



# chicago jewish history

*Report on May 31  
Open Meeting:*  
**An Archivist's  
Journey Through  
Chicago Jewish  
History**  
*with Joy Kingsolver*

The Society's most recent open meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, May 31 in the chapel at Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive. The speaker was our colleague, Joy Kingsolver, Director of the Chicago Jewish Archives, from 1996 to 2008, and a member of the CJHS Board of Directors.

She is head archivist at the Shel Silverstein Archive in Chicago,  
*continued on page 6*



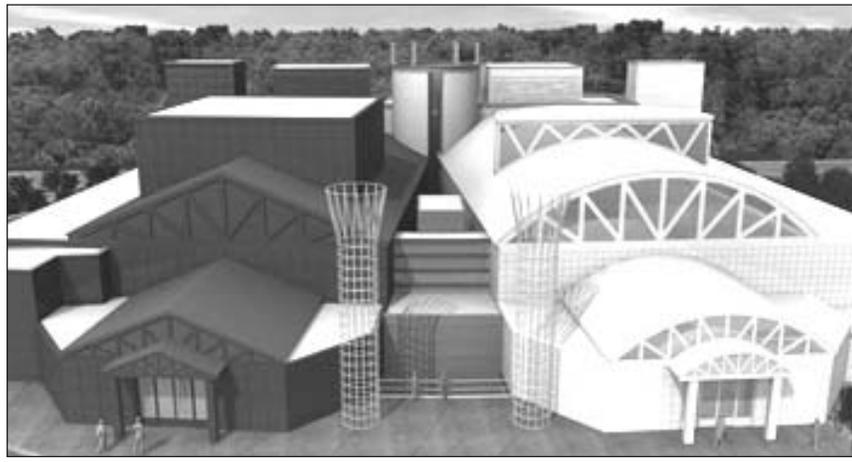
**KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation  
1100 East Hyde Park Blvd.**  
*"Chicago Jewish Roots: The South Side"*

## 2009 Summer Tours

*Sunday, July 19*  
**Chicago  
Jewish Roots:  
The South Side**  
*with Irv Cutler*

*Sunday, August 16*  
**Two New North  
Suburban Gems**  
*with Leah Axelrod*

**Sign Up Today!**  
*See Enclosed Flyer*



*Photograph: Steve Hall, Hedrich Blessing.*

**(From Left) Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, Skokie; Reconstructionist Congregation of Evanston.**  
*"Two New North Suburban Gems"*

## President's Column



Walter Roth

### MY VISIT TO HYDE PARK ACADEMY.

Chaya, my wife; Ari, Judy, and Miriam, my children; their spouses, their seven children, and Helen, my sister, recently arranged a wonderful birthday treat for me—they rented a bus and took me on a tour of the Hyde Park area where I grew up after coming to Chicago from Nazi Germany in 1938.

We stopped at the Kenwood School and the Blackstone Library, where I first learned English.

We traveled past President Obama's home and past some of his favorite restaurants. We went on to the Ray Elementary School, the University of Chicago, and the building that formerly housed Congregation Habonim (no longer in existence.) Then to Congregation Rodfei Zedek, of which Chaya and I are members, and the Museum of Science and Industry. Our final stop was at 6840 South Euclid Avenue, at the house where we lived for twenty-seven years, raising our children. There were warm and nostalgic memories for the entire family.

Two days after that outing, and after two of our children and their families had returned to their homes in other cities, our daughter Judy arranged a visit for Chaya, myself, and Judy's two children to visit Hyde Park Academy at 6220 South Stony Island Avenue. I attended the school from 1943 to graduation in 1947 when it was called Hyde Park High.

We arrived there early on a Monday morning and climbed the front steps of the building that on the outside was unchanged from all the years that had passed since I was a student there. As we opened the front doors, we were met by a waiting crowd of faculty and students.

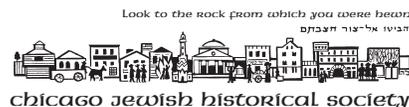


There was Ms. Murray, the assistant principal with whom my daughter had corresponded; Principal Thomas Trotter; the basketball and football team coaches, and scores of students who burst out singing "Happy Birthday."

I was stunned by the exuberance of the adults and teenagers as they greeted us with handshakes. It was a real homecoming.

The school is in much better physical condition on the inside than in my student years. It has been repaired and remodeled to meet modern needs. The school is heavily engaged in teaching TV network programming. In fact, I was interviewed by two students for a C-Span program.

*continued on page 4*



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### Chicago Jewish History

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**Editorial Board** Burt Robin, Walter Roth, Norman D. Schwartz, Milton Shulman

### Send all submissions to:

Editor, Chicago Jewish Historical Society, at street address or e-mail address shown above.

## Symbol of the Society

Very early in its life, the Chicago Jewish Historical Society was fortunate enough to acquire a distinctive and eye-catching logo. The work of Rose Ann Chasman <sup>z"l</sup>, a local artist and a found-ing member, the logo contains an illustrated running history of the city, with emphasis upon its Jewish aspects. She used the typeface *American Uncial* and added her own Hebrew calligraphy for the accompanying quotation from Isaiah 51:1, which encapsulates the Society's purpose: "Look to the rock from which you were hewn."

Rose Ann Chasman went on to enjoy a successful career creating Judaic art using Hebrew letterforms—in paper cutting, *ketubot* (decorative Jewish marriage contracts), and synagogue installations. Shortly before her passing in 2007, she graciously provided us with a new pen-and-ink rendering of her CJHS logo art.

In 1999, we began producing our publications on computer. To approximate the uncial typeface used by Chasman, we chose the digital font *Neue Hammer Unziale*. We learned that it was named for its designer, Victor Hammer (1882-1967), a distinguished printer in Austria, who devoted a great deal of his life to the design and development of the letterform known as uncial, the handwriting used by medieval scribes. His *Hammer Unziale* was produced in 1921.

Hammer fled the Nazis in 1939, leaving all his cutting and casting tools and most of his fonts in Austria. He came to the United States, where he had been offered a post teaching art and lettering at Wells College in New York. It was there that he began work on his best known type, *American Uncial*. With the help of the Society of Typographical Arts (STA) in Chicago, sufficient money was raised to complete the project.

So it turns out that every element of our logo has a Chicago connection!

