



# chicago jewish historical society society news

VOLUME XII, NUMBER 2

DECEMBER, 1988

## LOCAL REACTIONS TO KRISTALLNACHT TOPIC OF DEC. 18 MEETING

### MINSKY FUND TO FINANCE PUBLICATIONS ON CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY

#### List Details for Submission of Manuscripts; Many Send Donations

Plans have been finalized for the operation of the Doris Minsky Memorial Fund of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. Established in memory of a founder of the Society and its long-time Vice-President, the fund will have as its major purpose providing financial assistance to publications on Chicago Jewish history.

Dr. Irving Cutler, himself a Society founder and leader as well as an eminent authority on local history, has agreed to serve as fund chairman. A mailing to Society members and to the many friends and associates of Doris and her husband, Joseph Minsky, has already produced a large number of contributions to the fund; and it is hoped that the fund's first monograph can appear during 1989.

#### Sponsors, Contributors Will Be Listed

Contributors of \$100.00 or more to the fund become fund sponsors, will be listed in all publications and automatically receive each publication as it appears. Other contributors will be listed in the fund's first publication. A copy of each publication produced by the Minsky Fund will be sent to any current CJHS member who requests it.

Fund committee members include, in addition to Dr. Cutler, Joseph Minsky, Mark Mandle, Norman Schwartz and Dr. Irwin Suloway.

The following guidelines are published for the information of persons interested in submitting manuscripts.

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### Speaker at Emanuel Knew Life Both In Nazi Germany, Here in Thirties

The effect of the Kristallnacht outrage upon the Chicago Jewish community of 1938 will be the topic of the Society's next meeting, to be held Sunday afternoon, December 18, at Emanuel Congregation. The speaker, Martin Mainzer, will address the subject on the basis of his own personal recollections as a young refugee from Germany who had himself arrived in Chicago during that very year.

Mr. Mainzer's talk, titled "Kristallnacht: Personal Recollections from a Chicago Vantage Point," will begin at 2:00 PM in the temple at 5959 North Sheridan Road. The address will be preceded by a social hour, with refreshments, beginning at 1:00 PM. Admission will be free to all.

#### Speaker Has Unusual Background

The speaker, born in Halle, Germany, emigrated to Chicago in 1938 and served in the U.S. Army in India during World War II. A retired certified public accountant, he has been an officer and director of Congregation Ezra-Habonim, of Selfhelp of Chicago and of the Jewish Family and Community Service.

He brings to his topic both the recollection of life as a Jew in Hitler's Germany and memories of the Thirties as a member of Chicago's community of recent arrivals from that country.

Mr. Mainzer will be introduced by CJHS Vice President and Program Chairman Burt Robin. Refreshments will, as usual, be supervised by Hospitality Chairman Shirley Sorkin.

Free parking will be available at the congregational parking lot, and CTA buses stop at the door.

## DONATIONS TO ARCHIVES SHED LIGHT ON JEWISH LIFE DURING 19th CENTURY

### Mementos Bring Activities of Burial Societies, Lodges into Focus

Items recently donated to the Society for the Chicago Jewish Archives bring to mind some interesting features of Chicago Jewish life in the nineteenth century. The donations recall the numerous sickness relief and burial societies which made early Jewish cemeteries a virtual patchwork of mini-burial grounds, the tendency of new Jewish organizations to be formed by seceding from earlier ones and the former multiplicity of Jewish fraternal groups or lodges.

Items given by Mrs. Henry Novy were three medals and a ribbon badge presented to her grandparents, Samuel and Pauline Witkowsky, by the sick relief and burial society, Chebra Kadisha Ubikur Cholim, that he helped to found in 1861.

#### Society Was Splinter Group

That society, still in existence as the Chicago Hebrew Benevolent Society, was itself a splinter group that had seceded from the earlier Hebrew Benevolent Society. The earlier group was in turn formed by a group of "Polish-Prussian" Jews affiliated with the city's second synagogue, Congregation B'nai Sholom.

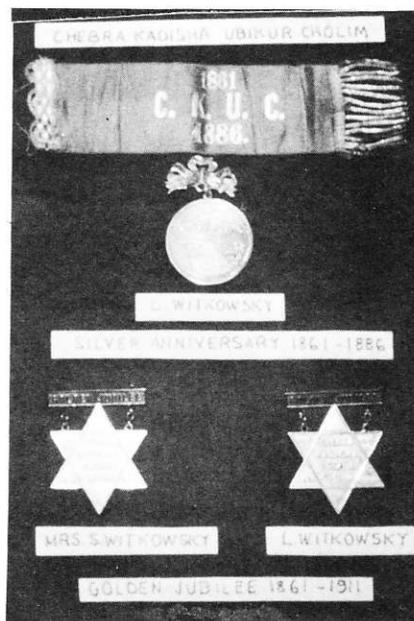
Both of the societies established burial grounds at the small cemetery on the southeast corner of Clark Street and Irving Park Road, known as Jewish Graceland.

#### Memento of Early Fraternal Lodge

Also given to the Archives recently was a volume of by-laws, published both in Yiddish and English, of the Peretz Lodge No. 99 of the Order of the Knights of Joseph. The donor is David Bernstein.

