



chicago jewish historical society

1977
40
2017

CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY

Spring Reviews & Summer Previews



Sunday, August 6
“Chicago’s Jewish West Side”
A New Bus Tour
Guided by Jacob Kaplan
and Patrick Steffes
Co-founders of the popular website
www.forgottenchicago.com

Details and Reservation Form on Page 15



Sunday, August 13
A Lecture by Dr. Zev Eleff
“Gridiron Gadfly?
Arnold Horween and
Jewish Brawn in
Protestant America”

Details on Page 11



- **CJHS Open Meeting, Sunday, April 30 –** Professor Michael Ebner presented an illustrated talk “How Jewish is Baseball?” *Report on Page 6*
- **CJHS Open Meeting, Sunday, May 21 –** Mary Wisniewski read from her new biography of author Nelson Algren. *Report on Page 7*
- **Chicago Metro History Fair Awards Ceremony, Sunday, May 21 –** CJHS Board Member Joan Pomaranc presented our Chicago Jewish History Award to Danny Rubin. *Report on Page 4*

CO-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Dr. Rachelle Gold.

The Special Meaning of Jewish Numbers: Part Two The Power of Seven

In honor of the Society's 40th anniversary, in the last issue of *Chicago Jewish History* I wrote about the Jewish significance of the number 40. We found that it expresses trial, renewal, growth, completion, and wisdom—all relevant to the accomplishments of the Society. With meaningful numbers on our minds, Board member Herbert Eiseman, who recently completed his annual SAR-EL volunteer service in Israel, pointed out that years ending in seven are

significant in Israel's history. (See details of Herb's service on page 4.)

This year, 2017, is the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, with special celebrations held for Jerusalem Day (*Yom Yerushalayim*), May 24. Herb noted that the first Zionist Congress, convened by Theodor Herzl in Basel, Switzerland, took place in 1897, the Balfour Declaration was issued in 1917 and the United Nations Partition Plan (Resolution 181) was approved in 1947. Herb's observations are a reminder of the abundant Jewish references to seven, so let's explore them as we did for the number 40. (As before, this is a partial list.)

In the Bible, God created the world in six days, followed by the Sabbath, (*shabbat*), a day of rest. This constitutes a foundational cycle of seven (*sheva* in Hebrew; a week is *shavua*) that appears often in the Jewish calendar. Every seventh year is a *shmitah* in which the land rests and debts are forgiven. Seven cycles of *shmitah* are followed by a Jubilee (*yovel*) in the 50th year. The same count of seven sevens applies to the weeks of the *omer* period from Passover up to the 50th day, Shavuot (literally, weeks). The Bible instructs us to observe the festivals of Passover and Sukkot for seven days each. The Hebrew calendar has seven leap years (a second month of *Adar* is added) in its 19-year cycle.

Noah was commanded to bring seven pairs of clean animals into the ark. In Pharaoh's dream, as interpreted by Joseph, there were seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. The dedication of the sanctuary (*mishkan*) occurred over seven days. The candelabrum (*menorah*) had seven branches. The priest performing the atonement sacrifice sprinkled the bull's blood seven times.

The Jewish life cycle and rituals are replete with sevens. A baby boy lives seven days before the circumcision is performed on the eighth day. There are seven blessings (*sheva brachot*) recited at the wedding ceremony, followed by seven days of celebration during which the seven blessings are recited again. *Shiva* (literally, seven) is the seven day mourning period.

The Torah reading on *shabbat* is divided into seven readings. Selected honorees ascend (have *aliyot*) to the *bimah* to read for the congregation. The *shema* prayer contains seven commandments.

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2017

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Chicago Jewish History

is published quarterly by the CJHS at 610 S. Michigan Ave., Room 803, Chicago, IL 60605-1901. Phone (312) 663-5634. info@chicagojewishhistory.org. Successor to *Society News*. Single copies \$4.00 postpaid.

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Send submissions to Editor, electronically (preferred) or via standard mail. Enclose SASE.

CJHS BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS



Jerry Levin.



Janet Iltis.



Dr. Edward H. Mazur.

Please note the innovation in the lineup of CJHS officers newly elected to two-year terms, 2017-2019. We have two co-presidents, **Dr. Rachele Gold** and **Jerry Levin**. Each of them displays particular strengths in leading our Society forward. Rachele is a clinical psychologist, a scholar, a Jewish community activist, and as shown in her columns for our journal, a superb writer. Jerry is “Mr. Details.” As our program committee chairman, he brings his wealth of construction industry experience to assembling terrific events and expertly crafting contracts. **Janet Iltis** is our newest

secretary, but she has the oldest Chicago Jewish history in the Society. Her great-great-grandfather, Ignatz Kunreuther, was our city’s first rabbi and shochet. Jan is a speech therapist with the Chicago Public Schools. **Dr. Edward Mazur** stepped down from the presidency, but continues to serve as our treasurer and Q&A wrangler at our open meetings. Ed benefits our community as Chairman of the City Club of Chicago, professional tour guide, popular lecturer on Chicago Jewish history, and contributor of fascinating articles to our journal.

EXHIBITIONS TO SEE NOW

Making Mainbocher: The First American Couturier Open Now until August 20, 2017

Chicago History Museum
1601 North Clark Street

Chicagoan Mainbocher (1890–1976) established a fashion empire serving royalty, Hollywood icons, and the social elite. Raised in a modest home on the city’s West Side, he leveraged his passion for the arts to become a tastemaker of twentieth-century style. The exhibition features examples of gorgeous fashions created for Chicago socialites, as well as the uniforms he generously designed for the WAVES in WWII, and for the Girl Scouts of America. Main Rousseau Bocher (his birth name) attended Marshall High. In February 1940, he visited his alma mater to speak to a student assembly. The exhibition includes a *Chicago Tribune* photo of the dapper couturier surrounded by Marshall girls listening to his fashion advice.

For hours, admission fees, and online slide show visit www.chicagohistory.org

Ben Shahn: If Not Now, When? Open Now until August 27, 2017

Spertus Institute
for Jewish Learning and Leadership
610 South Michigan Avenue
Ground Level Arts Lab

Lithuanian-born American artist Ben Shahn (1898-1969) was a committed activist and humanist. Using social realism to protest political attitudes of the time, his work reveals a passionate search for social justice and an engagement with questions about his spiritual and ethnic identity. He explored polemic themes of modern urban life, organized labor, immigration, and injustice. All works in the show are from the Spertus collection.

