

Look to the rock from which you were hewn  
זביטו אל-צור חצבתם



chicago jewish historical society

FORMERLY SOCIETY NEWS  
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# CHICAGO JEWISH History

## The Story of Julius Rosenwald and the Museum of Science and Industry

*How the Rosenwald Museum Came into Existence  
Only To Lose Its Name Shortly Afterwards*

by Walter Roth

Julius Rosenwald is said to have given nearly sixty-three million dollars for philanthropic purposes in his lifetime because he believed in "giving while I am alive." This was an enormous sum of money considering the scores of years that have elapsed and the inflation of currencies since Rosenwald lived. Of all the numerous causes, institutions, and edifices that great Chicago Jewish leader fostered, the most widely known is undoubtedly the Museum of Science and Industry, situated on South Lake Shore Drive at Fifty-Seventh Street.

According to legend, repeated by Rosenwald's biographer M.R. Werner, in his 1939 book *Julius Rosenwald: The Life of a Practical Humanitarian*, Rosenwald first conceived of the museum when his son William, then only eight years old, wandered away from his parents in Munich, Germany, and was found in an industrial museum there. Be that as it may, the Rosenwald archives at the University of Chicago contain a number of articles and papers from subsequent years dealing with the great industrial museums in vogue in Europe as well as one then being contemplated for New York City. The name of Jacob Schiff, a philanthropist of that city and a close friend of Rosenwald, appears in these papers. Thus the idea of an industrial museum must have come to Rosenwald's attention from a number of different sources.

### *Old Building Provides Opportunity*

The opportunity to realize a museum project of this sort came during the 1920's as an aftermath of the Chicago World's Fair of 1893. After that fair was closed, many of its great but flimsily-constructed buildings burst into flames, perhaps assisted by arsonists in some instances. Of the few buildings

## Summer Tours To Include All-Day, Suburban Trips

*Visit to Former Jewish Areas Set for June 30*

For the fifteenth consecutive year the Chicago Jewish Historical Society is brightening its members' summer by providing a series of Sunday bus tours relating to local Jewish history. Among them is a repeat of an annual sellout, an all-

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1992 will mark the one hundred fiftieth year since the birth of the man who as much as anyone has earned the title of Chicago's greatest Jew: Julius Rosenwald. Yet as the past becomes history, as older people's memories fade and they pass on, most Chicago Jews don't even recognize the name. In the course of the next year the Society will be seeking to rekindle the memory of this "prince in Israel" by means of articles, and, hopefully, meetings and/or exhibits.

We begin in this issue of *Chicago Jewish History* with two articles illustrating different aspects of Rosenwald's interests and generosity. In the article beginning on this page, Society President Walter Roth tells the story of Julius Rosenwald and his most visible legacy to Chicago and the world--the Museum of Science and Industry. His all-important connection with it is, unfortunately, virtually forgotten today.

Past President Norman Schwartz kindly researched the legal documents referred to in the article.

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# President's Message

## Looking Back At A Busy Year

*In Retrospect Success  
Mingles with Sadness*

During the past year our Society continued to make substantial contributions to the preservation of the history and heritage of the Jews of Chicago. A considerable effort was spent by many of our Board members in helping to publicize and market the republication of H.L. Meites' monumental work, *History of the Jews of Chicago*, which was originally published in 1924. Over six hundred copies of the book have already been sold, and we will soon run out of our initial printing. I would urge any of our members and friends who have not already acquired this book to do so before they're sold out.

Our summer tours continued with usual acclaim and our public meetings have been extremely well-received. Of course much work remains to be done. We have activated a long-range planning committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Adele Hast to explore our mission for the future and to investigate various alternatives for the expansion of our activities and the employment of a professional staff person. We, of course, welcome any suggestions or comments from any of our friends which may be helpful in the pursuit of our objectives.

I would like to thank our Board members for their efforts on behalf of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. We are a volunteer organization and many of our members spend an inordinate amount of their free time on behalf of the Society. In particular, I would like to thank Irwin Suloway, the editor of this journal, for his diligence and excellence and his spouse Elaine who does much of the ministerial work for the editor and also acts as our Secretary. Burt Robin has done his usual outstanding job as Program Chairman. Leah Axelrod has continued her efficient planning and management of our Summer tours, with Dr. Irving Cutler and Mark Mandle being among her tour leaders. Messrs Joseph Minsky, Cutler, and Suloway have also guided the Minsky Fund through its first contest year, judging the writings submitted that pertained to Chicago Jewish history. When a tie developed, the committee, in true Solomonic fashion, determined to make two awards. Our indefatigable founder and Past President Norman Schwartz has continued to assist the Society in numerous ways. His



President  
Walter Roth

research activities alone are of immense value to our Society and its members.

With Norman, we suffered a great loss a few months ago when Norman's beloved wife and our Board member, Moselle Schwartz, passed away. Moselle's magnificent courage and cheerful personality will be sorely missed by all of us. She represented the very best of our people, and I will recall as my fondest memory of Moselle her description of how she marched with her fellow Jews in Soldier Field at the Century of Progress Exhibition in 1933, when a special day was set aside for the Jews of Chicago to display their pride and history. Moselle was there marching for her people then, and she would continue to lead us for the many years that followed. We will miss her greatly, but with the memory of her smile and cheerfulness we will continue her work as she would have wanted us to.

I wish you all a good healthy summer. Let's try to see each other as we tour Chicago and the neighborhoods in which we and our forefathers lived.

Walter Roth  
President

## Summer Tours

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day foray into a neighboring state, and a further glimpse of Jewish settlements in the suburbs.

Interested members should mark the dates on their calendars: June 30, August 18, and September 15. They should also make their reservations at once to avoid disappointment, as space is always limited. All tours are in air-conditioned buses and members pay less than the general public. Advance reservations are required.

### *Repeat of Cutler Tour*

The June 30 tour, the annual sell-out, is Dr. Irving Cutler's tour of old Chicago Jewish neighborhoods with major emphasis on the West and Northwest sides. The tour

leaves at noon from the Bernard Horwich JCC at 3003 West Touhy and returns there at approximately five o'clock. Members pay \$14, non-members \$17. Children under eighteen pay \$7 and \$8, respectively.

