Northern Trust Company. There were also numerous smaller banks, some Jewish owned.

According to the *Fortune* article, the Foreman Bank, combined with the State Bank, now had numerous smaller banks outside the Loop which demanded large amounts of cash in order to stave off rumors of failure which would cause "runs" by



Son of Edwin and Rose; became president of Foreman National Bank and Foreman Trust and Savings Bank in 1923.

Photographs from *History of the Jews of Chicago*, edited by H.L. Meites, 1924.

Harold E. Foreman
(1888-1958)

depositors. Apparently, the State Bank had owned many more of these cash-poor banks than the old Foreman Bank. Mr. Head, the president, is often blamed for adopting a policy of aiding these small banks, thus reducing the liquidity of the Foreman-State Bank. But in his defense it may be argued that if he had allowed his subsidiary banks to default, then certainly there would have been consequent concern for the parent bank. Be that as it may, rumors of bank trouble began to circulate. (At this time, two large Loop banks, the Central Trust and the National Bank of the Republic were forced to merge.)

By Thursday, June 4, 1931, a crisis was building at the Foreman-State Bank. Depositors were beginning to withdraw their accounts and a run on the bank was feared. That evening, representatives of the leading Chicago banks met at the home of Melvin A. Traylor, President of the First National Bank, the oldest and second largest bank in Chicago. (This was at a time when the Federal Reserve System did not yet have the power, the resources, or the membership to act in an emergency. Those powers would not be given to it until Franklin D. Roosevelt became President, when a Bank Holiday was ordered in 1933 and new laws enacted.)

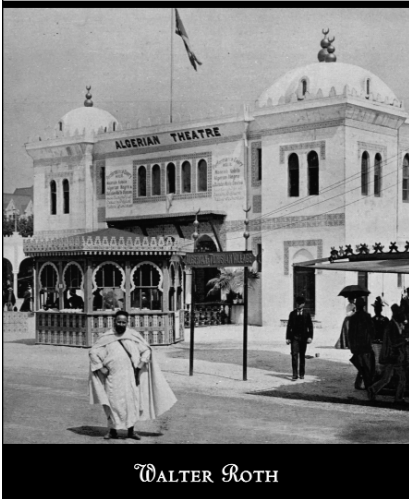
Mr. Traylor was the "heavy" in the evening's drama. His price for saving the depositors' money was ownership of the Foreman Bank's assets. The only solution was the merger of the Foreman Bank with a stronger bank, and that left it up to the First National, since the Continental, the largest bank, said it did not want to add to its size. The meetings went on for the next two days.

Among those representing the Foreman Bank were Walter Head, Harold Foreman, Albert Lasker, and John Hertz. The latter two were substantial Jewish depositors in the bank. Lasker owned the large advertising agency, Lord & Thomas; John Hertz was founder of the Yellow Cab Company. Both men had many other interests. (Both were owners of the Chicago Cubs with William Wrigley, who was also a Foreman depositor.) Lasker had \$2,000,000 on deposit, which he contributed to the bank in order to strengthen its capital. Wrigley and Hertz apparently did likewise. But it was to no avail. The cash demands were so great and the crisis was accelerating at such a pace that the "Clearing House" chiefs (executives of leading Chicago banks) decided that the Foreman Bank must be merged and taken over in its entirety—and the First National Bank was to be the surviving partner.

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Looking Backward

TRUE STORIES FROM CHICAGO'S JEWISH PAST



WALTER ROTH

LOOKING BACKWARD: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past. By Walter Roth. *Academy Chicago Publishers*; 305 pages, \$27.95. The unknown story of Jewish participation in Chicago's great fair of 1893 is only one of the fascinating nuggets of history unearthed and polished by Walter Roth in the pages of *Chicago Jewish History*. Now, for the first time, the material has been collected in a single volume, chronicling events and people from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. Illustrated.

AN ACCIDENTAL ANARCHIST. By Walter Roth and Joe Kraus. 1998. *Rudi Publishing*. Reissued by *Academy Chicago Publishers*; 211 pages, paper, \$16.95. The story of young Lazarus Averbuch's fatal 1908 encounter with Chicago Police Chief George Shippy. Illustrated.