*The images, reading from left to right:*

**Fort Dearborn**—stood at the mouth of the Chicago River 1803-1812; rebuilt 1816-1856.

**Two Jewish-Owned Stores on Clark Street**—1857. Deliveries were made by horse and wagon.

**"Concordia Guards"**—Company C of the 82nd Illinois Infantry Regiment, the only all-Jewish unit to fight in the Civil War. So nicknamed because the men volunteered at a B'nai B'rith Ramah Lodge meeting at the Concordia Club.

**American Flag with Hebrew Inscription**—an inspiring quotation from Joshua 1:4-9; presented by Chicago City Clerk Abraham Kohn to Abraham Lincoln in February 1861.

**Chicago Fire and Water Tower**—the 1871 conflagration and the surviving landmark.

**Museum of Science and Industry**—established in 1926 by Julius Rosenwald; site of the Bicentennial Jewish Exhibition in 1976 which inspired the founding of the CJHS; a man is pictured performing the *hagbah* ritual—lifting the Torah scroll and displaying it to the congregation.

**Maxwell Street Market**—bustling center of its Near West Side neighborhood until the area was acquired by the University of Illinois.

**Hull House**—settlement house opened by Jane Addams in 1889; helped immigrants and others gain a place of self-respect in society.

**Municipal Flag of Chicago**—four six-pointed red stars on a field of blue and white stripes.

**Auditorium Building**—landmark architecture by Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, completed in 1889. (Upper stories and tower not shown.)

**Three Patriots Monument**—George Washington, Robert Morris, and Haym Salomon; Wacker Drive and Wabash Avenue; dedicated in 1941.

**Chicago Loop Synagogue**—showing *Hands of Peace* sculpture by Henri Azaz and stained glass window by Abraham Rattner, 1958.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn

הביטו אל-צור הוצבתם



chicago jewish historical society

## President's Column

*continued from page 2*

Mr. Trotter offered facts about the school, which has about 2,000 students.

I talked with the coaches about their teams. In my years, Hyde Park High had a top basketball team—and it still does today. Our arch rival then was Marshall High. The coach told me it is still true today.

As we walked through the corridors of the school to view the many classrooms, we encountered smiles from all and hand-shakes from many, even from the hall guards, who greeted us warmly.

When I attended Hyde Park High School there were very few African-Americans in the student population; today it is almost all Black. But that, too, may change as integration comes to South Shore neighborhoods.

I am immensely proud of the achievements of Hyde Park Academy. It is from there that many teachers and leaders of our country will emerge. My birthday visit reinforced my faith in the destiny of this country and the wonders we can produce.

All things are possible if we have the will and energy to give our young people a solid education, no matter the color of their skin or their religious faith. ●

**Have You Renewed Your CJHS Membership for 2009?**

## Letter to the President

### Rescued, Grateful

A couple of days ago I had lunch with Jane Tennenbaum of the JUF. She gave me your latest book, *Avengers and Defenders*, which I enjoyed reading. When I read the story about Levy Mayer, I thought maybe you would like to know a little more about the firm of Mayer Meyer Austrian and Platt, which was the name of the law firm when I came here in 1940. I don't believe that thirty members of my family, including me, would have been able to escape from Germany had it not been for Carl Meyer and his wife Mildred.

I come from a very small village near Bamberg. It had only thirty-two houses and maybe one hundred and thirty inhabitants, of which more than fifty percent were Jewish, all cattle dealers....

Carl Meyer's parents also came from southern Germany. Levy Mayer's brother Isaac married Carl's sister and Carl later joined them in the law practice.... Carl Meyer and his siblings donated the Meyer House at Michael Reese Hospital in memory of their parents.

In 1936, an uncle of mine, who owned the second largest shoe factory in Nuremberg, Germany, took a trip to Chicago to see his cousins, Mildred Pritz Meyer and her husband Carl, as well as Mildred's brother in Cincinnati. My uncle's first stop was Chicago.

On the spot, Mildred and Carl obligated themselves, together with her brother, to provide thirty-plus affidavits to get all my family out of Germany. By 1938, fifteen were in Chicago and Cincinnati.

Then came Kristallnacht, and fifteen, including me, were stuck in Germany. Even though we had the affidavits, our number was too high to get visas to enter the United States. Carl Meyer found that England would take a certain number of Jews if they each had two thousand dollars deposited in an English bank, had affidavits, would leave England within a year, and would not work in England.

In early 1939, the amount of thirty thousand dollars was sent to an English bank, and all of us were saved. Not only that. When my mother and I came to Chicago in 1940, a little apartment was rented for us, prepaid for one year. Once a month we were picked up by limousine for a Friday night dinner at the Meyers'. A special fund was created in case any of the thirty family members should run into financial need. Thank God, the fund was needed very seldom.

When I started a business in 1947, Carl Meyer himself did all my legal work at no charge.... I do not know if you know that Mayer Meyer Austrian and Platt put Abraham Lincoln Marovitz through law school. That is another story. [See excerpts from the oral history of Judge Marovitz in the Spring 2001 issue of *CJH*.]

I shall be forever grateful to these wonderful, good people who saved us and looked after us once we were here.... In their memory I started a philanthropic fund with the JUF and donated the Ark (*oren hakodesh*) at the Selfhelp Home, where I also had a large plaque installed on the entrance to the roof garden, in grateful memory.

Jack C. Heiman *Northbrook, IL*

# Ike “Kid” Bernstein—Legendary Prizefighter, Trainer, Manager

BY WALTER ROTH

The Society recently received an e-mail from a Mr. Chad Nielson requesting information about a Jewish boxer named “Kid” Bernstein “who lived in Chicago many years ago, and though almost forgotten today,” had been quite famous. Our researchers immediately went to work on the matter.

Of the many articles found about Bernstein, the most spectacular, in my opinion, appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on April 7, 1951, under this headline: “Old Ike Hopes to Climax His Career with Ring King.”

The author of the piece is Robert Cromie, a brilliant *Tribune* columnist, now deceased, who opens the article with these paragraphs:

We asked the girl at the Illinois athletic commission how long Ike Bernstein had been training and managing fighters.

“‘Since Methusaleh,’ she said.

Actually Ike began his association with the ring only about 60 years or so ago (he’ll be 75 next Sept. 10), and Methusaleh is one of the few guys he never knew. But her answer will give you the proper idea. Ike is a fistic landmark, a traditional figure at all the important fights, and—at this present golden moment—dreaming a happy and potentially realizable dream of being the manager of the next light heavyweight champion of the world.

Cromie recounts the many bouts that Ike fought, most of which he won. Ike never left the world of boxing. After retiring from the ring, he managed Chicago gyms and was active as a trainer at the University of Indiana and the University of Wisconsin.