Admission is free.
For exhibition hours visit www.spertus.edu

CJHS members... YASHER KOACH!

To all our activists, achievers, and honorees... the Hebrew phrase means "More Power to You"



Jacob Kaplan was interviewed on WTTW-Channel 11 "Chicago Tonight" on Thursday evening, April 20, about the website, **forgottenchicago.com**.

Participating historians do research, write articles, and conduct tours and lectures focused on Chicago's overlooked built environment. Jacob is an

editor of the ten-year-old venture, which he co-founded with a bright group of his fellow students at Whitney Young High School. They came from all over the city to the magnet school, and were intrigued by mysterious fragments of historical architecture and infrastructure they would see on their train and bus commutes.

Today, the website has almost 80,000 followers! *Forgotten Chicago* tours regularly sell out, and their lectures fill library auditoriums. You can see Jacob interviewed by Phil Ponce at chicagotonight.wttw.com.



It is listed on the calendar — Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The CJHS 2017 tour of Chicago's Jewish West Side, on Sunday, August 6, will be guided by Jacob and his *Forgotten Chicago* colleague **Patrick Steffes**. See details and registration form on Page 15 of this journal.

Zev Eleff spoke at the Yom Yerushalayim event held at Congregation Or Torah on Tuesday evening, May 23. He spoke about the yearning to live in Israel, as exemplified by great figures such as Rabbi Moses ben Nachman (Nachmanides) and the poet Yehuda Halevi, who managed to do so in their later years.

Elise Ginsparg was honored by Congregation Yehuda Moshe at a Friendship Dinner, on June 11, for her 20 years of work as co-chairman of the congregation's annual "Night of Knowledge." Elise selects a panel of eight expert speakers on a wide variety of subjects of Jewish interest, and on a selected November evening *Motza'ei Shabbat*, they present their brief talks. A gala *Melava Malka* always follows the program, prepared by Barbara Freedman, who was also honored at the dinner.



Leah Axelrod, our terrific tour chairman, was elected President of the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS) in April. She is a lifelong history enthusiast who joined the CJHS in its earliest days, and has been an active Board member ever since. Leah is a founder and Past President of her hometown Highland Park Historical Society.

She is in for a busy and exciting time as the ISHS prepares activities in celebration of the Illinois State Bicentennial in 2018.

On Sunday, afternoon, May 21, the 2017 Chicago Metro History Fair Awards Ceremony was held at the Chicago History Museum. **Joan Pomaranc** presented our Society's Chicago Jewish History Award to Danny Rubin, a senior at the University of Chicago Lab School High School for his paper, "Grant's Obnoxious Order: Lincoln's Stand for the Jewish People in 1862."

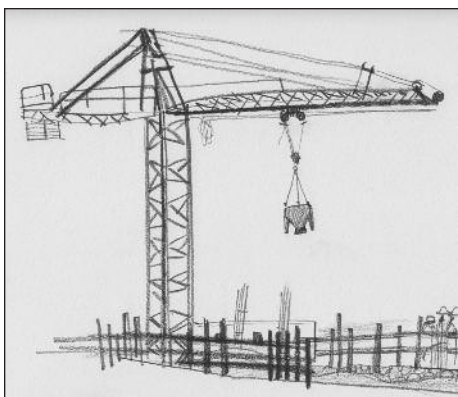
When he submitted his paper to the 2017 Chicago Metro History Fair, Danny was required to present a thesis statement in two sentences.

He wrote: "Abraham Lincoln's moral values, his national vision of equality, and his close friendships with Jews allowed him to overcome ancient prejudices against the Jews and take a stand against his close political advisors and friends."

Entries using the 2017 National History Day theme were required to explain how the project integrated the NHD theme "Taking a Stand in History" into its argument. Danny wrote, in part:

"Lincoln took a stand for the Jews in confronting Ulysses S. Grant about his "obnoxious" order [General Order 11, issued on December 17th, 1862, to expel the Jews from his territories in Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois and Missouri.] Despite this being the morally correct thing for Lincoln to do, this was an extremely risky political move. General Grant was not only Lincoln's friend and an important member of the Union, but he was also a very well-liked leader.... By publicly voicing his opinion against Grant's decision, Lincoln risked dividing the Union even further..."

This excerpt was edited to include details of the "obnoxious" order that Danny discusses in his paper.



Tower Crane, Israel.
Drawing by Bev Chubat.



Hoopoe, the National Bird of Israel.
Jerusalem Post. jpost.com

Herbert Eiseman has been an annual volunteer with Sar-El since 2002. Sar-El: The National Project for Volunteers for Israel, is an organization that provides people from all over the world an opportunity to work in Israel Defense Forces warehouses, relieving soldiers from mundane tasks. There is no age limit. Volunteers work four and a half days a week, must commit to a minimum of two weeks, and be in good health. They are housed, fed, and clothed during their time as a volunteer. See www.sar-el.org

At a CJHS Board meeting after his return from service this year, Herb extolled the beauty, vitality, and enterprise in Israel. There is so much building in progress, Herb and his fellow American Sar-Elniks opined that the national bird of Israel could be the construction crane!

Actually, in 2008, the hoopoe (in Hebrew *duchifat*) was voted Israel's national bird in a hugely popular nationwide competition conducted by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. For details, Google the *Jerusalem Post* Hoopoe article, May 29, 2008.



Rachelle Gold in her Hoopoe T-Shirt.
Photo by Alan Gold.

For a few days in mid-May, **Jerry Wexler** had a whirlwind adventure as a fine art detective! He assisted two visitors from Israel, Alex Bekker and his daughter Ronit Bekker Blankovsky, in their search for works by David Bekker (Vilna 1897–Chicago 1956) in local museums and private collections. Alex is the Chicago-born son of the artist, and Ronit is an art historian. They are in the process of compiling a catalog raisonné of David Bekker's art—that is, a complete record of his work. David Bekker's family was part of the Second Aliyah to Palestine in 1911. He studied art at the Bezalel Academy. A misadventure drove him to Europe. He then came to



David Bekker, Drawing "...and a little child shall lead them (Isaiah 11:6)."
Collection of Dvora Aviezer, the artist's daughter, Petach Tikva, Israel.