August 18 is the date of the "Summar Safari," an all-day tour of Northwest Indiana, and includes the study of Jewish communities in Gary, Hammond, and Michigan City as well as visits to several synagogues. Guides include Charles Bernstein, Herbert Kraus, and CJHS Tours Chairman and director, Leah Axelrod. Lunch in a good restaurant is included in the all-day tour prices of \$34 for members, \$39 for non-members, and \$29 and \$34, respectively, for children. Pickup will be at 8AM at the Horwich JCC and 8:30 at the Marriott Hotel Rush Street entrance (545 North Rush) with return times planned for 6 PM at the Marriott and 6:30 at Horwich.

### *South Suburban Jewry*

The September 15 tour of Southern Suburbs will highlight the moves southward of a significant Jewish community and include synagogue visits in Homewood, Flossmoor, and Olympia Fields. Dr. Irvin Roth of Chicago State University will lead the tour, which will leave Horwich JCC at noon, the Marriott Rush Street entrance at 12:30, and return to the Marriott at 5:20 and Horwich at 6. Fees are \$14 for members, \$17 for non-members, and \$7 and \$8, respectively, for children.

All fees must be paid in advance, according to Mrs. Axelrod. For further information, phone Mrs. Axelrod at (708)432-7003 or the office at (312)663-5634. □

## It's Not Too Late To Belong

Those members who have not yet paid their 1991 dues are reminded that the cutoff date approaches and that they can enjoy the benefits of continuous membership only by renewing within the next month.

"By that time we must remove the names of non-renewers from our mailing list," said Membership Chairman Marian Cutler. "That means no *Chicago Jewish History*, no meeting notices, no members brunch and no discounts on summer tours or free copies of the Minsky Fund monographs when they appear."

Reminder letters were sent out recently to those who had neglected to renew membership when first contacted, but there is, as Mrs. Cutler stated, still time to remain part of a vital and enjoyable organization that delivers major satisfactions at very minor cost.

If you need a dues envelope, phone (312)663-5634. □

## Two Minsky Awards Presented at Annual Brunch

The first Doris Minsky Memorial Fund Awards were presented to Dr. Carolyn Eastwood and Beatrice Michaels Shapiro at the Society's annual meeting and members brunch on June 2. A check for one thousand dollars was given to each in recognition of their contributions to Chicago Jewish history.

Their manuscripts are currently in the process of being printed by the Minsky Fund as its first publication. Copies are expected to be distributed in the Fall to members in good standing.

Dr. Eastwood, who teaches at Roosevelt University, was awarded the prize for her monograph, *Chicago's Jewish Street Peddlers*. Her work is illustrated with line drawings by her son, Peter Eastwood.

Mrs. Shapiro, a free-lance writer whose work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Federation News*, and elsewhere, was awarded a prize for her comprehensive *Memories of North Lawndale*. The manuscript will be illustrated by photographs from several sources.

The prizes and the publication of winning entries are made possible by the Minsky Memorial Fund, established by family and friends of the late Doris Minsky, a Society founder and long-time officer. The awarding of prizes and publication are overseen by a committee headed by Dr. Irving Cutler and including Mark Mandle, Joseph Minsky, Norman Schwartz, and Dr. Irwin Suloway.

Each Society member will receive a copy of the Minsky Fund publication without charge. □

## Reviews, Talks Boost Sales of Meites History

The Society's reprinting of the Meites *History of the Jews of Chicago* has drawn favorable notice in the *Illinois Historical Review*, where a long review of the work begins by calling it an "historic and historical publishing event" and ends with "...go out and purchase a copy immediately."

The review, written by Dr. Bernard Wax, executive director of the American Jewish Historical Society, is one of the first to appear in a scholarly publication and will

doubtless add to the already impressive demand for the book. Sales have already exhausted more than half of the printing made available last Fall by the Society.

Meanwhile, Tom and Jerry Meites, descendants of H.L. Meites and the individuals who made the reprinting financially possible, have been generating further interest in the volume by speaking about the author and the book at various synagogues and organizations in the area.

The Society wishes also to express appreciation at this time to Dr. Frederick Schwartz, rabbi of Temple Sholom, who lent the Society a rare copy of the 1924 edition in good condition to serve as the "originals" for the photo-negatives needed for the reprint. That original, which had to be unbound, has now been rebound and returned to the rabbi, whose father figured prominently in the book. I.J.S. □

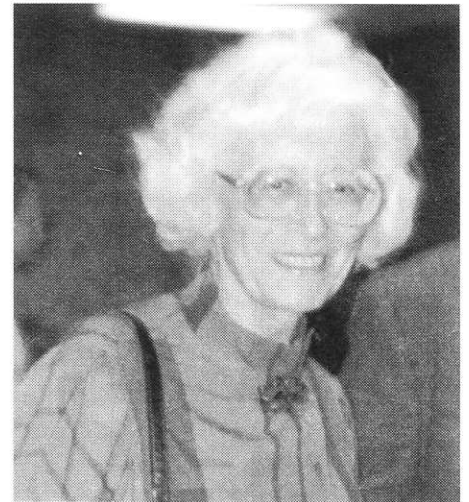
## Four New Names Added to Board At June Meeting

Four persons joined the Society's board of directors and eight current members were re-elected to the group as a result of the acceptance of the report of the Nominating Committee at the June 2 annual general meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. The new members are Carole Gardner, Judge Sheldon Gardner, Mark Mandle, and Oscar Walchirk.

Re-elected members include Charles B. Bernstein, Herman Draznin, Joseph Minsky, David L. Passman, Walter Roth, Milton D. Shulman, Elaine F. Suloway, and Dr. Irwin J. Suloway. Elections are for a three-year term ending in 1994. New and re-elected board members will join continuing members and past presidents to constitute the Society board of directors for 1991-92.

Continuing members and the years in which their terms expire include: Leah Axelrod (1993), Daniel Beederman (1992), Sol Brandzel (1992), Dr. Irving Cutler (1993), Marian Cutler (1993), Clare Greenberg (1992), Janet I. Hagerup (1993), Edward Mazur (1992), Thomas Meites (1992), Elsie Orlinsky (1993), Burt Robin (1992), Stanley Rosen (1993), Shirley Sorkin (1993), and Sidney Sorkin (1993).