The Knights of Joseph was one of many fraternal orders enrolling Jewish men (and frequently women in an auxiliary) formed during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The lodges were largely social in nature although the solidarity they engendered was also reflected in business, political and charitable activities.

Their development is an interesting reflection of community relations at the time. The first successful Jewish ones, particularly B'nai Brith and the Free Sons of Israel, were formed by earlier-arriving



Burial Society  
awards donated  
for the Archives  
Photo by Norman  
Schwartz

German Jews who found themselves unwelcome in the larger fraternal orders such as the Masons or Odd Fellows. They in turn proved initially unwelcoming to Eastern European Jews, who then formed several fraternal groups of their own. The Knights of Joseph was in the last-mentioned category.

Readers are urged to remember the Chicago Jewish Archives whenever they consider disposing of materials with local Jewish connections. Such items, although no longer of interest to the current owner, are often of considerable value to students of Jewish history and should be preserved. The Society will be pleased to collect and evaluate such materials. --Norman Schwartz

### Minsky Fund Award (Cont'd)

[Continued from previous page]

1. Anyone is eligible for the award including non-Society members.
2. The subject must deal with Chicago Jewish History.
3. It must be essentially a new contribution to the study of Chicago Jewish history.
4. The committee will be flexible as to the subject matter and type of material submitted. While monographs are preferred, the funds may also be used for special exhibits, programs, school materials, annotated bibliographies, etc. under the purview of the programs of the Society.
5. To be eligible for funding, an essentially completed monograph must be submitted to the committee.
6. The monograph should be under 15,000 words although exceptions can be made.
7. It is anticipated that one award will be made annually amounting to about \$1,200. In certain situations that amount may be increased by additional funding from outside sources or from the Society itself.
8. The award will be used largely to pay for the cost of publication of the monograph.
9. The committee will be solely responsible for selecting the annual award recipient.
10. Publications will be copyrighted by the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

## TRACING YOUR FAMILY ROOTS IS PROBABLY EASIER THAN YOU THINK

### October Speaker Tells CJHS Members How To Get Started

A fascinated audience heard Judith Frazin explain that you don't have to be a Daughter of the American Revolution to know about your ancestry and learn about your family's roots. Mrs. Frazin, an expert in Jewish genealogy, gave a lecture-slide show presentation at the Fall CJHS meeting at Temple Sholom on October 7.

A dynamic and interesting speaker, she discussed the several ways that children and grandchildren of Jewish immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe could learn more about their ancestors. Using her own family as an example, she described how she made use of resources available to the amateur genealogist with interesting and informative results. As she spoke of relevant shtetls in Europe and named ships carrying immigrants to the United States nearly a century ago, there were comments of recognition and identification from members of the audience.

A teacher of Spanish who is current president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, Mrs. Frazin has located a number of available resources such as consular records from Europe and ship passenger lists which may be used by persons interested in tracing their roots. She also commented on the importance of interviewing older family members and recording their reminiscences while such activity remains



Judith Frazin spoke on tracing family roots at the October meeting

Photo by Moselle Schwartz

possible.

The speaker was introduced by Society Program Chairman Burt Robin and the social hour was hosted by Hospitality Chairman Shirley Sorkin. The Society's new president, Walter Roth, presided over his first general meeting.

--I. J. Suloway

### "Society News" Will Be Revamped, Acquire New Name Next Year

This is the final issue of Society News. The Chicago Jewish Historical Society at a recent board meeting decided to rename and revamp the appearance of the publication, which it started when the Society was formed in 1977.

Beginning with its first 1989 issue, the Society quarterly will appear as Chicago Jewish History. It will also, it is hoped, present a more professional format and appearance. It will continue to publish both articles on Chicago Jewish history and news of Society activities.

"Changing the name of our quarterly will recognize the fact that it is much more than a newsletter and give a clearer indication of the quality of historical articles in it," said President Walter Roth.

The new Chicago Jewish History, like its predecessor, welcomes manuscripts and memoirs of local Jewish history which would appeal to our membership.

### Society Welcomes New Members

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society welcomes the following members who have joined during the past few months. Their membership is proof of their interest in preserving the history of Jewish Chicago and their desire to become a part of that effort.

Steve Barnett  
Michael F. Bellows  
Gerald & Marilyn Epstein  
G. Fajerstein  
Lynn Sara Frackman  
Seleste F. Gersten  
Mr & Mrs Harry Heller  
Seymour S. Holleb  
Ira Kersh

Doris & Fred Lubet  
Thomas R. Meites  
Natalie Peiser  
Gordon Lee Pollock  
Gayle E. Riley  
Marion & Earl Rosenstein  
Herbert L. Roth  
Barbara & Edward Stone  
Andy & Claudia Zweig

--Marian Cutler  
Membership Chairman

# GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, PROBLEMS MARK HISTORY OF B'NAI ZION

## Congregation Observes 70th Year As Area and Membership Change

by Nathan Hoffman

Congregation B'nai Zion, a Conservative congregation in the Rogers Park neighborhood, is currently marking its seventieth anniversary. While an area synagogue marks a new decade of existence just about every year, the anniversary for B'nai Zion merits attention of those interested in local Jewish history for three reasons in particular.