THE FLORIDA JEWISH HERITAGE TRAIL. By Rachel B. Heimovics and Marcia Zerivitz. 2000. *Florida Department of State*; 44 pages, paper. Fully illustrated. \$10.50 each for one or two copies. if ordered from The Jewish Museum of Florida, 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, FL. 33139-6965. (305) 672-5044.

Books by CJHS Members

These books are available at bookstores, online, from the publishers or authors.

THE JEWS OF CHICAGO: From Shtetl to Suburb. By Irving Cutler. 1996. *University of Illinois Press*; 315 pages, \$29.95. Vividly told history of Chicago's Jewish community. (Dr. Cutler's CJHS "Chicago Jewish Roots" tour always sells out!) Illustrated.

JEWISH CHICAGO: A PICTORIAL HISTORY. By Irving Cutler. 2000. *Arcadia Publishing*; 128 pages, paper, \$18.99. A sentimental snapshot of the city's Jewish community—its cultural, religious, economic, and everyday life. Includes 230 photographs and maps.

NEAR WEST SIDE STORIES: Struggles for Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood. By Carolyn Eastwood. 2002. *Lake Claremont Press*; 355 pages, paper, \$17.95. Four extraordinary "ordinary" individuals tell stories of their struggles to save their neighborhood and the century-old market that was at its core. Illustrated.

WOMEN BUILDING CHICAGO, 1790-1990: A Biographical Dictionary. Edited by Adele Hast and Rima Lunin Schultz. 2001. *Indiana University Press*; 1,088 pages, \$75.00. Of the over 400 individual entries in this invaluable reference, forty are Jewish women. Illustrated.

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. A thorough study of the hundreds of service organizations, named after their Old World origins, that were a significant part of the immigrant experience.

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT TEMPLE SHOLOM. By Norman D. Schwartz and Rolf Achilles. Photographs by Rich Master. Design by Dianne Burgis. 2001. *Temple Sholom*; 20 pages, \$5.00. Full color monograph describes and documents the twelve sets of beautiful windows.

A TIME TO REMEMBER: A History of the Jewish Community in South Haven. By Bea Kraus. 1999. *Priscilla Press*; 287 pages, paper, \$24.95. From the 1920s through the 1950s, South Haven, Michigan was the site of a thriving Jewish summer resort community. Illustrated.

A PLACE TO REMEMBER: South Haven—A Success From the Beginning. By Bea Kraus. 2003. *Priscilla Press*; 316 pages, paper, \$24.95. Companion book to "A Time" ranges from early America to the present day. Illustrated. Order books online at www.BKrausBooks.com.

PRAIRIE DIRECTORY OF NORTH AMERICA: US & Canada. By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. 2002. *Lawndale Enterprises*; 352 pages, paper, \$19.95. The first-ever guide for visits to the prairie, an ecosystem unique to North America. 50 pages devoted to Illinois prairie.

SHORT SEA SAGAS. By Harold T. Berc. 2002. *Athena Press*; 190 pages, paper, \$17.95. Unusual tales of over two hundred ships—mutinies, unusual sinkings, mystery ships sailing for years without crews, piracy, wartime disasters and phenomena of the unknown. Illustrated.

CJHS Publications

These books, unless otherwise noted, may be ordered directly from the Society office at (312) 663-5634.

CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY: INDEX 1977-2002.

Compiled by Adele Hast. 2002. *Chicago Jewish Historical Society*. 23 pp. Index of the Society's quarterly journal. Reference copies can be found at Asher Library, Spertus Institute. *Limited quantity available from CJHS office.*

SYNAGOGUES OF CHICAGO.

Edited by Irving Cutler, Norman D. Schwartz, and Sidney Sorkin. Project supervised by Clare Greenberg. 1991. *Chicago Jewish Historical Society*. Computerized compilation of synagogue listings in Chicago city directories since 1856. Every year's complete listings; a one line summary of each congregation; its active years; street address; name of rabbi; name of president if available. *Reference copies can be found at the Chicago Public Library and Asher Library at Spertus Institute.*

HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF CHICAGO.