Past presidents Muriel Rogers, Dr. Adele Hast, Rachel Heimovics, and Norman D. Schwartz ex officio are life board members. The board meets monthly, usually in the Jewish Federation Building, to set Society policy and agendas. CJHS officers are elected by the board from among its members. □



Moselle Schwartz

## Society Mourns Loss of Founder Moselle Schwartz

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society joins a host of other groups and individuals in mourning the recent death of one of its founders and most dedicated leaders, Moselle Aison Schwartz. Mrs. Schwartz, wife of Past President Norman Schwartz, succumbed in early Spring after a long and courageous battle against cancer.

As Rabbi Frederick Schwartz of Temple Sholom emphasized in his eulogy, what set Mrs. Schwartz apart from others was her generosity of spirit. She gave generously not merely of her material means but also of her time, her energy, and her boundless goodwill. The large representation at the funeral services testified to the breadth of that giving, whether it was to her family, her congregation, the several charitable groups she worked for, the elderly and the infirm, the myriads of inner-city schoolchildren whose lives she brightened as their teacher, or the Chicago Jewish Historical Society in whose early existence and continued success she played a key role.

Her contributions to the Society were literally legion. She brought to the founding group knowledge and experience in oral history, which enabled our own oral history program to get started. She headed that program in its crucial early efforts. For more than a dozen years she provided the photographic record of Society meetings, tours, and other events. As a member of the board of directors from the Society's birth until her death, she was a constant source of good advice and yeoman assistance at every turn—whether it was exhibits, hospitality, designing banners, assisting with serving refreshments, or providing transportation to Society events for the infirm. Truly, her life has been a blessing to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society and, indeed, to all who knew her. I.J.S. □

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# How Julius Rosenwald Was Weaned from Anti-Zionism

## *The Man Who Convinced the Chicago Leader To Aid Palestine Agriculture*

by Walter Roth

American Zionism has often been said to have had its birth in Chicago. In 1991, the Reverend William G. Blackstone, a Chicago evangelical Christian clergyman, circulated his petition addressed to President Benjamin Harrison and his Secretary of State, James S Blaine, urging that they use their good offices with the countries of the world to hold an international conference for the purpose of urging Turkey to give Palestine to the Jews. The creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine was to serve as a solution for the ordeal of the Jews of Russia. In 1897, Leon Zolotkoff, a Chicago Hebrew and Yiddish writer, attorney, and journalist, became the first American delegate to the founding conference of the Zionist Organization called by Theodore Herzl and held in Basle, Switzerland. H. L. Meites, a Chicago writer and publisher of a Yiddish newspaper, claimed to be member number one in the American Zionist organization.

Most Chicago rabbis and Jewish lay leaders, however, were either neutral or opposed to the Zionist ideals; and among those often cited as actively opposed to early Zionism is Julius Rosenwald, the great Chicago philanthropist. Rosenwald is often closely identified with his mentor, Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch of Chicago Sinai Congregation, who actively voiced his opposition to Zionist philosophy. For Hirsch, Chicago was Jerusalem: "Let those who favor a return to Jerusalem go there if they will." Rosenwald was a congregant of Sinai, but contrary to popular myths he was not an opponent of Zionism and was quite involved with early Zionist activities in America.

### *Interest in Agriculture Aroused*

Among the papers of Julius Rosenwald on deposit in the Department of Special Collections at the Joseph Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago is a folio containing the correspondence between Julius Rosenwald and Aaron Aaronsohn, an early Zionist leader from Palestine, which indicates that Rosenwald had close contacts with Aaronsohn when the latter visited Chicago on different occasions in the early part of the century. Through Aaronsohn, Rosenwald and his good friend, Judge Julian Mack, also a member of Sinai and then an Illinois Appellate Court Judge in Chicago, became identified with early Jewish agriculture and settlement activities in Palestine.

Aaron Aaronsohn was the son of a brilliant and unusual family from Romania that settled in Zichron Yaakov (near Haifa) in 1882. He was an extremely handsome young man, tall and robust in appearance. His corre-

spondence reveals a masterful and polished command of the English language, which he apparently learned in a short time while in the United States. The correspondence also indicates the ease with which he moved among society and political leaders.

He was a brilliant scholar with many skills, a botanist, agronomist, geologist, and geographer. He achieved international fame through his discovery in 1906 of the single-grained wild wheat, the earliest known prototype of breadproducing grain. This discovery was to prove of great consequence not only for the settlers in Palestine but also for the rest of the world as well. He had been invited to the United States in 1909 by the Department of Agriculture, for whom he had written a bulletin on wild wheat.

### *Aaronsohn Comes to Chicago*

Upon coming to the United States in 1909, Aaronsohn was referred to Judge Mack, who promptly took him to call on Rosenwald and his family. The philanthropist spent a day listening to Aaronsohn's stories of Palestine and its agricultural possibilities.

Aaronsohn then left for a conference on dry farming at Billings, Montana, but he soon returned to Chicago. At a second meeting, Rosenwald and Judge Mack took him to dinner with a group of botanists and others from the University of Chicago, among whom was Roscoe Pound, well-known as a professor at the Law School of the University. Pound had once been a State Botanist and was an authority on the subject. Aaronsohn gave a lecture to the botanists the next day, which Rosenwald attended with great interest. That experience probably resulted in Rosenwald's decision to help Aaronsohn financially in his agricultural activities in Palestine.

It had long been Aaronsohn's plan to establish an agricultural research institute in Palestine, and he now interested Rosenwald, Mack, add a group of Eastern U.S. Jewish leaders, including Louis Marshall and Henrietta Szold (a close friend of Mrs. Julius Rosenwald) in this project. Rosenwald Funds Experimental Station

The Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station was incorporated in 1910 with Rosenwald as president. It was located in Athlit, at the foot of Mount Carmel between Zichron Yaakov and Haifa, on land belonging to Baron de Hirsch's Jewish Colonization Association. Aaronsohn's aim was to demonstrate the capabilities of supposedly barren soil on allegedly exhausted land. By scientific methods he

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In part because of the early disdain among a great many of Chicago's German Jews (now almost completely disappeared) and in part because of the active anti-Zionist stance of one of his sons, Julius Rosenwald has frequently been considered no friend of Zionism. Yet Rosenwald made early and invaluable contributions to the fruition of that cause. The unusual personality mainly responsible for Rosenwald's involvement with Zionism, Aaron Aaronsohn, is the subject of this article by Society President Walter Roth, but the piece is also revealing of Julius Rosenwald, his mind and his personality.