Denver, and finally, to Chicago, where he was a leading, often contentious, member of the Jewish artists' circle. He painted in oils, made prints, and designed stained glass windows for synagogues. We published an article about David Bekker in the Spring 2010 issue of our journal.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

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Report: CJHS Open Meeting, Sunday, April 30, 2017

A Presentation by Professor Michael H. Ebner “...and how Jewish is baseball?”

An audience of baseball mavens assembled at Temple Beth-El, 3810 Dundee Road in suburban Northbrook, for Michael Ebner's illustrated lecture. Professor Ebner taught American History for thirty-three years at Lake Forest College and is a veteran activist in his North Shore Jewish community, but he is a native of Brooklyn.

As a youthful Dodger fan, he suffered his team's World Series defeats in 1947, 1949, 1952, and 1953, and their shocking loss in the 1951 National League playoffs. His dream of victory was finally realized with their World Series win in 1955—then smashed when the Dodgers departed Brooklyn for Los Angeles in 1957. He began to dream of a championship again when he embraced the Cubs in 1974. A dream or a mishegas, it came true in 2016.

How many Jewish major leaguers have there been since Lipman Pike signed on with the Troy Haymakers in 1871 and finished his career with the New York Metropolitans in 1887? Close to 200, that's all.

Yet so many American Jews are devoted to baseball in general, and especially to our very own Yom Kippur-observant heroes. Many great American Jewish novelists sprinkle their works with baseball references. Baseball often meant “America” to our immigrant forebears. Thanks to Prof. Ebner for reminding us of these cultural connections with erudition and enthusiasm. — *B. C.*



From Left: Judy and Ted Roseman wore their Cubs gear, and Bob Kotler sported his Petach Tikva Pioneers jersey.

Photos by Rachele Gold.

Baseball in Israel, 2007 The IBL consisted of six teams: the Bet Shemesh Blue Sox, Modi'in Miracle, Netanya Tigers, Petach Tikva Pioneers, Ra'anana Express, and Tel Aviv Lightning. Some former major league players and executives were assembled to manage the teams. A former United States ambassador to Israel, Dan Kurtzman, acted as the league commissioner. Ken Holtzman managed the last-place Pioneers, whose logo featured a player hitting with a spade instead of a bat. Games were played at Kibbutz Gezer Field, Sportek Baseball Field in Tel Aviv, and Yarkon Sports Complex in Petach Tikva. The league lasted one season.

Prof. Ebner's Suggested Post-Game Reading

Burk, Robert F., **Marvin Miller, Baseball Revolutionary** (Illinois, 2015). *A biography of the longtime counsel to the Baseball Players' Assn.*

Dawidoff, Nicholas (Ed.), **Baseball, A Literary Anthology** (Library of America, 2002). *This book merits a place in the library of any baseball fan.*

Dawidoff, Nicholas, **The Catcher Was a Spy: The Mysterious Life of Moe Berg** (Vintage Paper 1995). *A well-researched, real-life detective story!*

Greenberg, Eric Role, **The Celebrant** (Nebraska, 1983). *The novel follows a Jewish boy whose hero is pitcher Christy Mathewson of the New York Giants.*

Kempner, Aviva, **The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg** (Film, 1990). *This documentary offers a sensitive, nuanced portrait of the slugger.*

Komie, Lowell B., **The Last Jewish Shortstop in America** (Swordfish Books, 1997). *Set in the North Shore suburbs, the author was a Chicago attorney.*

Levine, Peter, **Ellis Island to Ebbetts Field: Sport and the American Jewish Experience** (Oxford, 1992). *Encompasses much more than baseball.*

Reiss, Peter (Ed.), **Sports and the American Jew** (Syracuse, 1998). *Essays edited by a foremost historian cover a wide variety of sports.*

Ruttman, Larry (Ed.), **America's Jews and America's Game: Voices of a Growing Legacy in Baseball**. Foreword by Bud Selig (Nebraska, 2013). *A labor of love and devotion to the game, consisting of extensive interviews conducted by the editor.*

Tygiel, Jules, **Baseball and the Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy**, 25th Anniversary Edition, with a new foreword (Oxford, 2008). *Award-winning book traces how and why Jackie Robinson gained entry to organized baseball in 1946.*

Report: CJHS Open Meeting, Sunday, May 21, 2017

A Presentation by Author Mary Wisniewski “Algren: A Life”

At our open meeting at Emanuel Congregation, 5959 North Sheridan Road, Mary Wisniewski read passages from her new biography of the Chicago writer Nelson Algren. Wisniewski is the transportation reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*. In her “Getting Around” column, she keeps readers well-informed of the machinations of the CTA and Metra, and the condition of our roadways. Her superb research and reporting talents are on display in *Algren: A Life*.

Nelson Ahlgren Abraham (1909-1981) had a colorful Jewish family history. He never identified himself as Jewish, but somehow all of his close friends were Jews. The family lived in Detroit, where he was born, then moved

to Chicago’s South Side. (He was a fanatical fan of the 1919 White Sox.) He wrote his first works on a typewriter at the JPI, where he passed kids’ classrooms, but never stopped in. The family moved to Albany Park, and he graduated from Hibbard High (later renamed Roosevelt). He was a Journalism major at the University of Illinois, Class of 1931.



Algren found characters for his fiction in Chicago’s Polonia neighborhood (Bucktown and Wicker Park), where he lived on Evergreen Street and had a famous affair with the French writer Simone de Beauvoir.

His most popular novel, *The Man With the Golden Arm*, won the first National Book Award in 1950, and was made into a powerful movie starring Frank Sinatra. He was able to buy a cottage in Miller Beach, Indiana, where, Wisniewski told us, there is now a pocket Algren Museum in the basement of the local historical society.

His later books didn’t sell much, and Algren left Chicago for the East, to work on a factual crime story. That did not work out, but he did settle happily at last, in Sag Harbor, New York, where he died. But he still belongs to us. The *Chicago Tribune* calls its annual short story prize the Nelson Algren Literary Award. — B.C.

Chicago, City on the Make (1951) is Nelson Algren’s gritty portrait of our metropolis. In Spring 1974, Myrna Mazur hosted a party celebrating her husband Ed’s PhD from the University of Chicago, in their Wellington Avenue apartment. One of the invited friends, newspaper reporter Dorothy Storck, asked if she could bring a guest. He turned out to be Nelson Algren. He autographed the hosts’ copy of the book, adding a drawing of his cat, as was his custom.