By Hyman L. Meites. 1924. Facsimile Republication with Introduction. 1990. *Chicago Jewish Historical Society*. The original 1924 edition and the 1990 facsimile are both now out of print. *Copies of both books can be found at the Chicago Public Library and Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.*

A WALK TO SHUL: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way.

By Bea Kraus and Norman D. Schwartz. 2003. 159 pages, paper, \$19.95. Offers a street-by-street stroll past the Jewish institutions and businesses of long-ago Lawndale. Illustrated.

VIDEO: ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE: 100 Years of Jewish History in Chicago, 1833-1933.

Beverly Siegel, Executive Producer/ Director. 1997. 30 minutes, \$29.95. *Distributed by Ergo Media, Inc., P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 10766. www.ergomedia.com.*

THE ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE. 2000. 80 pages (72-page facsimile plus 8 pages of new material), paper, \$15.00. Program book for the pageant-drama presented at Soldier Field on Jewish Day at *A Century of Progress*, the Chicago World's Fair of 1933.

THE CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: A Ten Year History.

By Irwin J. Suloway. 1988. 32 pages, paper, \$3.00. Illustrated.

THE GERMAN-JEWISH EMIGRATION OF THE 1930s AND ITS IMPACT ON CHICAGO.

By Walter Roth. 1980. 24 pages, paper, \$3.00. Report on a symposium held at Congregation Ezra-Habonim on November 18, 1979.

Doris Minsky Memorial Fund Prize Winners:

Doris Minsky was a founder, director, and officer of the Society. The Fund was established in her memory for the purpose of publishing monographs on the history of the Jews of Chicago. Submissions were judged, and cash prizes awarded, by the CJHS Publications Committee.

1. CHICAGO JEWISH STREET PEDDLERS.

By Carolyn Eastwood and **MEMORIES OF LAWDALE.** By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. 1991. 103 pages, paper, \$5.00. Illustrated.

2. THE CHAYDER, THE YESHIVA AND I.

By Morris Springer and **MEMORIES OF THE MANOR.** By Eva Gross. Memoir of the Jeffery Manor neighborhood. 1993. 95 pages, paper, \$5.00. Illustrated.

3. THE CANTORS: Gifted Voices Remembered.

By Bea Kraus. 1996. 85 pages, paper, \$5.00. Illustrated,

4. MY FATHER, MYSELF: A Son's Memoir of His Father, Rabbi Yehudah D. Goldman, America's Oldest Practicing Rabbi.

By Rabbi Alex J. Goldman. 1997. 120 pages, paper, \$5.00. Illustrated,

5. THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR CHILDREN.

By Myron H. Fox. 2001. 160 pages, paper, \$7.50. Dramatic tale of the Chicago Taxi Wars. Illustrated.

Foreman-State Bank *continued from page 7*

The *Fortune* article concludes: “Under the circumstances there would be no appeal from the decision, and the bank was indeed doomed. The Foreman Bank was the last large Jewish bank within Chicago. Its collapse was not only a great blow to the pride of the Foreman family and their allies; it also dealt a great blow to the pride of Chicago Jewry. There was a wholly apocryphal anecdote to be heard in various forms about Chicago, an anecdote to the effect that in the final hour of that unforgotten week-end, Albert Lasker said: ‘We have just had a performance of the *Merchant of Venice*, and a Christian played Shylock.’ Untrue as history, the remark reflects the very natural resentment of the Foreman-State at finding the ground on which for sixty-nine years it had stood, jerked, over Sunday, from beneath its feet.”

Under the agreement of merger, the First National took over all of the assets (including deposits) of the Foreman Bank, whose shareholders, however, were basically wiped out. In exchange, the First National agreed to honor and guarantee all deposits of the Foreman Bank, so that by Monday morning, as depositors lined up at the Foreman Bank Building, a sign informed them that the First National Bank was now responsible for them. While some depositors went over to the First National to withdraw their money, most were reassured, and panic was averted.

Some blamed Traylor for his tough bargaining in demanding the liquidation of the Foreman Bank equity owners (chiefly the Foreman family and their friends) and hinted that Traylor had spread rumors of trouble at the Foreman Bank. But there appears to be no evidence of this. The *Sentinel*, a Chicago Jewish publication, made no such charges, but only carried an article in its November 21, 1931 issue advising that Americans should remain calm and not panic in the bank crisis. Albert Lasker became a director of The First National Bank and many leading Jewish businesses have made the First National their banking institution. It is also true, however, that in its hour of need, the Foreman-State Bank was denied loans from Chicago banks, which might have saved the interests of the Foreman shareholders.