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Julius Rosenwald

and his associates succeeded in producing more wheat, barley, and oats than their neighbors; and he also carried on valuable experiments with date and vine culture, which were later adapted for use in desert lands of the United States. He developed a health bureau, published agricultural bulletins for farmers in Hebrew, and gave agricultural lectures in that language in Palestine.

The archives at the University of Chicago include a booklet written by Aaronsohn in 1910 and printed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture entitled "Agricultural and Botanical Explorations in Palestine." Written in concise English, it details the various cereals, plants, and fruits being cultivated in Palestine which could be grown in America, particularly in California. In addition to the wild wheat, he discusses apricots, quinces, olives, figs, dates, and Jaffa oranges.

### *Encourages Visit to Palestine*

Aaronsohn revisited the United States in the spring of 1913 to raise additional funds for his experimental station, and he saw Mr. and Mrs. Rosenwald frequently. It was at this time, apparently, that he persuaded them to visit Palestine. In a letter to Mrs. Rosenwald from Washington on June 12, 1913, Aaronsohn wrote:

Will your Palestinian trip make you a Zionist, you ask. Not necessarily. Zionism is becoming to a certain extent a formula; and dry formulas may be very helpful for masses, for meek individuals, but are like chains for individualities. But I have no doubt whatsoever that your Jewish selfconsciousness will find reconfort [sic], tonicity in such a trip. What action will result? Let the future take care of himself.

The Rosenwalds did visit Palestine in February, 1914. They spent time at Aaronsohn's agricultural station and were apparently pleased with what they saw. Both of them were treated as visiting "nobility" by the local settlers, who welcomed them with fireworks and singing.

They were accompanied by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, who was also in Palestine at the time. Rosenwald returned home a friend of Zionism but remained unconvinced that Palestine could economically support a large Jewish population. Many letters and postcards from Aaronsohn to the Rosenwalds attest to the cordiality of their relationship. This correspondence was often written on stationery from the finest private clubs in New York and Washington.

### *Turks Loot Station in 1917*

When war broke out later in 1914, Aaronsohn fought with the British against the Turks for the liberation of Palestine. Rosenwald is said to have become disaffected by this action as he felt that it was Aaronsohn's duty to remain at his agricultural station and continue the important work for scientific agriculture into which so much effort had been put. When the Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station was occupied by the Turks in October, 1917, Aaronsohn's specimens and twenty thousand books and pamphlets had already been packed up by his old father and sealed by the American consul. The Turks, however, found most of the boxes and carted many of them away. They also destroyed the mineralogical museum and the chemical laboratory at the station.

Probably unknown to Rosenwald at the time, Aaronsohn and his family were also part of a Jewish spy ring in Palestine, known as "Nili," that supplied British intelligence with vital information prior to General Allenby's conquest of the country. Aaronsohn's sister, Sarah, was captured by the Turks, cruelly tortured and committed suicide while in a Turkish prison.

### *Friendship Had Rough Moments*

While he was on a brief visit to the United States in December, 1917, Aaronsohn became annoyed with Rosenwald's lack of support for the political Zionist cause. The Balfour Declaration guaranteeing Palestine to the Jews as a homeland had been published a month before. He wrote



Aaron Aaronsohn



The letterhead of the agricultural experiment station near Haifa which Aaron Aaronsohn convinced "non-Zionist" Julius Rosenwald to head and support for many years. Note names of other prominent American supporters.

rather rudely to Rosenwald from Washington on December 21, 1917:

In my letter...I started to point out to you what wrong you were doing yourself, your posterity, your race in failing to respond to the call of the race, especially now, when the British Declaration and the conquest of Jerusalem have thrilled the souls, quickened the blood, stirred the hearts of millions and tens of millions of both Jews and non-Jews....

Unfortunately you have reached the stage when you are afraid of being pickpocketed whenever anybody approaches you. It must be a very uncomfortable state of mind. But I can assure you of one thing: We Zionists are not after your money. Not I at least. It is the salvation of your soul we are interested in...I am afraid you will find a good deal of "Hutzpa" in my letter. There very likely is. The time for persuasion is over. Every Jew who cares for himself or his children to remain Jews must join. They cannot escape it. Mrs. Rosenwald feels already this way. It is up to you now.

The train is leaving and I have hardly time to thank you and Mrs. Rosenwald for your kind hospitality.

Cordially,  
Aaron

Other letters, however, indicate that Rosenwald and Aaronsohn continued their friendship. In a letter dated August 18, 1918, from London to Mrs. Rosenwald in Chicago, Aaronsohn refers to meeting Julius for dinner at the Savoy Hotel, at a time when Rosenwald was heading for Paris on a presidential appointment to help in World War I. In the letter, Aaronsohn writes in warm terms of Rosenwald's continued interest in Palestine and his desire to help in improving the water supply of Jerusalem. But the Savoy dinner was probably the last time Julius Rosenwald saw Aaronsohn.

### *Tragic Death of Aaronsohn*

With the war's end, Julius Rosenwald returned to Chicago but his close friend and fellow Chicagoan Judge Mack became a participant in the Versailles Peace Treaty as part of the American Jewish delegation representing Jewish interests in Palestine. In 1919, Aaronsohn joined the American delegation in Paris as an advisor. He went on a trip to London and then flew back to Paris on May 15, 1919. Judge Mack was waiting for him at the airport. But Aaronsohn was killed as his plane crashed into the English Channel; his body was never recovered.

His death brought an abrupt end at age fifty-three to a great leader whose career had paralleled that of such other great Zionists as David Ben Gurion and Chaim Weizman. Some have suggested that if Aaronsohn had survived, he would have rivaled Weizman and others for leadership in the Zionist movement. In 1930, William C. Bullitt, the American diplomat who met Aaronsohn at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, was to recall him as "the greatest man I have ever known. He was the quintessence of life, of life when it runs torrential, prodigal and joyous."