B'nai Zion made history by being the first Conservative synagogue in Chicago; it is a congregation which was established and has remained in a neighborhood never predominantly Jewish despite a sizable contingent of Jews; and it is a synagogue which has adapted successfully, so far, to demographic change of the sort that has defeated other congregations. Its history is thus both interesting and instructive.

### Growth of Rogers Park

B'nai Zion's home has always been in Rogers Park, the city's northernmost neighborhood along the lake, approximately a mile and one-half square and immediately south of Evanston. The area grew slowly until 1907, when the elevated lines were extended to it from the Loop and the Jesuits shortly afterwards established Loyola University there.

Occupied originally by persons of German and Irish background, Rogers Park was mainly an area of single-family homes with only a handful of Jews until an apartment-building boom during the period 1910-1920. In that decade its population grew from 7,000 to 27,000. Among the new arrivals were socially mobile East European Jews already moving from the West Side into other Chicago communities.

### A Time for Optimism

It was at the close of this decade when a relatively small number of Jews living in a still sparsely settled Rogers Park recognized the need for a place to worship. Generally, 1919 was an optimistic time for those Jews who were able to leave the West Side and relocate in Rogers Park.

1919 was a good year. The peace treaty to end the "war to end all wars" was ratified by major parties and signed. An

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The history of Congregation B'nai Zion, here retold in connection with its seventieth anniversary, is necessarily a bittersweet one. It relates how a small, optimistic group of men created a new, successful synagogue in a new neighborhood for Jews and even helped to create a new branch of Judaism. But, like life in general, the life of a synagogue is not without problems, perils and inevitable change. Nathan Hoffman, the congregation's unofficial historian, has witnessed firsthand much of what he recounts.

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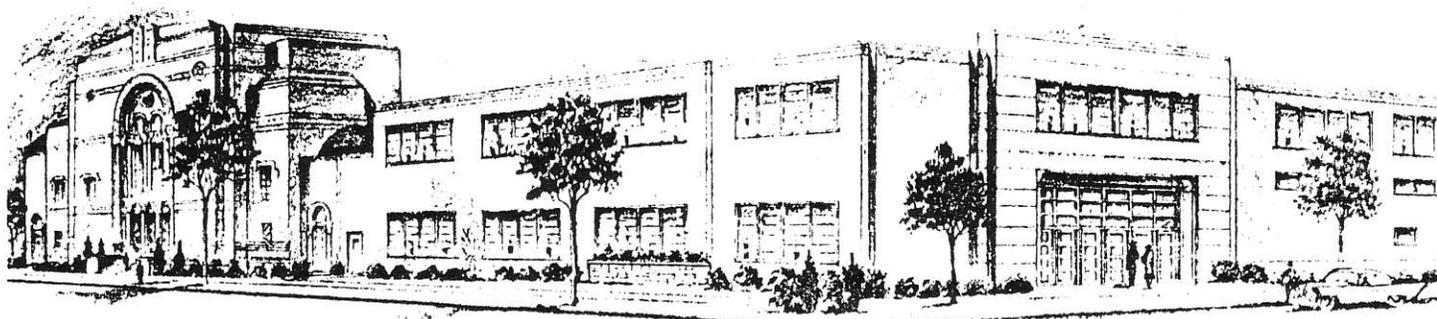
airplane had successfully flown the Atlantic Ocean for the first time. The prohibition amendment had just become effective. Jack Dempsey had defeated Jess Willard to become the heavyweight champion of the world and inaugurate the golden decade of sports. This then was the backdrop of those times.

Three men affectionately known as the three musketeers, Herman Spivak, Edward Steif and Joseph Friedman, met at the home of the last and planned the organization of a congregation. At that time services were being conducted at the home of Joseph Friedman on Saturday mornings. With Herman Spivak as its first president and Joseph Friedman as vice president (he later became the second president), the congregation was started with a membership of sixteen families.

At that time Rabbi Abraham L. Lassen was in Chicago to present a speech at a Zionist convention. He was a rabbi in Evansville, Indiana, where he had been for a number of years. Born in Russia, he had attended the Jewish Theological Seminary and was ordained. The three musketeers prevailed upon him to become the group's first rabbi, a decision immensely important to the new organization.

### Start of Conservative Judaism

Charlie Oliff and his family had moved to Rogers Park in 1921. They joined the new Conservative synagogue even though Charlie's father was an Orthodox rabbi. After all, Conservative Judaism was a struggling new movement and the points of differences between it and Orthodoxy were not definitely drawn. Originally these differences were just a question of speaking English rather than Yiddish in the synagogue and exercising greater control



over the decorum of the congregants during services. This included an attempt to read the prayers together as a group rather than each congregant chanting his own prayer independently.

Rabbi Lassen not only set the standards for Conservative practice at B'nai Zion; he also established the central body for the Conservative movement in the Midwest. The first president of the Midwest office was Charles Oliff, the second was Rabbi Lassen and the third Thomas Piser. The depression forced the closing of the office in 1931, but when it re-opened in 1935 its head was Samuel Wolberg. The above men, except for the rabbi, all had been or were to be presidents of B'nai Zion, an indication of the influence wielded by the congregation in the early years of the United Synagogue of America.