The Foreman family also lost their newly-constructed 40-story building at 33 North LaSalle Street. Its facilities were taken over by a small Jewish lending institution owned by the Straus family. That bank was called the American National Bank and Trust Company. Its first president was Lawrence D. Stern, who had been a small shareholder of the Foreman Bank. The Foreman family had no interest in the new American National Bank.

First National Bank of Chicago purchased the American National in 1984; it then merged with NDB in 1995 to form First Chicago NDB. A 1998 merger with Banc One formed Bank One Corp. Last year the bank unified all its businesses, including the American National Bank and the First USA credit card business, under the Bank One brand. ❖

WALTER ROTH *is president of CJHS.*

1877: Failure of Henry Greenebaum's Banks

In his 1924 *History of the Jews of Chicago*, H.L. Meites writes of an earlier economic disaster:

“In the same year that Zion Congregation [since 1869, at the corner of Sangamon Street and Jackson Boulevard] was beginning to enjoy the greatest prosperity of its career, the fortunes of its leading founder and first president were dealt a staggering blow...

“The ‘Hard Times’ of 1877 were felt by all, but it was the irony of fate that Henry Greenebaum, the man who had done the most for the community, should have been dealt the hardest blow of all. The failure in 1877 of Henry Greenebaum's banks—the German National and the German Savings, two of Chicago's strongest banking institutions—surprised and shocked all.

“The failure was due to heavy real estate investments in the Humboldt Park district whose business and residential growth Henry Greenebaum anticipated. Failing to realize cash on these great and valuable holdings, when money tightened, the banks were unable to meet their obligations and were obliged to suspend business.

“The liabilities of over a million dollars, however, Henry Greenebaum assumed personally, all depositors being paid in full. His entire fortune was swept away and he found himself obliged to start all over again.”

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Made in Chicago: The L.M. Shtayn Farlag

By Joy Kingsolver

FROM THE
CHICAGO JEWISH
archives



L.M. Stein in 1928.

He was affectionately called “the book and school man” by one of the contributors to the *Jubilee Book*.
Chicago Jewish Archives.

Louis M. Stein (1883-1956) was born Yitskhok Leyb Fradkin in Berislav, Ukraine. He was educated at a traditional *kheder* and also at a non-Jewish Russian school, and he became active in the Russian Social Democratic Party.

He immigrated to Chicago in 1907 at the age of 24, and adopted the name Louis M. Stein. He became active in the Chicago Jewish community and studied the Yiddish language.

Stein became an ardent supporter of

YIVO (acronym for *yidisher visnshaftlekher institut*, the Yiddish Scientific Institute, when it was founded in Vilna, Poland in 1925.) He helped to organize the Chicago YIVO Committee and acted as its treasurer for many years. YIVO, headquartered in New York since 1940, is the preeminent center for the study of East European Jewry and Yiddish language, literature and folklore. The Chicago YIVO Committee was succeeded by the still-thriving Chicago YIVO Society.

He was also active in the Sholom Aleichem Folk Institute, which opened its first Chicago school in 1925. These secular schools taught children the Yiddish language and culture from a nonpolitical perspective. (An article by Clare Greenberg about the Sholom Aleichem schools was published in the CJHS quarterly, then called *Society News*, in September 1983.)

Stein was best known, however, as a publisher of Yiddish and Yiddish-English books. His publishing house, the L. M. Shteyn Farlag, provided a venue for a wide circle of Chicago artists and writers during an era when the arts flourished in Chicago. Stein collaborated with Todros Geller, the city’s most esteemed Jewish artist and illustrator. Together they produced books of high quality, books that were visually striking and significant for the history of Jewish Chicago. L.M. Stein was so beloved that in 1938 tributes from many prominent Yiddishists—scholars, poets and other literary figures—were gathered into a *Jubilee Book*. When he died in 1956, Chicago lost a leader of Yiddish culture and the arts.