“...and more Jewish baseball” Based on article in *The Forward* by Murray Greenberg, May 22, 2015.

On May 2, 1953, at Detroit’s Briggs Stadium, in a game between the hometown Tigers and the Philadelphia Athletics, things looked bleak for the A’s. It was the top of the ninth, and they trailed 3-1. They had a runner on first, but there were two out.

A’s manager Jimmy Dykes summoned Lou Limmer to pinch-hit for light-hitting third baseman Billy Hitchcock. Dykes was hoping that Limmer, his rookie first baseman, a Jewish slugger from the Bronx, would tie the game with one swing. On the previous day, Limmer had pinch-hit for Hitchcock with a bases-loaded double to break up a 1-1 pitchers’ duel and spark a 9-1 A’s win. A week earlier, in his second major league at bat, Limmer had slammed a ninth inning pinch-hit homer off Yankee all-star pitcher Vic Raschi.

This day, the pitcher was big Saul Rogovin, the Tigers’ 200-pound, 6’ 2” Brooklyn-born hurler. The Tigers’ Manhattan-born Jewish catcher, Joe Ginsberg, was behind the plate.

As Limmer neared the batter’s box, the home plate umpire stepped out to dust off the plate. Years later Limmer recalled what the ump said to him, “Boy, now I’ve got the three Heeb’s. I wonder who’s going to win the battle?” The pitcher, catcher, and batter were all Jews. Never before nor since has such a situation occurred in Major League Baseball.

Rogovin fired the first pitch. Limmer swung. Ginsberg reached for the ball and squeezed his mitt. But he caught only air as Lou slammed the ball into the right field stands for a game-tying home run.

Allegedly, the umpire said to Limmer as he crossed the plate, “I guess you’re the winner, Lou.”

Limmer disagreed with this assessment. In an interview years later he recalled that Joe Ginsberg stayed with Detroit, and Saul Rogovin went to the White Sox, while he was shipped to the minors. — E.H.M.

Screenwriter Carl Foreman

Division Street, Albany Park, Hollywood, and HUAC

BY EDWARD H. MAZUR

Carl Foreman, the screenwriter of *The Bridge On the River Kwai*, *The Guns of Navarone*, and *High Noon*, was a nice radical Jewish boy from Chicago.

High Noon is one of the most revered movies of Hollywood's Golden Age. It rejuvenated Gary Cooper's career, and gave Grace Kelly her first significant role. It achieved instant box office and critical success, and has become a cultural touchstone, often cited for its celebration of moral fortitude, integrity, courage, and rugged individualism in the face of overwhelming odds. Gary Cooper won the 1953 Oscar for Best Actor.

But Hollywood's Golden Age was besmirched by Hollywood's Blacklist. *High Noon* was made during a time of political inquisition and personal betrayal. On the world stage, the Cold War was a clash of empires with opposing ideologies. In Hollywood, the struggle was more intimate—people lost jobs, business partnerships unraveled, friendships were destroyed, and families turned against each other.

Carl Foreman had come to Hollywood from Chicago in 1938, during the Great Depression, to begin a lengthy apprenticeship as a screenwriter. He and his wife Estelle had joined the Communist Party, which they believed was the organization most dedicated to fighting poverty and racism in the USA and Fascism abroad. Like many other members, their faith in Communism faded over time, and they left the Party permanently soon after World War II.

In the middle of filming *High Noon*, Foreman was called to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) about his former membership in the Communist Party. He refused to divulge any names of Party members, and he was eventually blacklisted. He and Estelle fled the United States and went into self-imposed exile in England.

Foreman's father, Isidore, came from the shtetl of Chudnov in the Ukraine, while his mother, Fanny, hailed from Crimea. They met in Chicago and married in 1913. Carl was born the following year. The family lived in a flat presided over by Fanny's mother. Isidore worked as a pants cutter at Hart Schaffner & Marx. Fanny worked at a millinery factory.

They scrimped and saved enough money to open a store on Division Street between California and Western

Avenues. Foreman's Millinery had as its motto "Exclusive But Not Expensive." For a time they were successful and opened several shops in different parts of Chicago, but the Depression forced them to sell all the stores and even the small house in which they resided.

The Depression wrecked the family's dreams of prosperity but affirmed their radical politics. Isidore Foreman was a Zionist, socialist, and trade union activist, while Fanny and an older brother Joe both belonged to a Young Communists Group that met in the environs of Division and Rockwell Streets (directly across from the site of Joe Pierce's legendary delicatessen, alongside the original Schwartz' corset shop and my zayde Jacob and uncle Norman Kleinbort's jewelry store).

Carl's earliest exposure to radicalism occurred as a result of his participation in a jobless protest at the corner of Division and Washtenaw Streets. He was chased and pummeled by the police who were called to break up the demonstration. He avoided arrest, and went to a neighborhood dance, where he filled his stomach with tea and biscuits, listened and danced to Russian songs, and went home at two in the morning—as a Communist.

Young Carl dreamt of becoming a lawyer, following in the footsteps of Clarence Darrow, the famous "attorney for the damned." But a source for his eventual career was his love of the movies. His enterprising parents had opened a drapery shop on Lawrence Avenue, in the burgeoning Jewish neighborhood of Albany Park. Carl was a regular attendee at the Terminal, Metro, and Admiral movie houses. In addition to being smitten by the likes of Joan Crawford, Merle Oberon, Madeleine Carroll, Eleanor Powell and Maureen O'Sullivan—he fell in love with Estelle Barr, an attractive brunette he met at Roosevelt High School.

Foreman was about five foot-ten, thin, with dark brown hair, bottle-thick glasses, blue eyes, and pale, pitted skin. He looked like a Russian Jewish intellectual who spent too much time in dimly lighted coffee shops and not enough time exercising in the fresh air of Gompers Park or River Park. He graduated from high school before he was seventeen and headed to the University of Illinois where he majored in English, minored in journalism and wrote for several student

publications. Before journeying to California, he managed several theaters on South State Street near Congress, an area dominated by cheap nightclubs, inexpensive hotels, and burlesque houses, including the John Hicks Show that featured women's wrestling matches, dancing girls, and faked prizefights. Foreman earned the not insignificant sum of \$40 per week, lived downtown and went home early Sunday mornings to sleep in and spend time with his family.