#### Bought Old Church

But let us return to 1919 for a moment. The sixteen founding members, their leaders and Rabbi Lassen needed a home. They decided to purchase a small wooden church building at 1715 Lunt Avenue that had been the Episcopal Church of St. Paul by the Lake. After some reconstruction it became B'nai Zion's first home and the first synagogue building in Rogers Park. (Temple Mizpah, the Reform congregation organized very shortly after B'nai Zion, had no building of its own until the mid-Twenties.)

Though initially adequate, the facilities could hardly have been called commodious. Schoolrooms, located in the basement, were poorly lighted and always damp.

#### All-Purpose Rabbi

Rabbi Lassen persevered despite inconveniences and overwork, preaching in the sanctuary and teaching classes in the basement with the assistance of his new wife Ann. He was also cantor for the congregation, chanting a beautiful Kiddush.

When there were enough children to form a youth group, he became director of the J.D.C. (Jewish Diligent Children) and supervised their attendance at Friday night services. Meanwhile Rogers Park's Jewish population continued to grow by leaps and bounds, reaching 10,000 by 1930 and about to reach toward 20,000 by 1945.

#### Need for Larger Quarters

As membership grew (85 families in the second year, 150 families by 1924), it became apparent that a larger building was needed for B'nai Zion. In 1926 during the presidency of Thomas Piser the present site at 1447 Pratt Boulevard was purchased. A home on the site, which was razed to build the sanctuary, had belonged to the self-same boxer Jess Willard earlier referred to.

Before the new synagogue was completed, it was necessary to have high holiday services in a Masonic temple on Lunt Avenue as the little wooden shul was no longer able to hold the growing congregation. The new building was dedicated on September 8, 1928. One year later the depression arrived with its attendant problems.

#### Rabbi Goes Unpaid

The depression years were accompanied by severe personal financial hardships which were very soon reflected in B'nai Zion's finances. Rabbi Lassen continued to perform his duties even though the congregation was unable to pay him any salary for almost an entire year.

Occasionally, however, individual members would call on the rabbi and bring gift baskets of food. During study group sessions at his home, some individuals would tactfully leave a check behind to help tide him and his wife over these hard times.

B'nai Zion survived and, as the depression waned, continued its growth. Dur-

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# CHICAGO JEWRY HAUNTED BY SPECTER OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN 1938

## Kristallnacht Outrage Culmination Of Terrible Year Here and Abroad

by Walter Roth

Fifty years ago on November 9-10, 1938, there occurred the infamous Kristallnacht outrages in Germany, officially proclaimed by the Nazis to have been a popular reaction by the German people to the assassination of Ernst Vom Rath, a German embassy official in Paris, by Herschel Grynszpan, a seventeen-year-old Polish-Jewish refugee. Grynszpan's parents had been forcibly transported by the Nazis, with thousands of other Polish Jews residing in Germany, from Germany to Poland a week earlier. The assassination was the tormented son's revenge.

Hundreds of German and Austrian synagogues were vandalized or destroyed; 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps, where many were murdered; and thousands of Jewish-owned stores were looted and their windows shattered (hence the euphemism "Kristallnacht" given by the Nazis to the event). Shortly thereafter the Germans assessed a huge fine on the German-Jewish community as part of a fiendish plan making the German Jews self-insurers for their own destruction. In addition, numerous new restrictions were imposed, all designed effectively to exclude Jews from German society and to hasten their expulsion from Germany.

### The Terrible Year 1938 As Seen from Chicago

Kristallnacht itself was the culmination of a series of ominous events which had taken place earlier that year in Germany and other European countries. In order to place Kristallnacht in a meaningful historical perspective, it is helpful to review the events of the year in which it took place--1938--an awful year for the Jews of the world. And, since we are interested in Chicago Jewish history, we will look at the way a Jewish person living in Chicago learned about the events of 1938 from the newspapers and magazines circulating in Chicago and how he reacted. At that time, the city contained the second largest Jewish community in America; it was also fairly representative of political life in America in 1938.

A study of local headlines for the year 1938 reveals a string of events leading to Kristallnacht in a manner that can be said to parallel the subsequent events that led to the destruction of the Jews in the Holocaust. The behavior of the Nazis toward the Jews in Germany, the conditions of the Jews in other European countries, the response of the American government to those conditions and finally the response of Jews of Chicago in 1938 were a prologue to behavior after the outbreak of World War II in 1939 and the Holocaust which came in its wake.

### Local Papers Report Nazi Terror

Articles in The Sentinel, The Reform Advocate and The Chronicle, three of Chicago's leading Jewish-English periodicals at the time, and The Yiddish Courier naturally reported in great detail the ruthlessness of the Nazi drive against the Jews of Germany, especially after the invasion of Austria in March. So, it must be said to their credit, did The Chicago Tribune and The Chicago Daily News, the city's two leading dailies of the time.

Active anti-semitism had also become the policy of governments in Poland, Rumania, Hungary and Italy, and the tragic deadlock in Arab-Jewish relations in Palestine came to a head in 1938. Country after country seemed to be caught up in the growing fury of anti-semitism, overwhelming American Jews with the prospect of millions of homeless Jews being driven out of Europe.