### *Again Rosenwald to the Rescue*

But at the time of his death, Aaronsohn and his family were already embroiled in bitter disputes with other Zionist leaders as to matters of priority, the use of Arab labor (which the Aaronsohns favored), and political action in settling Palestine. In addition, his Agricultural Experimental Settlement, virtually destroyed by the Turks, had many debts and obligations. Julius Rosenwald in Chicago was again called on to help. He once again contributed generously, and by 1926 the debts and claims were settled. The Aaronsohn folio of the Rosenwald collection includes a wrenching letter dated May 20, 1927, from Alexander Aaronsohn (Aaron's brother) to Rosenwald in which he writes with great bitterness of the treatment of his brother's memory by the Zionist leadership in Palestine. Rosenwald replied on June 27 that he disagreed with the policies of the

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## Directory Makers Discover Interesting Synagogue Facts

*Practices, Customs Change with Years Along with Names, Location*

by Norman D. Schwartz

In conjunction with the work of compiling information for a record of synagogues, cemeteries, and Jewish associations based on city directories and classified telephone directories, many interesting details have been discovered, some of which cast light on local Jewish practices and customs throughout the years.

The first significant entry of anything Jewish was found in 1851: Kunreuther, Rev. Michael, h[ome] 149 Clark. The next entry for this same man was Rev. I. Kunreuther, *Pastor Jewish Church*, h 158 Monroe. It is not known why the name was listed as Michael instead of his real initial I. (for Ignatz), according to his great-great-granddaughter Janet Hagerup, a member of the board of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Note that he was called *Rev.* and *Pastor*, not *rabbi*. Similarly, in 1879 under the entry for Kehilath Anshe Maarev, the entry states "Rev. Dr. L. Adler, minister." By 1909, however, most rabbis were designated as *rabbi*.

In the early days, synagogues were listed under the category of "Churches." The category "synagogue" was not added to the directories until 1966. Most of the time the designation "Jewish" was used, but in 1862-63 through 1866-67 the directories used "Israelitish," a term preferred by some Jews during the nineteenth century.

In 1855-56 on page 72 there appears in the alphabetical listing in capital letters "JEWISH SYNAGOGUE cor Wells and Adams"--no name, no other identification. Those of you who are historians who know that KAM was located first on the northeast corner of Clark and Quincy where the Kluczynski Building now stands may wonder why this listing showed Adams and Wells. The answer is that the congregation needed more space and, according to Gutstein's *A Priceless Heritage*, "To alleviate the two shortcomings of the synagogue on Clark Street, a basement was constructed on the new lot, in which a Mikvah [which tells us that KAM was Orthodox in origin] and a large room to be used for a school and for meetings were built....In 1854, the original synagogue on Clark Street was moved to the new location and placed on that basement." Finally, in the 1856-57 Directory the synagogue appears as "Kehilath Anshe Magriv" Jewish and "members 80." In 1858 the name appeared as Kahilath Anshe Mairir and in 1859-60 as Kehilath Anshe Maggriv. (The spellings in 1856-57, 1858, and 1859 must have been typographical errors.) We also learn from the 1859-60 entry that "Hours of Service during the summer months commence every Friday evening at 7 PM and Saturday at 8-1/2 [sic] AM. During the remainder of the year, service commences every Friday at 4 PM and

Saturday 8 AM. Hebrew, German and English school in connection."

The effect of demographic changes are indicated by the movement of individual synagogues. For example, Anshe Kanesses (K'nesseth, Kanesseth, Kneseth) Israel had the following locations:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 1888-1895       | Judd SE Cor Clinton  |
| 1896-1913       | W 12th Pl Cor S. Clinton<br>(Judd had been renamed 12th Pl.) |
| 1914-1915       | Douglas Bl nr S. Kedzie                                      |
| 1916            | 3411-3419 Douglas  |
| 1923            | Douglas Bl and Homan   |
| 1929-1930 until |  |
| 1951-1952       | 3411 Douglas   |
| 1956-1957 until |  |
| 1974            | 2357 E. 75th   |

Now it is part of Adas Yeshurun at 2949 W. Touhy

From the meager listing of rabbis included with synagogue listings of the directories we learn that Rabbi B. Bernstein (also Berenstein) was at Anshe Kanesses Israel from 1888 to 1909, Rabbi A. Norden of Congregation of the North Side (now Temple Sholom) was there from 1870 to 1898, and Rabbi Emil G. Hirsch was at Sinai from 1881 to 1916. (He remained there until his death in 1923 but there were no directories from 1918 to 1922.) These are amazing periods of service, considering the tales of differences between congregations and their spiritual leaders.

Generic and other Hebrew words often had various spellings through the years even for the same congregation. For example, Anshe, Anshai, Anche, Anshei; and B'nai, Bney, B'nay, Bnei, Benay.

In 1868-69-70 the directories showed the date the synagogue buildings were erected and gave the cost:

Sinai: organized in 1861. Cost \$2,000

Kehilath Anshe Maarib: organized 1847, Erected 1852. Cost \$12,000

Kehilath Benay Sholom: organized September 1849, Erected May 1864. Cost \$27,000

Zion Congregation: organized 1865. Cost \$10,000

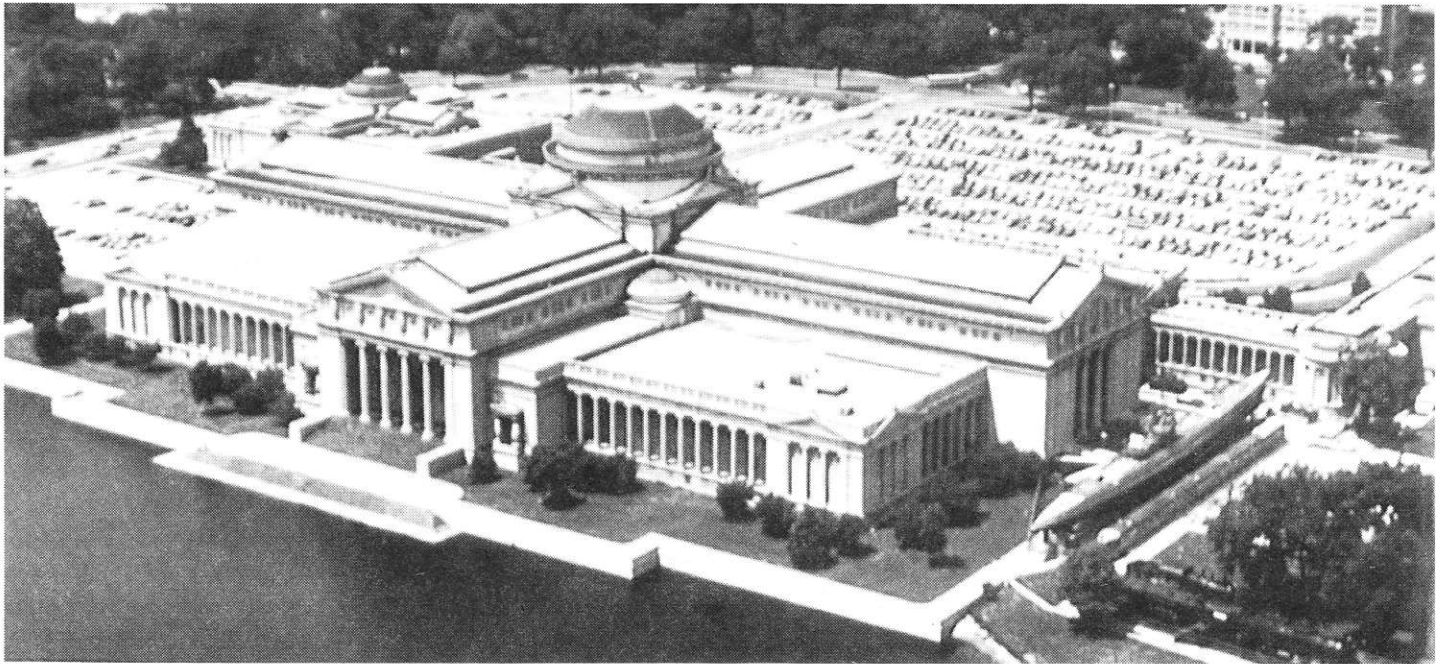
This discourse ends on a poignant note. The 1872 and 1873 directories both have an entry as follows: "Kehilath Benay Sholom--Congregation of the Sons of Peace--burned, not yet located", referring of course to the Chicago Fire of 1871.

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society will publish this compendium of information for the aid and enjoyment of those interested in Chicago Jewish History. It is currently seeking funding for the project.

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A recent project of the Society has involved compiling a comprehensive directory of Chicago synagogues and other Jewish institutions as they developed, grew, moved, changed, and, sometimes, disappeared through the years. The project has been completed and awaits funding and publication. In the process CJHS Past President Norman Schwartz, who spearheaded the effort, has learned interesting facts, customs, and trivia about these institutions. In this article he shares some of them with us.

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The sumptuous building of the Museum of Science and Industry

— Museum of Science and Industry Photo

## The Story of Julius Rosenwald And the Museum

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that remained, the grandest, was the one built as the Palace of Fine Arts. It had housed temporarily the Field Columbian Museum (now the Field Museum of Natural History) until 1920, when that museum's permanent home was completed. Then it remained empty, deteriorating rapidly.

About that time, Rosenwald began to discuss his idea for the establishment of an industrial museum with many of his business contacts in Chicago, and he asked his close friend and attorney, Leo Wormser, to help implement the project.

### *Museum Named for Rosenwald*

Both of them visited industrial museums in Munich and Vienna in 1926, and upon their return Wormser filed the instruments necessary to incorporate the "Rosenwald Industrial Museum." On September 16, 1926, the Secretary of State of Illinois granted articles of incorporation to the new museum, which was to be housed in the old Fine Arts Building. Among the founding trustees were Rosenwald and Wormser and a number of Chicago's most important business tycoons, including Sewell L. Avery as president, Rufus Dawes, T.E. Donnelly, John V. Farwell, Joseph T. Ryerson, Albert A. Sprague, Harold H. Swift, and Charles H. Thorne.

Rosenwald agreed to contribute initially three million dollars for the repair and maintenance of the building and a city bond issue of five million dollars was floated to reconstruct the building.

### *Rebuilding Proves Costly, Time-Consuming*

The project was tremendous in scope, involving turning an immense wood and stucco building into a highly decorative steel and dressed stone structure. Much more money was needed, some of it coming from Rosenwald, much coming from the public-works-minded Roosevelt administration in Washington.

When the museum was first opened to the public in 1933 only a small portion of the original building had been reconstructed and, alas, Rosenwald was dead. It took a full generation to turn his vision into a complete reality and the building now stands completed, but--unlike the Field Museum, the John G. Shedd Aquarium, and the Adler Planetarium (given by Rosenwald's brother-in-law)--it does not bear the name of its major benefactor.

### *Rosenwald Protests Naming*

Apparently there had been a misunderstanding among the trustees when the museum was originally named. They had determined to name it in Rosenwald's honor without consulting him. He protested almost immediately to Wormser, who replied that since the charter had already been issued he could do nothing about it. Rosenwald persisted in his long-held view that his name not appear on any objects of his charity, and on July 12, 1929, an amended certificate was filed by the museum changing its name to the "Museum of Science and Industry" but providing:

that whenever the name 'Museum of Science and Industry' is used on behalf of this corporation (except in legal papers and documents), it shall be immediately followed by the words "founded by Julius Rosenwald."



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## Wish Finally Granted

Thus did the trustees of the museum attempt to meet Rosenwald's insistence that the museum not bear his name, despite all of his ideas, services, and contributions. They, however, obviously felt that the museum should refer to his efforts whenever possible and for many years the literature of the museum contained the words "founded by Julius Rosenwald," and the familiar name, "The Rosenwald Museum," had wide currency among Chicagoans.

Almost sixty years later, on January 21, 1986, Julius Rosenwald, dead for more than a half century, had his wish granted in its entirety. On that date the museum filed an amendment to its articles of incorporation deleting the requirement that the words "founded by Julius Rosenwald" must appear on museum correspondence and papers. Thenceforth the museum came to be known simply as "Museum of Science and Industry," thus deliberately underplaying, as he wished, yet another major contribution by Chicago's greatest Jewish philanthropist. □

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## Rosenwald and Aaronsohn

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Zionist leaders but added, "I am very careful, however, not to do or say anything publicly which would in any way

hinder their program."