In early October 1938, after working as a barker for a traveling carnival, where he befriended the freaks, he traveled to Hollywood on a train loaded with elephants. A few weeks later Estelle joined him and they were married. He enrolled in the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and was paid \$85 per month to write guide-books while Estelle worked weekends at a shoe store downtown.

There were no film schools in those days, but the League of American Writers, a professional writers' organization founded by the Communist Party, set up a night school for writers in Hollywood. Carl studied screenwriting there with respected figures such as Irwin Shaw, Donald Ogden Stewart, Lester Cole, and Robert Rossen, and then took a course with Dore Schary, who was establishing himself as a top screenwriter and producer at MGM. After one class assignment, Schary told him, "Mr. Foreman, you're a writer."

Schary was a liberal who believed that movies could combine hard-hitting social relevance and entertainment. But he was skeptical about Communism and its adherents. When Carl gave Schary a large kosher salami that his father had sent from Chicago wrapped in a copy of a Communist newspaper, Schary thanked him, saying, "I ate the salami and I read the baloney."

After Pearl Harbor, Carl tried to enlist in the U.S. Navy, but was rejected because of his nearsightedness. He was eventually drafted into the Army and was accepted by the Signal Corps film unit commanded by Frank Capra. During his army stint, Foreman worked with Irving Wallace, the future bestselling novelist, on a twenty-minute documentary, "Know Your Enemy: Japan" that eventually was scrapped as too radical.

Shortly after WWII, Foreman conceived a story of a marshal, a town, and a band of killers in need of elimination. The story was inspired by the founding of the United Nations and the need for a collective effort in the fight against dark societal forces.

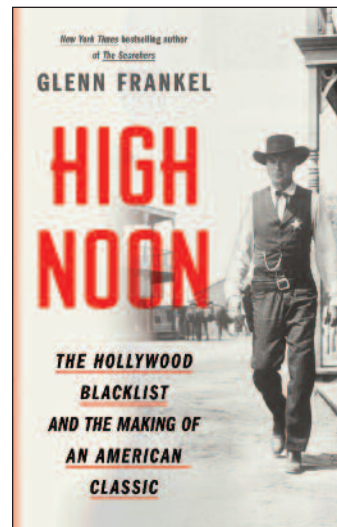
But as author Glenn Frankel writes in *High Noon: The Hollywood Blacklist and the Making of an American Classic* (Bloomsbury Press, 2017), a few years time made

a significant difference in both the USA and in the film that would win four Academy Awards in 1953.

In June 1951, Foreman received a pink slip (yes, very symbolic) requiring his appearance before HUAC. He had already been called up in 1947, but now the Red Scare was nearing its zenith, and the committee wanted names made public, along with *mea culpas*. The period of the Hollywood Red Scare is familiar territory for many, but veteran reporter Frankel provides readers with a compelling, exhaustive study of Hollywood's

post-WWII Left and their antagonists on the Right.

As early as 1943, meetings of various Hollywood power brokers (many who were blatant anti-Semites) led to the formation of the Motion Picture Alliance for the Preservation of American Ideas. Director Sam Wood ran it, Walt Disney served as vice-president, and Gary Cooper was a charter member.



Foreman began to rethink his *High Noon* screenplay. He began to turn it into an allegory about the Red Scare and the Blacklist. He also started to see himself as the lone defender of a complacent populace. *High Noon* is a story of one man's bravery in the face of improbable odds. A marshal in a western town marries a Quaker wife and learns the hard way that his town isn't worth much in human terms. Screenwriter Foreman completed a 15-page treatment.

Producer Stanley Kramer, was on the verge of a new deal with Columbia Pictures, but he still owed United Artists a movie. He could do it quickly, and the picture would give his close friend Foreman an associate producer credit as well as the writing credit.

But Foreman was subpoenaed just as he finished the script for Kramer and director Fred Zinnemann. He refused to provide HUAC with any names. The movie in development took on the aura of a sinister lefty tract, not a traditional Western that "loyal" Americans could enjoy with popcorn at Chicago's Marbro on the West Side, the Terminal in Albany Park, the Jeffery in South Shore, and the Biltmore or Crystal in Humboldt Park.

Foreman told Gary Cooper early in the filming, "If you want to leave the picture now's the time to do it."

Continued on Page 10

Screenwriter *Continued from Page 9*

Cooper stayed, and the film, a Western made by people who had never made a Western, presented a political message that quietly defied the reactionary spirit of the times—a morally corrupt community and a frightened, vulnerable hero. It contained no beautiful vistas, no cattle drives or stampedes, no gun violence until its final ironic showdown,

According to the onscreen credits of the official 1952 release print, the film was produced by nobody. Foreman retained screenwriting credit, but the studio and Kramer could not withstand the political attacks with a onetime communist's name on the finished product.

Gary Cooper could not receive his Oscar in person because he was away on a film shoot. His friend, John Wayne, an arch-conservative, offered his services. Wayne made a little joke about firing his management for not giving him a shot at the Cooper's role in *High Noon*, but privately, he hated the picture. To him, it reeked of collectivism and cowardice. In a 1971 *Playboy* magazine interview, Wayne said that he saw no reason to rethink "having helped run Foreman out of the country." The movie, he contended, was the "most un-American thing I've ever seen in my whole life." (By way of rebuttal to *High Noon*, Howard Hawks had directed Wayne, Dean Martin, and Angie Dickinson in *Rio Bravo* in 1959.)

Glenn Frankel describes Foreman's life after *High Noon*. As an exile in London, he worked on *The Bridge On the River Kwai* for David Lean (for which he finally received Writers Guild of America credit in 1984—the day before he died). One of the casualties of his exile was his marriage to Estelle, which never recovered from the damage caused by the move to



Carl Foreman in 1961.

Columbia Pictures/Photofest.

London. After their divorce he remarried, to an English film production secretary named Eve Smith. They had two children. He formed his own production company, which he called Highroad, and produced *The Key*, starring Sophia Loren and Cary Grant, *The Mouse That Roared*, that introduced Peter Sellers, and *The Guns of Navarone*, an adventure film starring Gregory Peck, that became an international hit. Then *Young Winston*, *The Victors*, and *Born Free*. Eventually, the necessities of business brought him back to the USA—the failing British film industry and the offer of a three-picture deal in Hollywood.