The exhibition will feature many of the books produced by Stein’s press, along with photographs and reproductions of artwork featured in his books. The items on exhibition are drawn from the collections of the Asher Library and the Chicago Jewish Archives of Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. ❖

JOY KINGSOLVER is Director, Chicago Jewish Archives, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.



One of several logos used by the L.M. Shtayn Farlag, English and Yiddish versions. Chicago Jewish Archives.

**Exhibition “Made in Chicago:
The L.M. Shtayn Farlag, 1926-1949”
December 15, 2003—April 2, 2004**

Gallery of Chicago Jewish History
6th Floor, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies
618 South Michigan Avenue

Gallery hours: M-W 9-6, Th 9-7, and Fri 9-3.
For access to the gallery on Sundays, see the librarian at the reference desk on the 5th floor during library hours, 11-4:30. Archives phone (312) 322-1741.

2003 Summer Tours: Rich Chicago Jewish History Rests in Waldheim

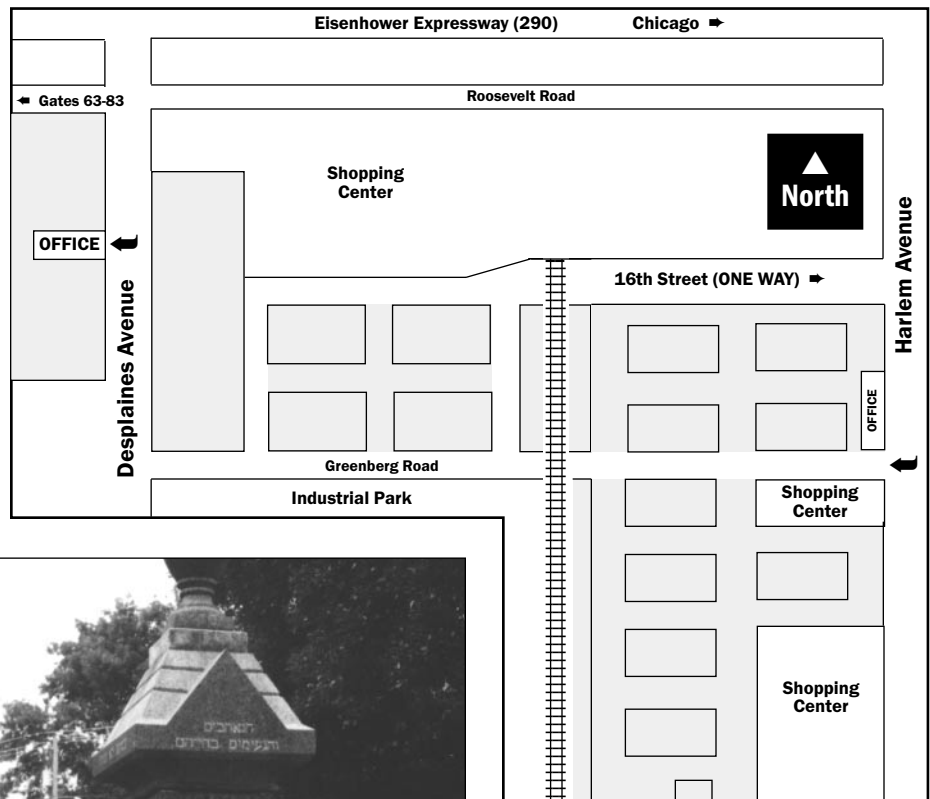
JULY 20: WALDHEIM, AURORA & NAPERVILLE

Before the advent of the automobile, Chicago cemeteries were located along railroad tracks so that special funeral trains could approach. Waldheim, in Forest Park, with nearby elevated trains, and later, streetcar lines, was the most accessible cemetery for Chicago's Jewish population. The earliest burials are estimated to have been in 1868-70.

225 different organizations established their cemeteries within Waldheim's approximately 140 acres. There have been many managers—240 since the founding. By the 1940s care had declined and stopped. In 1957 a general care foundation was established.

There are about 175,000 gravestones in Jewish Waldheim. All the records are now in the hands of three sextons: the Waldheim Cemetery Company (which has the bulk of the gates), the Free Sons of Israel, and Silverman & Weiss. The enormous database is being computerized.