He trained many good fighters. His greatest was Packey McFarland, the “Pride of the Stockyards,” a lightweight who lost only once in eleven years, but never won a title. Bob Satterfield was the fighter on whom Ike was pinning his championship dream in 1951, but Bob lost to Joey Maxim and the dream died.

From a local Jewish viewpoint the Kid is best remembered in an article in the *Sentinel’s History of Chicago Jewry 1911-1961*. In the chapter entitled “Jewish Greats of Sportsdom” by Irv Kupcinet, only two living figures from the boxing world are mentioned—Barney Ross and Kid Bernstein:

The story of boxing in Chicago would not be complete without mentioning Isaac Bernstein, better known as Ike....

Ike was born in Chicago in 1876. He was attracted to fights at Gilmore’s gym. Fighting as Kid Bernstein, he had 45 bouts and recalls that he only lost three or four.

He fought at Tattersall’s, at 16th and Dearborn on the same card with Bob Fitzsimmons when the latter knocked out Jim Thorne in the first round....

He was the oldest active manager in the business until his retirement recently.

Irv Kupcinet, in his article, does not mention any connection between Ike Bernstein and Barney Ross, but this entry on the Cyber Boxing Zone website suggests that there may possibly have been a link:

McFarland retired from the ring, invested his money wisely and lived comfortably; his most notable post-retirement boxing achievement came in working with and developing the young Barney Ross, who ultimately became another great fighter from the Windy City....

As for that famous fight card at Tattersall’s in which “Kid” Bernstein took part, *The Encyclopedia of Chicago* entry on boxing tells us:

Boxing flourished in the late 1890s at Tattersall’s.... A match there between famed champion Bob Fitzsimmons and Englishman Jim Thorne was the first prizefight in the city to attract an upper-class clientele.

On November 10, 1966. Ike Bernstein died of natural causes at Edgewater Hospital at the age of 90. His *Tribune* obituary repeats Robert Cromie’s words, adding that Bernstein was regarded as “the dean of fight managers in the country.”

The obituary notes that he was a member of B’nai B’rith, the Elks, and the CYO. (Ike was a great admirer of the socially progressive Chicago Bishop Bernard J. Sheil, whose Catholic Youth Organization sponsored tournaments for young boxers.)

Ike Bernstein was survived by four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two sisters. Funeral services were held at Piser North Suburban chapel with interment in Memorial Park cemetery. ●



Ike Bernstein in 1951.  
*Chicago Tribune.*

## *Report on the Society's Open Meeting on May 31*

# **“An Archivist’s Journey Through Chicago Jewish History”**

*continued from page 1*

which holds the papers of the late poet, songwriter, and artist. She is also consultant to architect Walter H. Sobel, working with records of a career spanning more than fifty years. Mr. Sobel worked on more than a dozen midwestern synagogues.

Joy has both an M.A. in history and an M.L.S. from Indiana University, Bloomington. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

During her almost thirteen years at Spertus she directed the digitization of the *Sentinel*, an important Chicago Jewish periodical, and curated a number of archival exhibitions. She has contributed articles to scholarly books and periodicals and writes regularly for our quarterly, *Chicago Jewish History*.

**J**oy treated the audience to a delightful slide lecture, which she called “a brief tour of some of the important historical material in the Archives, along with some reflections on her adventures as an archivist.”

The Chicago Jewish Archives, we were told, is the only repository in this city devoted to preserving the records of Jews in Chicago. The Chicago Jewish Archives is one of the Special Collections of the Asher Library at Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. Other Special Collections include the rare books and the Seymour and Muriel Yale Collection of Rare Maps—so the Archives is in distinguished company.

Although Spertus itself dates back to 1924, when it was known as the College of Jewish Studies (located at 72 East Eleventh Street), the Archives wasn’t started until 1966. Rabbi Morris Gutstein, a professor of history as well as rabbi at Congregation Shaare Tikvah, was concerned about the loss of local synagogue records and began collecting material for the new Archives. He wrote letters to local rabbis and organizations, and donations began to come in.

Eleven years after the founding of the archives, the Chicago Jewish Historical Society was formed, the outgrowth of an exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry to celebrate the nation’s bicentennial in 1976.

The exhibition, *My Brother’s Keeper*, traced the history of Chicago’s Jews. It was sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. It was put together by volunteers who later formed the Society to continue devoting themselves to Chicago Jewish history.

From the first, the Society had a partnership with the Archives at Spertus. Richard Marcus, the archives and library director at the time, helped to forge a partnership that continues to this day. The Society has been key to the success of the Archives, we were told, bringing in some of the most significant collections, acting as a liaison to the community, gathering both information and historical material.

Some collections have come to the Archives because people make direct contact and offer to donate things, and some because the archivist goes after the collection. Sometimes it’s a combination of these circumstances. Joy suggested that “it takes a village to make an archive.” The Chicago Jewish Archives is a record of the community put together by the community.

### **Samuel Mizenberg**

One of the early interests of the Archives was the story of Samuel Mizenberg. He was born in 1896 and immigrated to Chicago with his family from Russia. He enlisted in the Marines when he was seventeen, over the objections of his mother. Eventually he found himself on the way to Mexico, part of a force sent to restore order during the Mexican Revolution. He was killed on the first day of fighting; he was twenty-one when he died in 1914. In Chicago, he was a hero, and his funeral was attended by many important politicians.

Back in 1967, when the Archives was just getting started, the *Chicago Tribune* donated a compilation of news stories on Mizenberg. But there was no original material on this story until 1985, when the Chicago Jewish Historical Society arranged the donation of photographs and letters, as well as his military hat, a metal name plate from his coffin, the tricorn flag commemorating his death, and other material.

To everyone’s astonishment, this was followed sixteen years later by the donation of funeral photographs—again, arranged by the CJHS. That these images exist at all is a miracle, and the Archives is delighted to have them. It is hard to imagine that this unassuming immigrant could inspire such a funeral, but with the photos, we can see it for ourselves.

### **Michael Reese Hospital**

One of the core institutions of the Jewish community has been much in the news lately. Everyone is aware of how central the hospital has been, not only to the Jews of Chicago, but to the entire South Side neighborhood,

and indeed to the world, as the site of groundbreaking medical research. The historical record of Michael Reese is preserved at the Chicago Jewish Archives.