### American Jews Powerless

In their own homeland, American Jews were powerless to provide a haven since America's immigration laws prevented entrance except for a few. Native anti-semitism and isolationism were both on the rise in the United States in 1938 and millions were still unemployed as the Great Depression continued to linger. Immediately after Kristallnacht, Chicago Jewry responded as a community with various methods of protest, by proclamations, prayers, fund-raising and intensification of the boycott of German goods, this last a controversial issue.

Individual acts of assistance were possible and these occurred, primarily the giving of affidavits by American Jews to

their brethren in Europe to help a few of them immigrate to the United States. These affidavits, often backed by funds put in escrow, guaranteed that immigrants would not become public charges in the U.S. The ultimate tragedy, of course, was that in 1938 and in the years to follow these affidavits could help only a very small number of the millions of Jews then living in Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary and Italy to come to America.

#### Books Criticize "Inaction"

Was the reaction of Chicago and other American Jewry appropriate to Kristallnacht and the other tragedies of 1938? A number of recent books, among them The Transfer Agreement by Edwin Black; The Deafening Silence by Rafael Medoff; Beyond Belief by Deborah E. Lipstadt; Were We Our Brothers' Keepers?--The Public Response of American Jews to the Holocaust 1938-1944 by Haskell Lockstein; and Thy Brothers' Blood--The Orthodox Response During the Holocaust by David Kranzler have analyzed the events of the 1930's and the tragic consequences that followed the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

They have criticized Jewish organizations, their leaders and the Jewish press for their passivity and failure publicly to parade and demonstrate against the American government's lack of positive action to save the victims of Hitler's onslaught. A review of the events of 1938 from the Chicago perspective may also provide us with a response to the criticism by these authors.

#### Year Begins Badly for Jews

The year 1938 started with ominous stories from Europe of impending attacks on Jews. On January 27, The Sentinel headlined a full-page story: "100,000 Jews flee from Rumania districts". On the same date another article, under the title "German Jewry's Obituary," begins with, "The world press has become more or less silent about the situation of the Jews in Germany." On February 24, 1938, The Sentinel carried a story under the headline "Anticipate Emigration of 25,000 German Jews--5,000 to Palestine and 10,000 to the U.S.A."

In March, 1938, Germany annexed Austria. Thousands of Jews were arrested and humiliated. Many died, either at the hands of the Nazis or through suicide. The Nazi rampage in Vienna was unprecedented, exceeding anything that had occurred in Germany up to that time, and it was widely re-

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The worldwide observance of the Kristallnacht anniversary last month rightly focused on the terror of that 1938 night in German lands, its role as a forerunner of the Holocaust which followed and our determination that such a thing not be permitted to happen again. In this article, however, the emphasis is upon the way in which Kristallnacht and indeed a whole series of anti Jewish occurrences during 1938 impinged upon the lives of Chicago Jewry fifty years ago. The writer was himself a young refugee from Germany, newly arrived in Chicago that year. Mr. Roth, an attorney whose writings on the local Jewish community are familiar to our readers, recently assumed the presidency of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.

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ported in the Chicago press. For example, the March 19 issue of The Sentinel carried articles under these banner headlines: "Nazi Hordes Swarm over Austria," "Suicidal Wave Sweeps Austria" and "Extend Boycott to Austria". On March 31 The Sentinel reported that Jews were being forced to sweep the streets of Vienna at gunpoint, coupled with a warning by Goering that "All Jews Must Go". Similar articles appeared in other papers, both Jewish and those of general circulation. The editor of The Reform Advocate strongly backed a boycott of Austrian goods as a counter-measure.

#### Persecution Accelerates Elsewhere

On April 7 The Sentinel reported that at a dinner celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of The Chicago Jewish Courier, held at The Sherman House, Harold J. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and a well-known Chicago politician, had sharply attacked the Nazis and their outrages. It also carried a long story of a new crisis in Hungary. The headline: "Hungary Launches Anti-Semitic Program As Premier Promises Restricting Bills."

All through the early and middle months of 1938 The Sentinel and other papers carried alarming stories about the condition of the Jews in Poland. Anti-semitism had become the national policy of the government and the ruling party. The Chicago press reported in detail the policy enunciated by the Polish government in May, 1938, that the "Jewish problem" was to be solved by the reduction in the number of Jews, "to be achieved by furthering their

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## Chicago Jews' Reactions to Terrible Year 1938 (Cont'd)

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emigration to Palestine and other countries." (Madagascar was a destination favored by the Poles.) The press carried stories of "special benches" for Jews attending Polish colleges and of the boycott of Jewish businesses ordered by the Polish authorities. At that time there were nearly 3,000,000 Jews in Poland.

### Conference on Refugees Fails

The papers recalled that in June, 1937, Rabbi Stephen Wise and other Jewish leaders had met with Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, to seek American assistance in protesting the anti-semitic actions of the Polish government, but despite that, anti-semitic acts were becoming worse. As an indication of this Polish policy, at the Evian-les-Bains refugee conference in France during June, 1938, called by the United States and other governments to help the refugees of Europe find haven after the Austrian invasion, the Polish government insisted on the "resettlement" of at least 50,000 of its Jews a year.