This year, the Waldheim Cemetery Company began offering public tours, and CJHS Tour Chair Leah Axelrod promptly included the cemetery on our west suburban itinerary.



Above: Waldheim Cemetery.

Left: Our guide, Director of Operations Ilene Bass. Photograph by Bev Chubat.



Guide Ilene Bass began our tour at the obelisk that towers over the grave of World War I hero and underworld figure, Samuel "Nails" Morton, and members of his family.

We stopped to read the headstone of famed Cantor David Tevele Cohen. The inscription concludes: "OI, HOT ER GEDOVENT."

The gravesites in the Workmen's Circle Cemetery are not gathered in family groups. They are aligned in long rows. Some headstones are inscribed with the Hammer and Sickle as well as Jewish symbols.

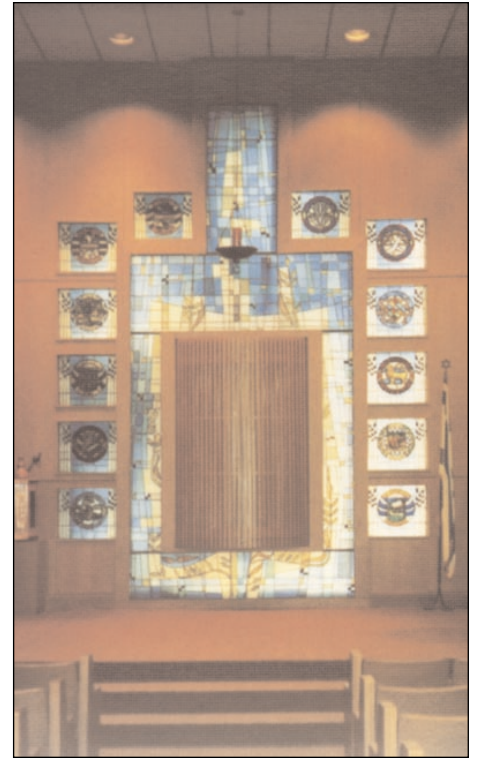
We brought sack lunches, and ate them sitting on the benches in front of the Balaban mausoleum. A handsome structure adorned with Egyptian lotus-topped columns and flanked by large urns, the mausoleum was designed by the architects of the B&K movie palaces. The inscription reads: "DEDICATED TO IDA BALABAN KATZ."



Left: Former home of YMHA Temple, 20 North Lincoln Avenue, Aurora.

Photograph by Norman D. Schwartz.

Right: Bimah with stained glass windows by Todros Geller. Temple B'nai Israel, 400 North Edgelawn Drive, Aurora. Temple B'nai Israel brochure.



Although famous people are buried in Waldheim, it is mainly the resting place of common folk. It is a historic “Jewish neighborhood” that is now being carefully preserved.

Our bus headed west to Aurora. Founded in 1833 on the Fox River, using water power for industry, Aurora has become a west suburban bedroom community, surpassing Rockford as the second most populous city in Illinois. The old B&K Paramount Theater has been restored to its previous splendor. The Hollywood Casino offers riverboat gambling. Broadway Furniture specializes in exports to Israel and the Middle East.

Aurora’s Temple B’nai Israel proclaims its identity with a large, contemporary, Ten Commandments sculpture in front of the building. We were welcomed by President Esther Pollock, Past President Edith Katz, Dr. David Leader, and Judy Jacobson, who told us about their “Reconservodox” congregation.

In 1904 a small group of Jewish merchants and scrap metal dealers formed a *minyán* and held services in rented halls. They later organized more formally with the unusual name, “The Young Mens’ Hebrew Association of Aurora,” and in 1927, dedicated their own building, the YMHA Temple.

In 1961, having outgrown that building, and having been given the gift of estate land (with the stipulation that a Temple be built on it within two years), the first stage of construction was completed on a new home—with a new name—Temple B’nai Israel. The sanctuary is beautified with the Todros Geller stained glass windows created for YMHA in the 1930s.