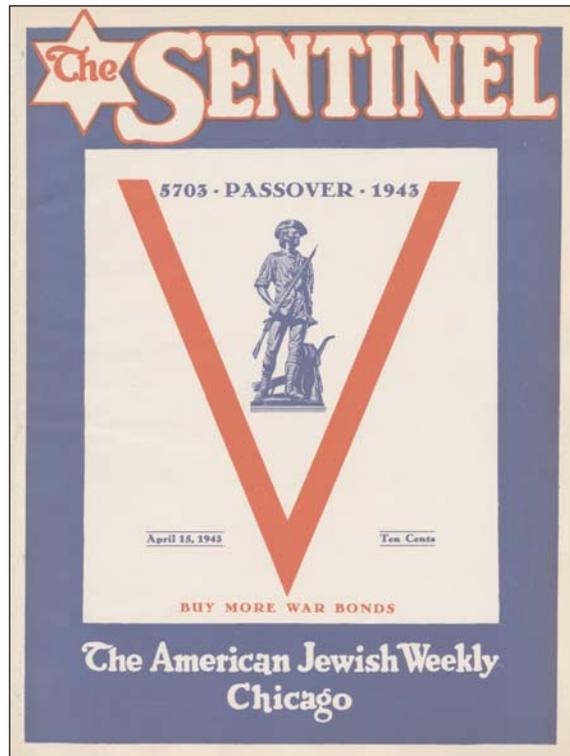
The original hospital opened in October of 1881. Michael Reese became essential to the surrounding immigrant neighborhoods. It was from the beginning a non-sectarian hospital, which considered and then abandoned the idea of having a kosher kitchen. People of all backgrounds and faiths were welcome there.

The historic record for the hospital is rich. The collection at Spertus contains material going back to the earliest days. The collection holds a wealth of information, not just on the hospital, but on the Jewish charities that founded and supported it. Joy recounted her adventures in trying to collect material from Reese these days, as Olympic plans are underway, and speed is of the essence. She has been successful in searching out and collecting unique historical material still remaining in the abandoned buildings.

### Synagogue Records

Material from more than a hundred synagogues is housed at the Archives. Some *shuls* are represented by a single item, such as the ticket admitting “One Lady” to High Holiday services at Anshe Zhitomer Volin, 1332 South Homan Avenue, and a photograph of the choir from Kehilath Jacob, once a large and thriving synagogue at 3757 West Douglas Boulevard. Unfortunately, Joy told us, it sometimes happens that a once-vibrant synagogue will leave few records. This picture is the only archival material I have been able to trace from Kehilath Jacob.

Some synagogues, like South Shore Temple, have left behind many boxes of material. This collection has a good section of photographs and early ledger books, and has been used for research on the changing neighborhoods of the South Side. It closed in the 1970s, and remaining members moved to Kol Ami, in Water Tower Place. Kol Ami recently closed and sent fourteen boxes of material to the Archives.



### The digitized version of *The Sentinel* was launched in January 2009.

Nearly 40 years—1911 to 1949—of Chicago's longest-running Jewish weekly newspaper are now available. There is a link for access at [www.spertus.edu/asher](http://www.spertus.edu/asher). Image courtesy of Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.

### Family Papers

of the Spiegels and the Adlers were donated through the efforts of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. The earliest items in the Archives are cased daguerreotypes of the Spiegel family, together with Marcus Spiegel's Civil War documents.

Joy showed us a lovely picture: Caroline Hamlin, the first recorded Jewish convert in Chicago, and her husband Marcus Spiegel, who was later killed in the war. The family founded the Spiegel catalog company. Max Adler, of course, was the founder of the Adler Planetarium. What is less known, though, is the fact that his son Robert worked very hard to rescue European Jews from the Holocaust. These desperate people wrote to him because they had heard his name, and though they were total strangers, he went to great lengths to help them.

Many of these letters and documents are preserved in the Adler Collection, telling a heartwarming story.

The papers of architect Alfred S. Alschuler were donated to the Archives years ago by his daughter, Marian Despres. He designed many Chicago buildings, including the magnificent KAM Temple, a featured stop on our South Side Tour, and pictured on the front page of this issue of *CJH*. Alfred's wife, Rose Haas Alschuler, was an important innovator in early childhood education. Her papers are divided between the Chicago Jewish Archives and UIC.

Marian died in 2007, survived by her husband, Leon Despres, the renowned attorney, alderman, civil rights champion, and a longtime member of the CJHS. Last fall he donated to the Archives a quantity of letters between Alfred and Rose, a few to other people, and a honeymoon diary. Joy told us that they are lovely, sweet letters. They have been processed at a preliminary stage.

As we know, Leon Despres died on May 6, 2009, at the age of one hundred and one. He was very concerned that the letters reach the Archives before his death, and he phoned Joy several times about them. He brought the material to the Archives in person. ●

# *The Jews of Austin High School* A Concise History, An Illustrious Honor Roll

BY LAWRENCE A. SHERMAN, Class of June 1947

*The Society's open meeting on Sunday afternoon, March 15 was a great success! Over one hundred and twenty persons gathered in the social hall of Temple Shalom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, for conversation and refreshments. Program Chairman Charles B. Bernstein opened the program at 2:00 p.m. and introduced the speakers, four Austin High School alumni. Lawrence Sherman spoke first. He graciously gave CJH this material for publication.*

**1835** Henry DeKoven obtains title to 280 acres from the government: Central to Austin and Lake to Augusta.

**1837** Chicago is incorporated as a City on March 4th.

**1860** Henry W. Austin, a salesman of jackscrews, comes to Chicago.

**1865** Henry W. Austin purchases DeKoven's land, lays out streets, and calls it "Austinville."

**1871** Township of Cicero builds its town hall at Lake and Central on land donated by Henry W. Austin.

**1872** North School is erected on Ohio Street. (In 1907 it becomes Key School). A second floor room becomes the first Austin High School. The first principal is Luther Race.