He had always wanted to teach young screenwriters, as he had been taught, so he helped fund fellowships for film students at USC. He brought four talented young interns to work on the set of his film *Mackenna's Gold*. One of them was young George Lucas.

Despite his revived career and financial stability, Foreman never lost his underlying bitterness. In a 1977 interview, he tallied what had happened to him because of the Blacklist. The trauma of having been betrayed and excluded had cost him his self-esteem and many friendships, and had made it hard for him to practice his craft for an extended period. The Blacklist had cost him his passport, his freedom to travel, and ultimately his marriage to his childhood sweetheart Estelle. It had pressured him into becoming a political martyr and an expatriate, plus "it hurt like hell" that other men had been given credit for work he himself had done. ❖

Screenwriter Vera Caspary

Rhodes Avenue, Sinai Temple, Hollywood, but Not HUAC

"The skeleton in my closet carries a hammer and sickle. No official body has openly accused me, nor have I been brought before court or committee, but guilt has been suspected, accusations published.... It never occurred to me that the jolly friends who came to my house to play poker were Party members.... Hollywood writers who wore tweeds and parked Buicks at my door were not to be confused with the riffraff of revolution. I knew that most of them believed in socialism, but felt only respect for sages who could squelch my arguments by asking if I had read Marx and Lenin."

This is an excerpt from *The Secrets of Grown-ups: an autobiography*, by Vera Caspary (McGraw-Hill, 1979).

Caspary was born in 1899 in Chicago to a Jewish family of Sephardic ancestry. They lived on a racially mixed South Side street. She learned the tenets of social justice in Sunday school classes taught by Dr. Emil G. Hirsch. She went on to become an eminent and highly paid novelist and screenwriter. Remember *Laura? A Letter to Three Wives?* (No? Find them online.) The autobiography has a background rich with Chicago Jewish history. It is available as an e-book. — B.C.



Photo Courtesy of Harvard University Athletics.

Harvard Football Team, 1919. Second row, second from left, Ralph Horween; third from left, Arnold Horween.

Save The Date!

A Lecture by Dr. Zev Eleff

Chief Academic Officer, Hebrew Theological College

“Gridiron Gadfly? Arnold Horween and Jewish Brawn in Protestant America”

Sunday, August 13

2:00 P.M.

**Goldberg Hall, Hebrew Theological College
7135 North Carpenter Road, Skokie, Illinois**

Dr. Zev Eleff will explore the football career of Arnold Horween.

In 1920, he captained the Harvard Crimson, after securing a victory at the very first Rose Bowl.

Later, he starred for the Chicago Cardinals, and then returned to Harvard to coach the football team. His sports career was marked by questions about Jewish social mobility in the age of Henry Ford and heightened anti-Semitism.

Admission Free • A social hour with kosher pastries will follow the program

INQUIRIES

Soccer in Chicago: Maccabee A.C. in K-Town

I am conducting research for a monograph on early Chicago soccer history 1883-1939. In the mid to late 1930's the Maccabee A.C. played their soccer matches at Kuppenheimer Stadium, on either 15th Street or 19th Street and Keeler Avenue. Are there any sources there that might tell me more of this facility?

Thank you in advance for your time.

Gabe Logan Ph.D.

Department of History/Associate Professor
Director, Center for Upper Peninsula Studies
Northern Michigan University
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1.906.227.1744

glogan@nmu.edu

Dear Dr. Logan,

I am cc-ing this reply to Gordon Cohn, a member of the CJHS who lived in the neighborhood as a child.

CJH Editor

The father of friends who lived near me on Kolin Avenue played soccer for the Maccabees. I never saw their games; very few of us were interested in soccer. I seem to remember a team named Habonim, with long-sleeved t-shirts identifying them.

The Kuppenheimer factory was on Keeler between 16th and 18th, but despite living near there, and with my elementary school just a block away, I never saw any stadium. I am speaking of the years 1942-50, when I was between 10 and 18.

Sorry I cannot provide more details.

Gordon Cohn
Long Beach, CA

Dear Ms. Chubat and Mr. Cohn,

Thank you for taking the time to reflect on the question. As a bit of background, Chicago's Jewish community first embraced soccer in the late 1920's, shortly after the 1926 and 1927 tours of Hakoah Vienna and Tel Aviv Maccabees to the city.

In 1928, the Jewish Junior Soccer League organized and sought to develop native talent in the city. One of their more prominent teams were the Cermak Flashes, sponsored by Mayor Cermak. In 1936, the Jewish Soccer League supplemented this youth program by hiring professional players to kick for the Chicago Maccabees, one of the few pro soccer teams in the Midwest during the Depression. The terse news reports

indicate they played their home matches at Kuppenheimer Stadium. I had been unable to track down this facility, but thanks to Mr. Cohn's recollections of the factory's location, it seems likely the "stadium" was part of a worker recreation program.

In 1937-38-ish, the Maccabees withdrew support from pro soccer. The pro team found sponsorship with the Manhattan Brewery Company. The Maccabee club returned to amateur status. Neither side no longer played at Kuppenheimer, so it likely corresponded to the factory removing/selling/ donating the outdoor facility. This would explain why Mr. Cohn does not recall seeing it.

One famous local player that emerged from the youth programs was Eli Field. He published a memoir some years back that briefly recount his playing days. I wonder if this is who Mr. Cohn recalls.

In any case, that the facility was gone by the early 1940s corresponds with my findings and that the Kuppenheimer factory was on this location makes for a logical extension of that industry providing a game field. Perhaps the *Tribune* overstated the facility's make up with the word "stadium."

I thank you again for your assistance with this question. Should either of you recall any additional sources that might contain information about Chicago Jewish soccer from 1926-1939, I would be most interested.

All the best.

Gabe

Seeking Stashover Video

"Attorney Sol Brandzel...served as on-screen moderator of the CJHS Stashover videotape, a project he organized. It was an interview of ten former residents of the Staszow area who had survived their concentration camp experiences and later became Chicago residents."

—Sol Brandzel Oral History, *CJH* Spring 2003

Would anyone from the Chicago Jewish Historical Society have any information about getting a copy of this video? I am currently working with a genealogy group of Staszow descendants, and it would be very helpful to have access to this video.