## Rosenwald Contribution Evaluated

The Aaronsohn folio ends with a letter from Knowles A. Ryerson, Senior Horticulturist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, dated March 18, 1929, to Julius Rosenwald in which he praises Aaronsohn for his agricultural contributions to the world, particularly Palestine. He then concludes:

The part you [Rosenwald] played in encouraging or supporting Aaronsohn and making it possible for the future agricultural leaders of Palestine to secure thorough training is not known to many....if and when a sound rural life develops in the plains and hills of Palestine, it will have been due in large measure to your foresighted comprehension of the problems and your quiet but vital support of its rational solution.

Julius Rosenwald died in 1932, a great benefactor of every conceivable good cause, particularly those for the benefit of Jewish and later Black endeavors. As Mr. Ryerson wrote above, little is known or remembered of his early contributions to the settling of Jewish Palestine, but his contributions were material and important and due in no small part to his meeting with Aaron Aaronsohn in Chicago. □

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## A Particular Kind of Help

It is the happy business of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society to chronicle and preserve records of the Jews of Chicago since the frontier years. The stories of their lives and their faith, their occupations and their escapades, their triumphs and their troubles, have become our labors of love. We take oral histories, we house artifacts, and we build a library for future generations to cherish as we do.

Underlying all of our work is an inescapable awareness of mortality. We read and write about people whose lives have ended, and too often we learn that others, whose oral histories might have been illuminating, have grown too frail to teach us. We ride time, and only for the time that we have.

Still, we dare to believe that this Society is now so firmly established that it will survive us all and go on thriving into the future. Other leaders and other members, will pick up where we leave off, swell our ranks, and continue our good work. As today's Jewish news becomes tomorrow's Jewish history, the Chicago Jewish Historical Society will be there to keep the records for our students, for our children, for our builders.

So we dare to ask you for a particular kind of help. Please remember the Chicago Jewish Historical Society in your

will. Write us in--not just for a specific sum of money or a percentage of the whole--but also designate, specifically, the documents and artifacts that you have saved; and we will save them for you in your name. And so will our successors.

Thank you for considering us. □

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## Plan Research Roundtable in Jewish History

A Chicago Jewish History Roundtable is in the process of being organized by the Society under the co-ordination of Stan Rosen, professor of labor and industrial relations at the University of Illinois-Chicago and CJHS board member. Membership in the Roundtable is open to independent researchers, college faculty members, and college students of all levels with an interest in Chicago Jewish history.

The Roundtable will seek to:

1. Share ongoing research and exchange ideas with other members;
2. develop, discuss, and publicize a short- and long-term agenda for research in Chicago Jewish history;
3. locate and encourage graduate and other students to pursue research projects on suggested topics as part of their degree requirements;
4. conduct conferences, seek grants, and

sponsor or organize agreed-upon projects; and

5. publicize the overall program of the Society on college campuses and encourage participation and support.

Persons interested in participating or having recommendations for membership are encouraged to get in touch with Professor Rosen at (312)996-2623.

A Fall meeting of interested persons to set an agenda for 1991-92 will be announced at a later date. □

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## Welcome Aboard! We Need You All

The Society continues to grow as the following individuals and institutions add their support to efforts to preserve the record of Chicago Jewry by becoming members. We welcome them and urge their active participation in CJHS activities.

Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Altschul  
Chicago Sinai Congregation  
Mr. & Mrs. Emil Hirsch  
Jack Hoffman  
Esther Klatz  
Bernice A. Lewe  
Dr. & Mrs. John Merrill

Ida Mouscher  
Rabbi William S. Novick  
Gertrude Paley  
George Pekoff  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rothschild  
Charlotte Steiner  
Ruby Stern

Marge Wolf

Marion Cutler  
Membership Chairman □



March speaker Dena Epstein

## Daughter Tells Immigrant's Tale At March Meeting

The inspiring tale of a young immigrant girl who had new worlds of education and achievement opened to her by Jane Addams and her Hull House co-workers at the turn of the century was told to a rapt audience at the Society's Spring meeting on March 24. The teller of the tale was the daughter of that immigrant girl, Dena Polachek Epstein.

Mrs. Epstein, herself an accomplished retired staff member of the University of Chicago Library, told of her mother's self-improvement under Hull House guidance and of her later struggle to raise and educate her children following their father's early death as well as her own struggles to get that record of achievement published after her mother's death.

Mrs. Epstein finally succeeded and her mother's memoirs, *I Came a Stranger: The Story of a Hull House Girl* by Hilda Satt Polachek, have since been published.

Mrs. Epstein spoke at a meeting held in the Hillel Center of the campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago. The Center, which has generously allocated space in its new building to the Society for research and educational purposes, is located near the remaining remnant of Hull House, and a tour of that museum followed the meeting.

The usual refreshments and social hour preceded the meeting, which was presided over by President Walter Roth. Mrs. Epstein was introduced by Vice-President and Program Chairman Burt Robin. I.J.S. □

## Society Acquires Plaque Honoring A.G. Becker

Recently the Chicago Jewish Historical Society obtained for its archives a bronze plaque honoring the late A.G. Becker and containing a reproduction of an editorial from the *Chicago Journal of Commerce* of May 16, 1925. The plaque, which had been on the wall of the offices of A.G. Becker Company in the First National Bank Building until the company was sold, was presented to the Society by Paul R. Judy, former head of the company. Becker was an unusual man.

The following biography is from "The Book of Chicagoans," published by Marquis in 1911: "Abraham G. Becker was born in Warsaw, O. on September 21, 1857, a son of Nathan and Henrietta (Schaffner). He began his business career in 1878 in the house of Hermann Schaffner & Co., in which he became a partner, and after the death of Mr. Schaffner he organized and incorporated the firm of A.G. Becker & Co., dealers in commercial paper, on July 1, 1894."

Mr. Becker was energetically engaged in the Jewish community. Two of the standard reference books on Chicago Jews, H.L. Meites' *History of the Jews of Chicago* and Philip P. Bregstone's *Chicago and Its Jews* are replete with references to his activities. Bregstone tells of Becker's involvement in the "Days of Mourning for Jewish blood that was spilled in Kishinef."

Meites mentions that Becker was a member of the Zion Literary Society, a founder of the Standard Club and the Young Men's Hospital Association, and active in Associated Jewish Charities. He was part of the group which issued a call for the formation of a local committee for war (World War I) relief in 1914 and, then, in 1921 for the relief of the famine which had spread in Russia.

His commitment is summarized by Meites' statement, "In the records of almost every public subscription campaign his name may be found, not only as a liberal contributor but as a zealous worker."