The Evian conference for which the Chicago press had initially had great hopes turned into a disaster. Country after country, including the U.S.A., whose quota for all immigrants from Poland remained a mere 6,000 per year, indicated that they were not willing to change their immigration laws to help the refugees. It should be noted that the Nazis later often cited with glee the Evian conference as proof that the world did not want the Jews of Germany.

### Rumanian Jews Also Threatened

Rumania was also often in the news in the early part of 1938. In December of the previous year Octavian Goga had taken over as premier of Rumania, heading a regime whose avowed purpose was the destruction or expulsion of the Jews. In early 1938 the press reported on the lightning rapidity of his anti-Jewish laws during his six weeks in power. King Carol finally dismissed Goga in February, but for the Jews of Rumania the pattern had been set for the future. For Rumania, like other "new" countries such as Hungary and Czechoslovakia, there was under U.S. law virtually no immigration allotment at all.

The Jewish community in Palestine was also under siege in 1938, and its problems

preoccupied Chicago Jews. In 1937 the Report of the British Royal Commission for Palestine recommended partition of the country. The immediate effect was to divide all elements in Palestine into partition and non-partition camps. This also occurred among Chicago Jewry. Numerous articles and editorials spoke on the issue. At the Jewish Agency meeting held in London in March, 1938, the majority of American non-Zionists represented by Felix M. Warburg opposed partition. Mr. Warburg declared, "We believe that no lasting peace in Palestine can be obtained until the parties directly affected, namely the Jews and the Arabs, have been given a full opportunity to endeavor to arrive at a peaceful understanding."

### Partition Plan for Palestine Controversial

The opposing positions attracted a great deal of attention in the Jewish publications. An anguished editorial by Ludwig Lewisohn appeared in The Sentinel on March 31, attacking the anti-Zionists for opposing the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann. The editorial attacked the anti-Zionists as "assimilationist forces" impeding the creation of a Jewish state which could serve as a haven for Jews. He wrote, "Do you want to wait till a new world war is on us and you cannot rescue the Jewish youth of Germany, Austria, Poland, Rumania? Or don't you want to rescue that youth at all?" The final resolution of the Jewish Agency meeting was a compromise designed to seek further negotiations with the British.

In any event, by the early months of 1938 there were reports of widespread fighting in Palestine between the British and the Arabs and increased tension between the Arabs and the Jews. The papers reported that in June, 1938, the first Jew (Ben Joseph) to be executed by the British was hanged in Acre Prison for shooting at an Arab bus. The pattern was also evolving in Palestine.

### See End of European Jewry

The macabre world scene was concisely summed up in an editorial by William Zuckerman published in The Sentinel on April 6, 1938, headlined, "Is European Jewry Finished?" Zuckerman wrote, "Thus there is not now a Jewish community in Europe that can come to the succor of the Austrian Jews. Perhaps salvation lies with American

Jewry. European Jewry cannot stand up to the new tragedy."

Beginning in June, 1938, The Chicago Tribune carried almost daily front-page articles about attacks on Jews in Berlin and other German cities. The Tribune's coverage of events in Germany during this period was remarkable in its clarity as it revealed in graphic detail the fury being unleashed at the Jews of Germany. Considering the fact that Robert R. McCormick, the publisher of The Chicago Tribune, supported Hitler as a bastion against the "Communist menace," was an isolationist and detested the British, these articles on the plight of the Jews in Germany are astonishing.

#### Tribune Correspondent Reports Fully

They were written by The Tribune's Bureau Chief in Berlin, Sigrid Schultz, who though born in Chicago had lived in Germany for many years and had long been a trusted reporter for the Tribune. She was openly critical of the Nazis in her articles, and her reporting of the events in Germany gave Chicagoans a most direct view of the German rampage. After American entry into World War II in 1941, Schultz returned to America and in her book Germany Will Try Again, published in 1944, urged the total dismantling of the country.

The agony of German Jewry was spelled out on an almost daily basis on the pages of The Chicago Tribune. For example, next to the news that Johnny Vander Meer had pitched his second successive no-hit game in five days for the Cincinnati Reds on June 16, 1938, was Schultz' column about the terrorizing of the Jews of Berlin. Nazi gangs were roaming the streets, attacking Jews and Jewish businesses. Jews were driven out of movie theaters and some were arrested. There were reports of deportations to Buchenwald, "a concentration camp."

On June 18 and 19, 1938, front-page headlines spoke of the "Berlin War on Jews". Schultz reported that fifty Jewish stores had been smashed in Berlin and two new concentration camps were being built. The June campaign against the Jews, Schultz wrote, was somehow said to have been provoked by the Czechs. The American Jewish Yearbook for 1938-1939 suggests that the disorders were a Nazi device to impress participants at the Evian conference that the Nazis were serious about their policy of driving the Jews out of Germany.



A Jewish shopkeeper in Berlin sweeps up broken glass after Kristallnacht

#### Fight a Source of Pride, Conflict

The unrelenting news of overseas tragedies was interrupted by one great if not truly significant moment, a seeming triumph of good over evil, which occurred on June 22, 1938, in Yankee Stadium, New York: the second Louis-Schmeling fight. This fight also illustrates the conflicting views affecting Chicago Jewry with respect to the anti-German boycott, one of the few weapons available to those Americans wishing to fight Nazism.