Mimi Reichenbach
mimirw@att.net

INQUIRIES

A Grocery Store in Austin

My grandfather had a grocery store on the corner of Central and Congress called Harry's Food Spot. The store was originally owned by Harry Bushkin, but then was sold to my grandfather, Harry Matgous. (No need to change the signage!)

It was a very, very small store, and it existed around 1955-1962. My mother and uncle used to work there as well. They had lox, bagels, shmears, cookies, breads, etc. My family has no documentation from that time—no photos or anything. I'd love to see a photo that includes the store, or any information, really.

I believe that the store was once on the street level of an existing apartment complex. There are different colored bricks on the main floor that look like they could have been a storefront at one time, but there is no visual information on the building showing this.

My name is Bill Tucker, my grandfather's name was Harry (Herschel) David Matgous, and my grandmother was Doris Spencer (formerly Supensky). My mother is Nessa Matgous Tucker. My grandparents, my mom, and my uncle lived in the same building as the store, and my mom worked there after school and on weekends.

My grandfather was a WWII vet, and I'm also doing research on his time in the Army. I am interested in finding out more information about Chicago area Jews who served with the Army in the POW camps in the southern U.S. I'm going to the National Archives soon to learn more about the large number of Jewish GI's who enlisted for guard duty during that time.

Peace,
Bill Tucker
www.billtucker.net

Dear Bill,

There are members of the CJHS who lived in the Austin neighborhood in the 1950's and may remember Harry's Food Spot. I hope we receive historical information and anecdotes to offer you, maybe even photos that include the store.

There is a resource in downtown Chicago that you might turn to regarding your grandfather's WWII service, The Pritzker Military Museum and Library, 104 South Michigan Avenue, corner Monroe Street. Visit <http://www.pritzkermilitary.org>

CJH Editor

The Board of Jewish Education Children's Choir.

Recently I was combing through the Mazur Archives of Chicago Jewish and Urban History (my home library), and tucked in a corner of a bookshelf I discovered three LPs, in mint condition, that were produced over forty years ago, featuring the B.J.E. Children's Choir.

- 1974 – *Chicago Pirchim Sing*. There are 54 choristers from 23 Chicago and suburban congregations.
- 1975 – *Tov Li Lashir*. Participating, 72 choristers.
- 1976 – *The American Jewish Experience in Song: 200 Years of Jewish Life in America told through music*

This third album's soloists include our own Sima Miller and a number of noted cantors, with some selections by the children's choir. The music is arranged and directed by Neil Levin, and the text is narrated by Rabbi Arnold Kaiman. Arnold Miller is the piano accompanist.

In a future article I will go into detail, but for now I ask your help in learning about the B.J.E. Children's Choir in those years. Were you a member? Do you have reminiscences and stories that you would care to share?

Dr. Edward H. Mazur
info@chicagojewishhistory.org

CO-PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Continued from page 2

Jewish scholars have derived various interpretations of the meaning of seven, from the linguistic and mathematical to the spiritual and esoteric. A common theme is the idea of wholeness and completion. This appears similar to the meaning of forty, but the notion of a cycle adds another significance that pertains to the CJHS. With each repetition of seven, we don't merely return to the starting point, but advance to a higher level. The 19th century German rabbi, Samson Raphael Hirsch, made the fascinating comparison to the octave musical scale that repeats on the eighth note, but on a higher pitch! The Chicago Jewish Historical Society has the good fortune—or shall we say destiny?—to be associated this year with both of the Jewishly significant numbers seven and forty. ❖

Thanks to Rabbi Leonard Matanky, the spiritual leader of Congregation K.I.N.S. of West Rogers Park and Dean of Ida Crown Jewish Academy, for providing source material for this column.

Remembering Two Distinguished CJHS Board Members



DR. MILTON SHULMAN was first elected to the CJHS Board of Directors in 1986, and regularly re-elected, a mainstay who provided sage advice about Society activities. In recent years he was beset by increasingly serious health problems that kept him from attending meetings, but he served as a proofreader for *Chicago Jewish History* as long as possible, until his death in March at age 91.

The Shulman family, immigrants from Latvia to Chicago's West Side, were communal leaders from the early twentieth century. Milt's uncle, Max Shulman, was an eminent Zionist, and his aunt, Hannah Shulman Sager, was a Hadassah activist. Milt's father, Bernard, was a founder of the American Jewish Congress in Chicago.

Milt was a "ZFB" (Zionist from Birth), active in the Intercollegiate Zionist Federation. After serving in WWII, crossing Europe as a sergeant in Patton's Fifth Army, he was studying in *Eretz Yisroel* in November 1947 when the UN Partition Plan for Palestine was ratified. (He wrote about experiencing this event for our journal.) In 1948, when the newly-proclaimed State of Israel faced a war for its survival, men and women from around the world came there to fight alongside T'ZAHAL, the Israel Defense Forces. These volunteers from the Diaspora were collectively known as *Mitnadvei Chutz L'aretz*, "Volunteers from Outside the Land,"—MACHAL. Milton Shulman joined the fight.

He returned to Chicago to complete his formal education, then began a distinguished career teaching computer science to generations of students at DePaul University, where he retired as Professor Emeritus. He continued in a volunteer career in Zionist leadership, highlighted by his presidency of the American Zionist Movement Chicago. Aside from numerous visits to Israel over the years, Milt and his family spent a year there, where he was a consultant to the government in the areas of his professional expertise.

Milt was the beloved husband of the late Ethel (nee Fratkin) for 43 years, the loving father of Bonnie, Ben (the late Susan), Bill (Michelle Slosky), and Leah (Misha Tsirulik). He was the grandfather of five, great-grandfather of four, and the dear friend and companion of Merle Bass.



DR. STANTON POLIN was elected to the Board of Directors of the CJHS in 2011, and he remained an active, creative member until his death in June at age 84.