The congregation has always been independent; it never affiliated with a movement. B’nai Israel holds a variety of services designed to meet the needs of individuals with Traditional, Conservative, and Reform orientations—a “live and let live” policy. Rabbi Hyman Agress served B’nai Israel from 1963 to

1993. The current rabbi, Shmuel Mann has served for two years. Membership has remained stable at 120 to 140 families.

Russell and Yonah Klem, our hosts at Naperville’s Congregation Beth Shalom, called it a “geographical” congregation—serving the area between Aurora and Lombard—with a diverse membership drawn from FermiLab and the many R&D corporate headquarters in the area.

continued on page 14



Congregation Beth Shalom, 772 West Fifth Avenue, Naperville.

Photograph by Norman D. Schwartz.



Summer Tours

continued from page 13

In 1983, when the original 80 member families were deciding on affiliation, the vote was split equally between Reform and Conservative, so they decided on the Reconstructionist Movement—egalitarian, democratic, and strongly Zionist. The following year they hired their first full-time rabbi, and the year after that, moved into their first building, a former church.

In 1998, Beth Shalom's new home was dedicated—the first structure in DuPage County to be built as a synagogue. Membership has grown to 350–375 families, of which almost half are in mixed marriages. Most weekends a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is celebrated. There is a strong adult education program.

AUGUST 24: BLOOMINGTON, DANVILLE, AND CHAMPAIGN

Bloomington has the lowest unemployment in the State of Illinois. We learned this from the town's dynamic Jewish mayor, Judy Stern Markowitz, when we visited Moses Montefiore Temple.

Bloomington is home to Illinois Wesleyan University; its twin city, Normal, is the site of Illinois State University. ISU has a close relationship with the Jewish community. Both schools have Hillels.

In 1882, MM congregation built an architecturally unusual

Former Moses Montefiore Temple, Corner Prairie & Monroe Streets, Bloomington.

Moses Montefiore Temple, 102 Robinhood Lane, Bloomington.

Congregation Israel Synagogue, 14 East Ridgeview Street, Danville. Bimah with stained glass windows by David Ascalon.

Photographs by Norman D. Schwartz.

stone temple. When illuminated it shed its light on the surrounding neighborhood. The building is now owned and lived in by a young couple who invited us in to visit.

Rabbi Paul M. Kaplan stressed that MMT is a flourishing UAHC congregation, accommodating a wide range of worship. Member families number 100.

Our guide to Congregation Israel Synagogue in Danville was Sybil Stern Mervis, sister of Bloomington's mayor. Danville is economically depressed. There are now only 49 Jewish individuals resident in the area, and the handsome synagogue does not appear to have a future.

Students were returning for the fall term at UIUC when we rolled through Urbana to Champaign, to 3104 West Windsor Road, the site of Sinai Temple since 1975.

Our host was Prof. Michael Shapiro of the UIUC English Department. He is director of the Program in Jewish Culture and Society, which has 17 affiliated faculty members teaching courses in Jewish culture and society in ten university departments.

The UIUC Hillel Foundation (the world's first Hillel Foundation), founded in 1923, was our final stop. Hillel's first director was Rabbi Benjamin Frankel. When he died at age 30, his replacement was Dr. Abraham Sachar (later president of Brandeis University). In 1951, this, the first permanent building for Hillel at UIUC, was opened for use.

Our host, the young director, Rabbi Joel Schwitzer, told us that there are about 3000 Jewish students on campus. Reform, Conservative, and Traditional services are accommodated at Hillel. (There is a movable *mekhitse* on rollers.) Our visit ended with dinner in Hillel's kosher facility.—*B.C.*

Cong. Kol Ami *continued from page 1*

After an enjoyable social hour, Rabbi Steven L. Denker of Kol Ami extended greetings to the audience. Society President Walter Roth then conducted a brief meeting to elect members of the CJHS Board of Directors for a three-year term, 2003–2006. New nominees Marvin Dickman, Marshall Krolick, and Mark Mandel, and current Board members Charles B. Bernstein, Herman Draznin, Janet Iltis, Seymour H. Persky, Milton Shulman, and Walter Roth, were elected by acclamation.

Roslyn Lettvin, a member of our Board and a congregant of Kol Ami, chaired the program in the absence of Program Chair Charles Bernstein.