**1879** South School is erected. (It is later known as Robert Emmet School.)

**1890** First Austin High School (the Old Building) is built at Long and Fulton.

**1898** Addition is built to enroll three hundred and seventy students.

**1899** Austin is annexed by the City of Chicago. Austin High becomes a Chicago school.

**1930** New (West) Building is completed. Construction started in 1928.

**1931** Enrollment at AHS reaches six thousand, eight hundred and fifteen!

**1959** Old Building is demolished.

## WHERE WE GATHERED (Epicenter was Central and Madison)

Austin Theater	Bunny's Hot Dogs	Burney Bros. Bakery
Cinderella Bowl	Diamond Bakery	Finkelman's Drugs
Fisher Candy Store	Mesirow Drugs	Mickey's BBQ
Randl's Deli	Scott's 5 & 10	State Theater
Skokie Valley Ice Cream	Steinway Drugs	Sutker's Grocery

## JEWISH TEACHERS IN MY YEARS AT AUSTIN HIGH

Hy Criz, Johanna Goldberg, Abe Goldstein, Harriet Levin,  
Zelda Shutan, Al Swee

## JEWISH ATHLETES I KNEW

### Football

Jerry Kravitz, Larry Rosenberg,  
Sunny Skorr

### Basketball

Chuck Allen, Hank Bartelstein,  
Gene Golub, Ted Less,  
Bob Mendelson, Howard Orloff,  
Marshall Raff, Norm Rome,  
Joel Salk, Marv Silverman,  
Sherwin Zimmerman

### Track

Frank Aries (Mgr.), Yale Kaplan,  
Sheldon Landy, Dave Parker,  
Gerson Rubenstein, Jerry Schneider

### Fencing

Bernard Fishman

### Ice Skating

Al "Blackie" Blackman

### Boxing

Earl Spector, Leo Syman

## JOURNALIST

Burt Goodman  
Editor, *Austin Times*

## ROTC

Chuck Grill, Ed Rabin,  
Don Simmons

## ALUMNI HONOR ROLL

Alvin & Bob Cohen  
*Continental Coffee*

Sandy Cohen  
*Superior Coffee*

Dr. Harold Gersten  
*Dean Emeritus, Periodontics,  
Marquette U. Dental School*

Donald Jacobs  
*Dean Emeritus, Kellogg School  
of Management, Northwestern U.*

Arte Johnson  
*Comedian, TV Star*

Dr. Elmer Kadison  
*Pediatrician*

Rabbi Joel Lehrfield  
*Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation*

Dr. Bennett "Buddy" Sherman  
*President, Chicago  
Pediatric Society*

Leonard Sherman  
*Rosenwald Award Winner 2008*

Irv Steinberg  
*CEO, Mercury Records*

Dr. Paul Tolpin  
*Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst*

Dr. Howard Wilder  
*Retinal Surgeon*

...and many, many others!

**Proud Austin Tigers:  
Join the Chicago Jewish  
Historical Society!**

## The Jews of Austin High School

### Leather and Cashmere

HOWARD SCHWARZBACH, Class of January 1952

Howard “Bud” Schwarzbach remembered that life at Austin High School in his years resembled a TV sitcom. Life was peaceful with lots of time for fun.

Austin boys would buy their leather bomber jackets from the Rubin Grais Company. “You could get it wholesale if you looked Jewish,” Bud recalled. The girls wore soft cashmere sweaters with crisp white dickey collars. There was a lively social life at school, and there were sorority dances at downtown hotel ballrooms.

“We were the *creme de la creme*,” commented an alumna in the audience, remembering those days.

Bud recalled that Austin was then a “segregated school.” Racial change had begun on the West Side but had not yet reached the Austin neighborhood.

Today, Austin Polytechnic Academy, one of Chicago’s newest public schools, is located on the campus of the former Austin High School. Its mission is to prepare all students for success in academically strong four-year colleges and careers in hi-tech industries. ●

#### LAWRENCE A. SHERMAN

*attended Congregation B’nai Israel of Austin as a child, was in Halevi AZA, and a sprinter on the Austin High track team. A financier and philanthropist, he founded Puritan Finance Corporation in 1958. Larry has held many leading offices with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Mount Sinai Hospital and Medical Center, and the Jewish United Fund.*

**HOWARD SCHWARZBACH** is the grandson of Solomon Schwarzbach, founder of the cemetery company of the same name at Waldheim. Bud was Bar Mitzvah at the Austin Jewish Community Center under Rabbi Louis J. Lehrfield. He was a member of Halevi AZA and a shotputter on the Austin track team. He owns five wine stores in the Chicago area, three of which operate under the name Wine Discount Center.

### Holocaust Studies

GERALD C. BENDER, Class of June 1956

After receiving his J.D. in 1968, Judge Bender developed a general law practice, where his interest in Holocaust studies led to his meeting and becoming a close friend of Simon Wiesenthal, and serving as the famous Nazi hunter’s personal attorney from 1977 to 1997. Judge Bender told us of his work with publisher Louis Weber (a Life Member of the CJHS) to distribute a book on the Holocaust free to schoolchildren.

Gerry Bender did not live in the Austin district, but he assured us that he did not give a false home address to gain admission. (In order to attend Austin, many Jews of Lawndale and East Garfield Park did give false addresses or asked for help from local politicians.)

The Italian and Modern Greek languages were

taught at Austin, so young people of those ethnic backgrounds from Lawndale or East Garfield Park had an acceptable reason for a transfer to Austin.

He enumerated the many organizations and clubs at Austin that encouraged a wide range of talents and interests, including both a boys’ band and a girls’ band.

When he mentioned the Green Grill, the legendary Austin student hangout, there were smiles and nods of recognition in the audience. He recalled that the Jews would gather in one area, but in time came to appreciate the other groups. ●

#### JUDGE GERALD C. BENDER

*attended Bryant Elementary School in Lawndale and was Bar Mitzvah at Congregation Anshe Sholom. At Austin High, he earned two major letters as a four year member of the wrestling team. He was active in Sherman Levine AZA and continues his involvement in B’nai B’rith as a board member of the Sports Lodge. He was elected a Cook County Circuit Court Judge in 1996 and has been assigned to the Domestic Relations Division ever since.*

#### RON CHIZEVER

This talented student artist illustrated Austin’s 1951 *Maroon & White* yearbook. He made this drawing of the Austin Tiger for the sports section and sketched cartoon images of daily life at school for the endpapers.



If you knew Ron, please send your remembrances of him to: [info@chicagojewishhistory.org](mailto:info@chicagojewishhistory.org) or Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 610 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605-1901

## *The Jews of Austin High School*

# “Paddy Dunn the Irishman is Jewish?”

BY WALLACE B. DUNN, Class of January 1959

**W**e moved to Austin from the South Side when I was about nine or ten years old. We lived at 201 South Central Avenue in a high three story apartment building dating from around 1929. I lived with my parents, my sister Sheila, who is two and a half years younger than I, and my brother Bruce (“Red”), who is seven years younger.

Our apartment was catty-corner from Columbus Park. Directly across, on Adams Street, was an old mansion that had been converted to classrooms for the Austin Jewish Community Center’s Hebrew School.

We belonged to the Austin Jewish Community Center, a traditional synagogue located about a block north of our home on Central Avenue.