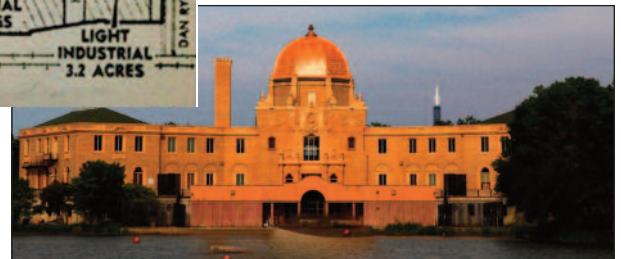
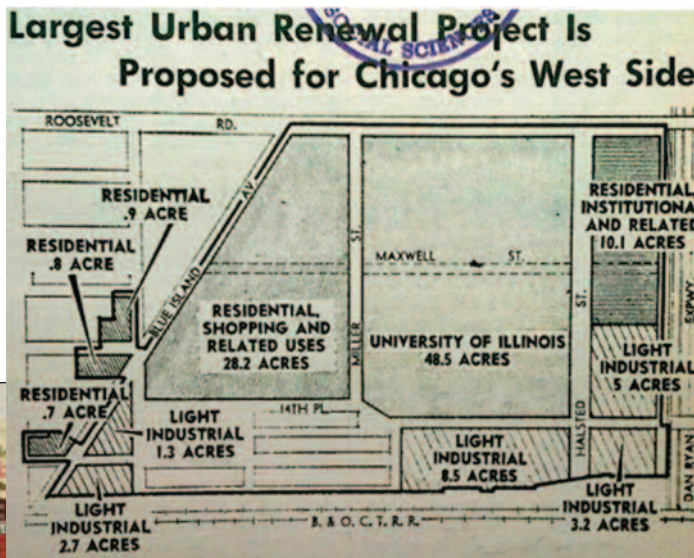
Early in his first term Stan suggested that our Board visit the Newberry Library to view their collection of Judaica. His idea was put into action by Past President Adele Hast, then a research scholar at the Newberry. The result was a wonderful afternoon spent perusing fascinating historical documents set out in a display for us by the library staff. Stan's most recent scholarly suggestion was a CJHS study of the history of Zionist youth organizations in Chicago. The Board intends to follow through.

Stan Polin was born in Chicago. He grew up on the West Side where his family was active in many Jewish organizations. He was educated secularly at Gregory Elementary and Marshall High, and then the University of Illinois for college and medical school. Simultaneously with his general education he attended Anshe Sholom (Independence Blvd.) Hebrew School, then Central Hebrew High School, followed by *yeshiva* at Hebrew Theological College. He became a *mohel* and had the *mitzvah* of doing brises on well over a thousand babies.

After his internship and general surgery residency at Michael Reese Hospital, he was a fellow under the guidance of Drs. Michael DeBakey and Denton Cooley, the world-renowned cardiovascular surgeons. Then he set up a private practice in Chicago specializing in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery. Drafted during the Viet Nam War, and serving as Chief of Surgery at the US Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, VA, he retired as a Commander with 23 years of service.

In retirement, he volunteered as a science researcher at the Museum of Science and Industry and was a member of the Skokie Board of Health. He was an active member of Congregation Or Torah in Skokie. A winter resident of Boynton Beach, FL, he lectured frequently on robots, medical subjects, and history.

Stan is survived by his beloved wife Leah (nee Goldstein), and children Abby Polin Reisler, Bonnie (Richard) Pomper, Brian (Gal) Polin, Jonathan (Rachel Goldberg) Polin, and 14 grandchildren.



“Chicago’s Jewish West Side” Bus Tour • Sunday, August 6

Guides: Jacob Kaplan and Patrick Steffes of www.forgottenchicago.com

We will explore the complex and critical role the West Side played in the growth and development of Chicago since the nineteenth century. We will discuss how Chicago’s Jewish community built a vibrant system of local institutions, businesses, and houses of worship.

We will also explore the changes to the West Side since World War II, and examine the remnants of this area, such as the Madison and Pulaski shopping district. We’ll also cruise past and discuss Chicago institutions such as Sears, Hull House, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. We will also visit other aspects rarely discussed during Chicago tours, including urban renewal, construction of the area expressway system, public housing, and overlooked landmarks. And we will stop for snacks at the Maxwell Street Market (on Jefferson Street) and Manny’s Cafeteria & Delicatessen (now open on Sundays).

11:30 AM – 5:00 PM Bernard Horwich JCC, 3003 W. Touhy Ave.

12:00 PM – 4:30 PM Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan Ave. (Rush St. entrance)

CJHS Member \$40 Non-Member \$45

RESERVATIONS “Chicago’s Jewish West Side” Bus Tour • Sunday, August 6, 2017

Member Non-Member Name(s) _____

Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

PICK UP/DROP OFF: Specify:

Bernard Horwich JCC

Marriott Hotel (Rush Street)

NUMBER OF PERSONS _____

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Our History and Mission

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1977, and is in part an outgrowth of local Jewish participation in the United States Bicentennial Celebration of 1976 at an exhibition mounted at the Museum of Science and Industry by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago and the American Jewish Congress. Three years after celebrating our “double *chai*,” the Society’s

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

unique mission continues to be the discovery, collection, and dissemination of information about the Jewish experience in the Chicago area through publications, open meetings, tours, and outreach to youth. The Society does not maintain its own archives, but seeks out written, spoken, and photographic records and artifacts, and responsibly arranges for their donation to Jewish archives.

Tribute Cards for Celebrations or Memorials The card design features the Society’s handsome logo. Inside, our mission statement and space for your personal message. Pack of five cards & envelopes \$18.00. Individual cards can be mailed for you from our office at \$5.00 per card, postage included. Mail your order and check to the CJHS office, 610 South Michigan Avenue, Room 803. Chicago IL 60605-1901. You may also order online at our website.

**Visit our website — www.chicagojewishhistory.org
Pay your membership dues online via PayPal or credit card,
or use the printable membership application.**

Inquiries: info@chicagojewishhistory.org

All issues of our Society periodical from 1977 to the present have been digitized and posted on our website in pdf format. Simply click on “Publications” and scroll down through the years. There is an Index to the issues from 1977 to 2012.

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons and organizations, and includes:

- A subscription to the Society’s award-winning quarterly journal, *Chicago Jewish History*.
- Free admission to Society public programs. General admission is \$10 per person.
- Discounts on Society tours.
- Membership runs on a calendar year, from January through December. New members joining after July 1st are given an initial membership through December of the following year.

Life Membership	\$1,000
Annual Dues	
Historian	500
Scholar	250
Sponsor	100
Patron	65
Member	40
Student (with i.d.)	10



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