Kol Ami's original name was South Shore Temple. Our first guest speaker, Blanche Keno, described its beginnings. (Mrs. Keno holds a B.A. and M.A. in Jewish Studies from Spertus College, and her remarks were taken from her Masters' thesis on the history of the congregation.) Founded in 1922 in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood by A.C. Bloom, Louis Kahn, and Dr. G. George Fox, it was a classic Reform congregation. Dr. Fox, a graduate of the University of Chicago and HUC, was always called "Doctor"—*never* "Rabbi." German and Sephardic names predominated in the membership. The approach to Judaism was universal and ethical, trying to be "examples of a dignified religion—not a race or nation."

SST's first home was a 12-room frame house at 72nd and Jeffery, where, over time, two more buildings were constructed. It became a meeting place for many secular and interfaith organizations, including Boy Scout Troop 585, the first troop to be founded in a Jewish house of worship. In 1944, the Temple gathered sufficient funds to build a new 1300-seat sanctuary.

Our second speaker, Society Past President Norman Schwartz, commented on the post-war years, when there were about a dozen congregations in a cohesive South Shore Jewish community. The two most prominent ones were South Shore Temple and South Side Hebrew Congregation. When racial change began, Ahron Opher, then rabbi of SST, struggled to maintain an integrated middle-class neighborhood. South Shore did remain middle-class, but lost most of its Jewish component.

Our third speaker, Rabbi Denker, brought us up to 1971, when South Shore Temple found a new home in a two-story building on North Michigan Avenue, and changed its name to Congregation Kol Ami. Later moves were made to Ohio, Ontario, and Huron Street locations. (South Side Hebrew Congregation also moved to the Near North Side, to Cedar Street, and renamed itself Central Synagogue.) Arnold Kaiman was the rabbi of Kol Ami from 1978 to 1994. His mission was to serve an adult community, the residents of the many new Michigan Avenue high-rise buildings. Kol Ami itself moved into a high-rise, Water Tower Place, in 1991. Since Rabbi Denker arrived in 1994, he has placed a strong emphasis on Jewish education for adults, and his classes are well-attended.

In the mid-1950s, sculptor Milton Horn designed a magnificent Holy Ark for the South Shore Temple sanctuary, with two six-foot doors featuring carved mahogany cherubim. These famous doors, once considered controversial because of their depiction of human figures, have recently been restored and remounted on a smaller Ark that fits the Kol Ami sanctuary. This installation marks the congregation's continuing vitality *l'dor v'dor*. ❖

CJHS Welcomes New Members

Theodore Aronson
Marianna & Harvey Choldin
David Harris & Family
Raymond Lewis & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Todd Lundy
Phyllis Ravve
Manuel Robbins
Dr. Sherwin Schwartz
Zev Weiss
Ruth Zebovitz

Dr. Milton Shulman Elected President of American Zionist Movement (AZM) Chicago Region

The American Zionist Movement (AZM), an umbrella group of 14 Zionist organizations in the United States, recently elected Milton Shulman to a two-year term as president of the Chicago region.

Dr. Shulman is a member of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society Board of Directors. He is an emeritus professor of Information Systems at DePaul University.

He is a combat veteran of Israel's War of Independence and wrote movingly for *CJH* (Spring 1998) about his experiences in Jerusalem on November 29, 1947, "when the United Nations, after prolonged debate and incredible politicking, recognized the right of the Jews to a state of our own."

**Coming Soon
to a Mailbox Near You:
Society Membership
Renewal for 2004.**

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 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 invite you to take part! Please contact any of the committee chairpersons listed here.

■ Program Committee

Charles Bernstein, Chair
(773) 324-6362

■ Membership Committee

Dr. Rachele Gold
(773) 338-6975 and
Clare Greenberg
(773) 725-7330, Co-Chairs

■ Tour Committee

Leah Axelrod, Chair
(847) 432-7003

■ Editorial Committee

Bev Chubat, Editor *CJH*
(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.

www.chicagojewishhistory.org

The Society is now online! Browse our Web site for information about our upcoming programs. Read past issues of our quarterly journal.

Discover links to many interesting Jewish sites. Use the printable membership application. We welcome your questions and comments.

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



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