The first floor of the Center housed the sanctuary, the *beys-midrash* (study hall), and offices of the secretary and Rabbi Lehrfeld. The basement provided a meeting place for an AJCC-sponsored Boy Scout troop and the FDR AZA. On the High Holy Days, the junior congregation met there. The second floor consisted of the social hall and kitchen. Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs, and fundraising or social events were held there.

My uncle Harry had been president of the congregation, and my father was active in the *shul*. He ran the rummage sales, and our whole family helped. During the week of the rummage sale we had our lunch there instead of at home.

I remember a social event my parents attended at the *shul* at which an armed robbery occurred. Well over a hundred people were present. The fright of the holdup affected my mother for years.

The AJCC building survives today as a Baptist church.

How Jewish was the neighborhood? When I attended Emmet Elementary School it was about seventy per cent Jewish. Austin High School was between ten to twenty per cent Jewish during my years.

At that time Austin was a football powerhouse. The coach, Bill Heiland, was known city- and statewide for his success.

I entered Austin in the February semester of 1955. The following fall there were football try-outs. Since I had already had a run-in in class with a bigger tough (which I won), I felt confident enough to try out, although at the time I was about five foot-six inches tall, maybe a hundred and seventy pounds, and almost completely out of shape.

I made the Frosh-Soph team and became a better player as I became more physically fit. The coaches sent me up to the Varsity team in my sophomore year, 1956, and we ended up as co-champions of the Public League.

During my sophomore year I didn’t attend practice during the High Holidays. Coach Rizly asked where I was. My teammates said I was off because of the Jewish holidays. The coach was amazed, saying, “Paddy Dunn the Irishman is Jewish?” Thereafter, during my high school years my nickname was Paddy.

In 1957 I injured my knee playing Marshall and was out the last two or three games. Austin won the sectional championship but lost in the playoffs.

In my senior year I played and we won the 1958 Prep Bowl in Soldier Field against our arch rival, Fenwick of Oak Park, the Catholic League champs. By then I was five foot-ten inches tall and weighed about two hundred and ten pounds.

There were three outstanding Jewish players on our team: Phil Bizar, George Goldberg, and Jerry Michaels. All the players on the team got along. There was always a sense of inclusion and being a part of something bigger. Having an outstanding coach in Bill Heiland was a tremendous stroke of luck.

I attended a branch of the Hebrew Theological College (the *Yeshiva*) during my freshman and sophomore years. It met across the street from my home in the AJCC classrooms.

The *Rav* was a screamer.

I would come in after football practice with my football equipment in a bag. I would sit in the back of the room, black and blue and totally exhausted. He never raised his voice to me nor did he ever call on me to read



**Football Coach Bill Heiland.**

*Austin yearbook photo from the 1950s.*

and translate the *Gemora* we were studying.

I belonged to the AJCC-sponsored Boy Scout troop. Later, as a high school student, I belonged to the FDR AZA, primarily a social athletic male group that gave us an opportunity to meet girls at BBG socials all over the city.

The AZA sponsored athletic tournaments, and FDR also competed in tournaments run by other organizations.

The general meeting place for Austin students was the intersection of Madison and Central—the southwest corner was Jewish and the northwest corner was Irish.

The Jews of Austin were a tight-knit group. The community stuck together. To some extent we had to because of outside pressure from other ethnic groups. But on the whole, as a group, we got along well enough with the other groups:—Greek, Italian, and Irish. I enjoyed high school and the neighborhood.

Through football I met a member of the Chicago Bears, center Mike Pyle, who interviewed me for a Yale scholarship. However, being immature, I went to the University of Illinois. Just as well, since that is where I met Joan Kaplan, who later became my wife. Joan and I have enjoyed nearly forty-five years of marriage. ●

#### JUDGE WALLACE B. DUNN

received his J.D. in 1965.

He practiced law in Chicago until 1974, when he relocated his office to Highwood, in Lake County. There he developed a general practice, but with a concentration in representing governmental bodies. He was the Corporation Counsel of the City of Highwood for seventeen years.

He has been an Associate Judge of the Illinois Circuit Court Nineteenth Judicial Circuit since 1986.

## The Jews of Austin High School

### The Jazzman Had a Jewish Father

BY BEV CHUBAT

Tenor saxophone legend Lawrence “Bud” Freeman was renowned as raconteur as well as a musician. His effervescent wit is apparent in the third and last of his memoirs, *Crazeology: The Autobiography of a Chicago Jazzman*, as told to Robert Wolf (University of Illinois Press, 1989).

Bud Freeman was born in 1906 in Austin. His mother, who died young, was a French-Canadian Catholic with musical talent as a singer and pianist. His Jewish father was a cutter in the garment industry. In his memoir, Bud remembers him lovingly as generous and supportive of his two sons’ artistic aspirations — Bud’s as a musician and Arny’s as an actor. Arny Freeman (1908-1986) had a long career in Hollywood as a character actor in TV sitcoms and dramas, often playing tough guys with Jewish names.

In 1922, five boys at Austin High School formed a little band. Four of them had formal music education and knew the classics (only Bud Freeman had never had music lessons), but they were enthralled by the black jazz music they heard on visits to nightclubs on the South Side of Chicago. They heard and learned from Louis Armstrong and all the greats of that time. Freeman believed that *real* jazz was born in Chicago, not New Orleans.

The boys’ band gained fame as The Austin High Gang. The original members were Jim Lannigan, Jimmy McPartland and his older brother Dick, Frank Teschemacher, and Bud Freeman. Dave Tough came over from Oak Park. Bud learned to play the C-melody saxophone. He changed to tenor sax a few years later after the band had got under way professionally.

Bud performed with many jazz combos and big bands based in New York. Always an Anglophile, he lived in London for some time. But he spent his last years in Chicago, living modestly in an apartment hotel. He played joyous gigs at Andy’s Jazz Club on Hubbard Street, lectured at the Field Museum, and proudly received an award from Mayor Harold Washington. Studs Terkel wrote the introduction to *Crazeology*. Bud Freeman died in 1991 at the Warren Barr Pavilion in Chicago at age eighty-four. ●

There is a sizeable Bud Freeman discography available online, including: **Chicago/Austin High School Jazz**. Bud Freeman’s Summa Cum Laude Orchestra.



Members of the Austin High Gang receive their varsity ‘A’ at a reunion in 1942.

Left to right: Jim Lannigan, Dick McPartland, Bud Freeman, and Mr. Summers, the principal of Austin High School. Photo by Rube Lewis. From Bud Freeman’s autobiography, *Crazeology*. Used in that book by permission of Down Beat magazine.