On January 6, 1938, The Sentinel's then sports columnist, Irv Kupcinet, in his column "Our Sport World" wrote about Michael Strauss Jacobs (a Jew and boxing bigwig at the time) and the staging of the second fight between Max Schmeling and Joe Louis. The Jewish boycott organizations were urging a boycott of the fight, which Chicago was then trying to land, but Kupcinet questioned the wisdom of such a boycott, since sports had little to do with politics. "I am for it," he wrote, "except in sports."

#### Schmeling Had a Jewish Manager

On May 5 Kup reported that Mike  
[Continued on next page]

## Chicago Jews' Reactions to Terrible Year 1938 (Cont'd)

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Jacobs had scheduled the fight for New York and stated that he was not worried over the boycott. In his column on May 12, Kup wrote that Joe "Yossel" Jacobs (a Jew who had been and was Schmeling's manager but no relation to Mike) had just returned from Germany and was spreading the "hooey" that Jews were not being mistreated there. On May 26 Kup reported that there was a fifty-fifty split on the boycott issue in the letters that were pouring onto his desk on the issue. Since Mike Jacobs had agreed to give ten percent of his profits from the fight to aid German Jews, Kup said he was in favor of calling off the boycott "because the Jews in all probability will attend the fight anyway."

Over 80,000 persons attended the fight on the sweltering night of June 26 in Yankee Stadium. As Arch Ward wrote on the front page of The Tribune, Louis won after 124 seconds of the first round. The Tribune reported that the "Colored Folks" paraded and danced in the streets of the South Side "down South Park Way [now King Drive], across 47th Street, up Indiana Avenue and over 43rd Street, arteries of celebration that began at 9:10 and ended with the dawn." While Goebbels sulked in Germany and Schmeling was rushed to a hospital, Chicago Jewry finally had something to cheer about. For the record, Joe Jacobs was not in Schmeling's corner on the night of the fight as he had been barred from ringside because of a technical violation of boxing rules in another fight. Needless to say, the Schmeling-Jacobs combination is an enigma to this day.

### Czech Jews Expelled

The end of the summer of 1938 saw the increasing danger to Czechoslovakia and its Jews. In September, 1938, the mass exodus of Jews from the Sudeten area, which was soon to be ceded to Germany, began. The Munich "settlement" at the end of that month completed the expulsion of the Jewish community in the Sudetenland. Thousands of Jews fled to Prague and its surrounding area. Over 20,000 Jews had been driven out of their homes by the Nazis, and the Chicago press noted that panic seemed to grip all Jews of Czechoslovakia.

On November 8 and 9, 1938, The Tribune headlined results of the Congressional elections held on the eighth. While

elections were being held in Chicago, the Kristallnacht riots were beginning in Germany. Under The Tribune's banner headline of election results on November 10 came a secondary headline, "Mobs Wreck Jewish Stores in Berlin," over a story by Sigrid Schultz. On November 11 under a banner front-page headline "Hitler Seizes 20,000 Jews," Schultz wrote an eyewitness account of the destruction of synagogues and stores in Berlin:

Systematic destruction of Jewish property, looting, arson and wholesale arrests of Jews without charges swept Germany today. It is estimated that 20,000 Jews were arrested in Germany and what was Austria.

The Nazi violence far outdid anything that happened along this line in Germany in the darkest days of the Red Revolution. Then hungry mobs stormed the food stores. Today the mob gloated over the smashed stores of Jews. They helped themselves to clothes, furs and toys and scattered the goods in the streets for their friends to pick up.

In the days of the revolution the police tried to intervene. Today they walked unconcernedly through the... crowds as if everybody was out for an enjoyable afternoon stroll....Two Jews were shot to death during the anti-Semitic riots....Twenty synagogues were destroyed in Vienna....Nine of the twelve Berlin synagogues were set afire at dawn....Many Jews were arrested and carried off to unknown destinations....In villages, homes of Jews were set afire. Terrified Jews fled into the countryside, hiding in the woods....In Berlin an American walking down the Kurfuerstendamm, one of the city's principal thoroughfares, saw a mob haul a Jew out of a store, knock him down and trample on him until his shrieks stopped.

For weeks thereafter Sigrid Schultz continued her reporting of what she saw and heard in Germany. Chicago and its Jewry were well-informed.

### U.S. Reaction to Kristallnacht

Newspapers and magazines sold in Chicago deplored the German action. The Tribune and The Daily News both editorially attacked the Nazi regime and its assault on the Jews.

But some of the reporting was strange. Henry Luce's Life magazine of November 28, 1938 carried several pages of pictures of the destruction in Germany. But on the next page there are six pictures of Hitler and Goering cooing at the christening of Goering's child. The caption was, "Germany's Two Head Men Try Out Their Charms on a Five-Month-Old Baby."