The epitome of his character is shown in Bregstone's retelling of the following statement of his son James Becker: "...how in 1893 he met with financial reverses and left his banking house with a single dollar between him and starvation, after he voluntarily surrendered to his creditors all his possessions which were still insufficient to cover all the liabilities, how a few years later when he recovered and became again a financial power on LaSalle Street, he paid back every cent with interest." The editorial (and plaque) reads:

Death of a Man of Honor

Once in a great while a man dies about whom the ordinary eulogies do not suffice. Such a man was A.G. Becker.

It has been true of many a man that he was born in poverty and amassed a fortune as an investment banker. It has been true of many a man that he has become a director in a number of great corporations. Of many a man it has been true that he has given liberally to religion, charity and education, and has been trustee of an art museum and art school and member of a symphony orchestra association.

But of few men has it been true that they have consistently exhibited an integrity which not only has met all the demands of the law and all the requirements of common morals but has gone far beyond them.

Seldom has there been a parallel to the personal sacrifice which A.G. Becker made for the maintenance of his high code of integrity. By that sacrifice he erected a structure on personal credit which was unshakable. The regard in which he was held by bankers was almost unparalleled. No man in the world could borrow more money in proportion to his assets than could A.G. Becker. He was a man. He was honored in life and he is honored in death. He left his family a heritage which is greater than a heritage of riches.

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society is proud to have this bit of realia in the archives for use as a reminder of a great man in our Jewish community.

Norman D. Schwartz □

## Synagogue Lives On in Other Form

The Society has learned that Congregation Sinai of Rogers Park, an Orthodox synagogue founded in 1945 and closed about eighteen months ago, will live on in a way at the new building being constructed for the Ark at 6450 North California Avenue.

For over forty years the small synagogue occupied an elegant mansion on the northeast corner of Sheridan Road and Farwell Avenue, rapidly becoming surrounded by highrise apartment buildings. At one time, until a fire burned out the second floor, a school was also maintained in the building. Changing times and dwindling membership led to the closure of the congregation and the sale of the property.

However, according to Simon Brown, a former member, in an agreement with the Ark, which provides assistance to the Jewish poor, the congregation donated \$15,000 and a Torah to the Ark so that its new building will contain a study and learning center room to be known as Bais Midrash Sinai, thus perpetuating the old congregation's name.

Norman D. Schwartz □



At the Terra Museum Jewish art opening: (l to r) AJHS President Ron Curhan, CJHS President Walter Roth and Past President Adele Hast.

## CJHS Joins in Jewish Art Show At Terra Museum

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Terra Museum of American Art, and their respective constituencies convened on April 9, 1991, when a fascinating exhibit was opened at the museum on Michigan Avenue at Erie.

The exhibit consists of seven portraits of early American Jews, which are in the collection of the American Jewish Historical Society in Waltham, Massachusetts. The portraits are of members of the Levy-Franks family, an early Colonial Jewish family that settled in New York City and later in Philadelphia. Colonial financier Haym Salomon, who is commemorated in Chicago by a statue at Wacker Drive and Wabash Avenue, married into the Franks family.

Erica E. Hirshler, assistant curator of American paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, gave a lengthy address on the artistic aspects of the paintings. Although the paintings are well preserved and much of the financial records of the family remains, the identity of the artist is unknown.

The paintings illustrate family members of what could have been any wealthy mercantile colonial family. There is nothing in any of the paintings to indicate that the subjects are Jewish. It is therefore not surprising that in the present generation one would be hard-pressed to find a descendant of this family who is Jewish, other than by blood, despite their leadership in the colonial Jewish community 250 to 300 years ago.

The welcome and introduction to

the program was given by Eleanor Soble of Chicago, CJHS member and widow of Morris Soble, late president of the AJHS and one of its major benefactors. The reception was given by Joan and Theodore Kregel in memory of Morris Soble. The CJHS's own President Walter Roth was a co-chairperson of the program, and many CJHS members attended.

Charles B. Bernstein □

## Memories and More in Our Mailbag

Along with the welcome new memberships and renewals of membership which come to the Society office through the mail, a variety of other, more interesting if less vital, items arrive in a rather steady flow. Many are requests for historical information about Jewish Chicago and many more request information about families and individuals, often unknown ancestors of the writers of the inquiries.

Such inquiries are sent on by our office manager Eve Levin to members known to have expertise in particular aspects of Chicago Jewish history, most often to Past President Norman Schwartz. His research abilities have provided precious information to individuals all over the country.

On the other hand, we also receive unsolicited but welcome communications illuminating many interesting aspects of the Chicago Jewish experience. Sometimes these contributions can be developed into articles for *Chicago Jewish History*. Occasionally one can be developed into a program for a Society meeting. More often, they merely become a part of our growing files of data on the local Jewish experience.

We thought perhaps our readers would like a glimpse at some examples of this correspondence:

From Mildred Wolper Levin of Chicago comes a brief reminiscence of the bakery her father, Wolf Wolper, opened on Maxwell Street between Halsted and Union in the opening years of the century. There he built a bread oven, fathered five children, prospered, and, incidentally, passed up an opportunity to go into the matzo business with a man named Manischewitz. Her brothers made and sold Wolper's Rye bread wholesale throughout the city before the company was merged into Castle and later Rosens bakeries. Another example of the many success stories that brightened our past.

From North Hollywood, California, Dorothy Grossblat reminisces about the days when as Dorothy Shirwo, a young teenager, she sang and played the piano at Glickman's Palace Theater on stagebills with such notables as Aaron Lebedoff, Maurice Schwartz, and the Adlers (Joseph, Frances, and Stella) before taking nurse's training at Mt. Sinai Hospital, marrying a physician there, and moving to California. Mrs. Grossblat, a Tuley High School graduate, learned about CJHS from Chicago relatives who are Society members.

From the *Inland Architect*, a long-established professional journal, we received an inquiry as to how to get in touch with William Petersen, who both spoke and prepared an article for the Society on Dankmar Adler, the rabbi's son who designed the Auditorium Building and Theatre. They too feel that Adler has been neglected and want Mr. Petersen to write an article about Adler for their publication.

As this sampling indicates, our mail is well worth looking forward to. Keep the reminiscences, the inquiries, and the comments coming! I.J.S. □