## Report on The Newberry Library's March 17 Program Co-sponsored by CJHS Walter Roth: "Avengers and Defenders"

An audience of about fifty persons attended a program in the "Meet the Author" series at The Newberry Library, 60 West Walton Street, on Tuesday evening, March 17, at 6:00 p.m. The Chicago Jewish Historical Society acted as co-sponsor with the Newberry of this presentation of Roth's latest book on Chicago Jewish history.

Adele Hast, program chair and participant in the program, introduced Walter Roth, president of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and author of the recently released book of thirty-eight essays on Chicago Jewish history, *Avengers and Defenders: Glimpses of Chicago's Jewish Past*. Many of the essays first appeared, in different form, in the pages of *Chicago Jewish History*, the quarterly publication of the Society.

Roth told the histories of three men whose stories appeared in his book, and Adele Hast read a selection from the essay for each of them.

Roth began with Sholom Schwartzbard (1886-1938), the "avenger" of the title. Schwartzbard, trained as a watchmaker, moved from the Ukraine to Paris in 1920, after nearly twenty members of his family were massacred in a pogrom. Simon Petliura, the Ukrainian nationalist leader, and one of those who initiated the pogrom, settled in Paris in 1924. Two years later, Schwartzbard tracked him down and killed him. Schwartzbard was tried in a French court and found not guilty by the jury. He moved to the United States and lived in Chicago for a time. He wrote books of poetry and autobiography in Yiddish, at least one of which was published in Chicago. In 1938 Schwartzbard died in Cape Town, South Africa. He was reburied in Israel in 1967 in the Heroes Cemetery.

Roth next told the story of Julian M. Mack (1866-1943), considered a great judge who first gained prominence in Chicago. He graduated first in his class at Harvard Law School and later became involved in public service. Mack was a founder of the American Jewish Committee. He served as a law professor at Northwestern University and then at the University of Chicago. He became a judge of the Cook County Circuit Court and in 1904 of the new Chicago Juvenile Court. He afterward served on the Federal Commerce Court until 1913, then was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. In addition to his judicial and civic activities, he became involved in the Zionist movement. In 1919 Mack was elected the first president of the Zionist Organization of

America. After his death Mack was memorialized in Israel by a kibbutz named in his honor.

For his final story, Walter Roth told about Nelson Morris (1838-1907), a Jewish entrepreneur at the Union Stockyards. Morris came to the United States after the failed Revolution of 1848 in Southern Germany. He sought opportunity in Chicago and became an active cattle trader for the Union Army during the Civil War. By 1900 Nelson Morris & Company had a large meat processing and cattle trading business in several cities across the United States and at the Union Stockyards. In 1905 he was one of the founders of the Abraham Lincoln Centre, a settlement house still functioning on Chicago's South Side. After Morris died in 1907, his eldest son Edward and then his grandsons ran Morris & Company.

After Roth's presentation, he answered questions from the audience. To close the event, the bookstore sold copies of *Avengers and Defenders*, which Walter Roth signed. All proceeds from sale of his books go to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.—Adele Hast



**Sholom Schwartzbard: *In'm loyf fun yorn* (In the Course of Years).** Published by the Sholom Schwartzbard Committee, Chicago, 1934. Title page art is by Todros Geller (1889-1949), illustrator, graphic artist, and teacher known as the "dean" of Chicago's Jewish artists.

## ED MAZUR'S PAGES FROM THE PAST

**M**y source for these selections is the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey Microfilm Collection at the Chicago Public Library, Harold Washington Library Center.

In the autumn of 1936 the Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey was organized under the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of Illinois. The purpose of the Survey was to translate and classify selected news articles appearing in Chicago's foreign language press from 1861 to 1938.

Financial curtailments in the WPA program ended the Survey in October 1941. The Chicago Public Library published the work in 1942. The project consists of a file of 120,000 typewritten pages from newspapers of 22 different foreign language communities in Chicago.

Yiddish is the foreign language of the Jewish press in the Survey. English language periodicals are also included, as well as the publications of charitable institutions, communal organizations, and synagogues.

### THE ANARCHISTS ARE NOW FREE

Governor John Peter Altgeld has deemed it prudent as well as equitable to pardon Fielding, Schwab, and Neebe. This act has taken many people by surprise, but it brought comfort and joy to the condemned families and their friends. The Governor has stated his reasons plainly even if he had to overhaul some judiciary, bailiffs, jurors, and so forth. Whatever the motive may have been for the official act of pardoning the men, we believe that it is humane, and that the cause of justice will in no way suffer thereby. It has been sufficiently demonstrated that the

United States is no field for anarchism. The laborers, workingmen, and proletariats have it in their power to change the policies, officers, and incumbents at stated elections. The laws of the land must be maintained!

—*The Occident*, June 20, 1893.

### IMPORTANT NEWS FOR CHESS

**PLAYERS** Is there a Jew who doesn't play chess? The West Side Coffee Shop, 1018 South Halsted Street near Miller, is the one place where you can play chess to your heart's content without a fee. At the West Side Coffee Shop you can get the finest fresh and kosher food at reasonable prices at all times.

Henry Chase, champion chess player of the United States, gives everyone a chance to play him and show him his ability.

The West Side Chess Club is located on the first floor above the restaurant. For further information, telephone Monroe 4445. —*The Daily Jewish Courier*, April 1, 1910.

### YOUNG AMERICA BRANCH OF THE ARBEITER RING

About two months ago the Young America Branch of the Arbeiter Ring was organized by several members of the Chicago Hebrew Institute Educational League and their fellow-workers. The branch is having a steady and healthy growth and promises to be a valuable factor in the Chicago division. At present it is the only English-speaking branch in the city. Greater stress will be placed on the educational and instructive feature of the organization, leaving the routine work more in the background. At the special open meeting held on December 24, in the Reception Room, Mr. Philip L. Seaman delivered an address on the purposes and value of the Arbeiter Ring.

—*Chicago Hebrew Institute Observer*, December 29, 1914.

### THE EDUCATION OF JEWISH

**CHILDREN** The children in the Yiddish Folk schools are educated in the spirit of progressive Jewish nationalism, and in the light of progressive social principles.... The Yiddish Folk Schools, on one hand, strive to acquaint Jewish children with the experiences of the Jewish people in the past and with its cultural sources and assets, so as to arouse in the children the sentiment of organic unity with the Jewish people.

On the other hand, the Yiddish Folk Schools instill in the child the knowledge that he is a member of that class of the Jewish people, whose duty it is not only to fight for the national freedom of the Jewish people, but also for the social freedom of the Jewish proletariat together with the proletariat of the entire world. The courses are: Yiddish reading, writing, and literature; Legends and History; Hebrew reading, writing, speaking and literature; Discussion of social problems; Introduction to cultural history and social development and Music.... —*The Daily Jewish Forward*, July 16, 1919.

### OPEN AIR SOCIALIST MEETINGS

This Tuesday, ...two open air Socialist meetings will be held. One will be held on the north-west side at 3:00 P.M., corner of Washtenaw and Division. The speakers will be W.M. Feigenbaum, M. Bahal, and George Coop. The other will be in the Douglas Park District at 8:00 P.M., corner of St. Louis and Roosevelt. The speakers will be Morris Siskind and Dr. M. Green. —*The Daily Jewish Forward*, September 12, 1920.

## Welcome, New Members of the CJHS!

Sharon Z. Alter  
*Chicago, IL*

Michael Chordash  
*Buffalo Grove, IL*

Wallace B. Dunn  
*Deerfield, IL*

Jeffrey L. Graubart  
*Pasadena, CA*

Jack C. Heiman  
*Northbrook, IL*

Mort Igelman  
*Chicago, IL*

Marc R. Jacobs  
*Chicago, IL*

Sheldon & Rita Kirshner  
*Chicago, IL*

Edie Kleinman  
*Northbrook, IL*

Elliot & Frances Lehman  
*Wilmette, IL*

Earl A. Malkin  
*Las Vegas, NV*

Pearl Mallon  
*Lincolnwood, IL*

Roger B. Mandel  
*Deerfield, IL*

Donald Segal  
*Chicago, IL*

Alvin D. Sokolow  
*Davis, CA*

Kirill Vorobeychik  
*Lincolnwood, IL*

Judith Wood  
*Chicago, IL*

Howard Zar  
*Chicago, IL*

### Chicago YIVO Society Summer Festival of Yiddish Culture

23 FREE PROGRAMS — Lectures, Music, and Documentary Films  
Co-sponsored by the Public Libraries of Chicago (HWLC and Sulzer),  
Evanston, Northbrook, Skokie, Wheeling, and Wilmette.

See complete calendar at [www.chicagoyivo.org](http://www.chicagoyivo.org)

### “East European Jews in the German-Jewish Imagination: From the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica” Through June 22, 2009

An Exhibition in the Special Collections Research Center  
Rosenberger Library of Judaica Gallery  
The University of Chicago Library, 1100 East 57th Street

“The symbol of East European Jewry played an important role in German-Jewish self-definition. Were these so-called *Ostjuden* foreign or family? Did they represent a tradition from which German Jews would have to dissociate in order to secure their civic equality as Germans, or were they fellow members of a single Jewish nation?”

“This exhibition traces the place of East European Jewry in the imagination and experience of German Jews from emancipation in the nineteenth century to the decline of German-Jewish life on the eve of World War II. The various images of the *Ostjuden* presented in the items on view reflect the complex face of German Jewry itself.”

—announcement on the University of Chicago Library website

For further information phone (773) 702-8705

### Association of Jewish Libraries 44th Annual Convention July 5 – 8, 2009

Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers  
301 East North Water Street

Sessions on library management, collaboration, social media, children’s literature, adult literature, Yiddish, ethnomusicology, art, Sephardic Jewry, and more. Barbara Schneider-Kempf, the director general of the Berlin State Library in Germany, will present the findings of the Berlin State Library’s study of books stolen by the Nazis and incorporated into German libraries.

The CEU is entitled “Promoting Digital Research in the Jewish Library: Resources and Strategies.” The instructor is Michael Kay.

Archivist Joy Kingolver, CJHS board member and speaker at our May 31 open meeting, is a participant in the digitization program.

Per diem rate includes lunch plus all the sessions of that day.

For further information go to:

[www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/conventions/convention2009/](http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/conventions/convention2009/)

Look to the rock from which you were hewn

הביטו אל-צור חצבתם



*chicago jewish historical society*  
**Summer Bus Tours 2009**

**SUNDAY, JULY 19 — “CHICAGO JEWISH ROOTS: THE SOUTH SIDE”**

**Guide: Dr. Irving Cutler**

Take an expertly narrated luxury bus tour tracing Jewish settlement in Chicago from its beginnings downtown. Travel south through communities such as Maxwell Street, Grand Boulevard, Kenwood, Hyde Park, and South Shore. View important institutions, including those with landmark status, and the residences of prominent persons. Stops will include the beautiful home of Chicago's oldest congregation, KAM Isaiah Israel; the New Maxwell Street Market (relocated again); an historic Jewish/Civil War cemetery; and the South Shore Cultural Center, once a restricted country club.

**Depart 11:30 pm — Bernard Horwich JCC, 3003 West Touhy — Return 5:30 pm**

**Depart 12:00 pm — Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan (bus at Rush & Ohio) — Return 5:00 pm**

\$37/Member of CJHS \$42/Nonmember

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 — “TWO NEW NORTH SUBURBAN GEMS”**

**Guide: Leah Axelrod**

Tour the Illinois Holocaust Memorial Museum and Education Center in Skokie, designed by local architect Stanley Tigerman. The mission of the institution, founded by survivors in the community, is to honor the victims and educate the public—especially young people, for whom there are special exhibits. The complex includes a library, archives, auditorium, and Room of Remembrance. Also visit the acclaimed Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston—the “greenest” house of worship in the USA. Over 95% of the materials from the old synagogue were reused in the new construction. The membership feels they are fulfilling the environmental values of Judaism with their building.

**Depart 12:00 pm — Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan (bus at Rush & Ohio) — Return 6:00 pm**

**Depart 12:30 pm — Bernard Horwich JCC, 3003 West Touhy — Return 5:30 pm**

\$45/Member of CJHS \$50/Nonmember

**Reservations — Chicago Jewish Historical Society Bus Tours 2009**

**SUN., JULY 19 “SOUTH SIDE”** \_\_\_ Horwich  
 \_\_\_ MEM. \$37 \_\_\_ NON. \$42 \_\_\_ Marriott

**SUN., AUG. 16 “NORTH SUB.”** \_\_\_ Horwich  
 \_\_\_ MEM. \$45 \_\_\_ NON. \$50 \_\_\_ Marriott

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Advance payment required.

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_ Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to: Chicago Jewish Historical Society**

**Mail to: Leah Axelrod, 2100 Linden Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035-2516**

Questions? Phone Leah at (847) 432-7003 or email: leahaxe@aol.com