#### No Liberalization of Immigration Laws

Of all the papers and periodicals reviewed, only The New Republic urged a change in America's immigration laws. Under the headline "Let the Jews Come in!," an editorial of November 30 stated that simple indignation was not enough:

Five hundred thousand German Jews are in the most desperate predicament of modern times....The question is where can they go? Even Palestine is being barred to them, and every country is creating difficulties. At the present time, German-Austrian combined quota is about 27,000 a year. The total quota from all countries is about 153,000, but many lands do not use up their allotments; and in a number of recent years, more people have left America than have entered it. We can see no possible reasons why the unused quotas from other countries should not be transferred to the refugees. Even the bitterest anti-semitic will recognize that the total number who could possibly come in would be an insignificant addition to our present population.

As an aftermath of Kristallnacht, Roosevelt had recalled the American Ambassador to Germany Hugh R. Wilson for consultation, and he openly deplored the Nazi attacks. Both of these steps were applauded by the Jewish press as courageous and welcome acts.

#### Small Steps by Roosevelt Attacked

The Chicago press also reported that President Roosevelt had stated at a news conference held on November 15 that he did not contemplate a change in the quota system. They reported, however, that on November 18 Roosevelt had extended the visitor's visas of 15,000 Germans then living in the United States, many of whom were Jews.

On November 20, The Tribune reported that this extension of visas had come under sharp attack by Congressman Martin Dies,

chairman of the House committee investigating "un-American activities." The Tribune also editorialized that it did not favor changing immigration restrictions, even in the face of the existing crisis in Europe.

A reading of the general Chicago press at the time indicates that there was absolutely no sentiment for a change in American immigration quotas. Chicagoans and other Americans were horrified at Hitler's acts, but the vast majority did not want to change the immigration laws, especially at a time when jobs were hard to get. Even the Jewish press, while anguishing over the plight of the Jews in Europe, looked to other countries as havens for the refugees. To effectuate a change in American immigration laws seems to have been beyond contemplation or possibility.

#### Chicago Jews Intensify Boycott

There were, however, other steps that the Chicago Jewish community was taking with respect to its beleaguered brethren in Europe. Some of those will now be reviewed.

A Joint Boycott Council of Nazi Goods and Services was organized in Chicago in 1936 by the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labor Committee, with offices at 8 South Dearborn Street. It was a successor to the original boycott committee started by the American Jewish Congress in 1933. By 1938 the organization was publishing a periodical, Boycott; distributing lists of merchants cooperating and not cooperating with the boycott and selling stamps which could be affixed to envelopes, letters and notices as a way to "Stamp Out Nazism". In March of 1938 the Joint Council added Austrian goods to its boycott list and later in 1938 it included goods from Sudetenland.

In its December, 1938, issue Boycott stated that the boycott was succeeding in fighting Nazi terror. It claimed the full cooperation not only of many Jewish groups but also of the American Federation of Labor, certain Roman Catholic groups and area universities. A boycott rally held in 1938 at the University of Chicago was said to have drawn 2,000 students and was addressed by outstanding members of the faculty including Professor (later U.S. Senator) Paul H. Douglas. Editorially, Boycott opined, after Munich, that, "As heretofore, this battle will have to be fought with the most effective peace-time weapon

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## Chicago Jews' Reactions to Terrible Year 1938 (Cont'd)

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available to the masses--the boycott of German-made goods and services." Interestingly enough, the December issue made no special reference to Kristallnacht.

### Many Local Jews Oppose Boycott

Yet the boycott movement elicited opposition from many Chicago Jews, as it did from other American Jews and, initially, perhaps under duress, from Germany's Jews themselves. For example, the boycott issue and its impact on the Louis-Schmeling fight has already been discussed.

In 1939 Bernard Horwich, a beloved elder of the Chicago Jewry, published his biography, My Eighty Years. Horwich had been born in Russian Lithuania in 1863, lived for a few years as a young man in East Prussia and immigrated to the United States in 1880. He was president of the Chicago Section of the Zionist Organization of America from 1898 to 1901, had been the first president of the Federated Jewish Charities of Chicago and was an active leader in the American Jewish Committee. He had become an immensely successful manufacturer and banker and, with it, a noted philanthropist.

### Active Anti-Nazi Steps Criticized

In the conclusion of his book, published after Munich and Kristallnacht, Horwich added a chapter called "I Draw a Few Conclusions". Among the conclusions that he drew was that some of our Jewish leaders "acted very unwisely" when the "Hitler regime suddenly and unexpectedly fell upon the Jews like wild beast." He recalled that in the past when there were outrages against the Jews in Russia, Jewish leaders were able to obtain relief by "talking things over calmly with the appropriate officials". Unfortunately, when Hitler came to power and attacked the Jews "several of the so-called leaders, acting without proper authority, or due consideration, became excited and made use of demonstrations, mass meetings, abuse and slander and finally the boycott.

"We Jews must do something, they shouted through loudspeakers and headlines. We must not be 'sha-sha' men...cowards, like the assimilators. We must fight to the bitter end."

This boycott movement, wrote Horwich, had occurred despite pleas by German Jews

for its cessation because the boycott was causing Hitler to lash out at German Jews. With quiet diplomacy and pleadings, as in the past, the Nazis might not have acted so violently against the Jews. "Not only the German Jews, but Jews all over the world have been jeopardized," he wrote.

### Urges Concentrating on U.S. Anti-Semitism

It would be far better, he felt, if the Jewish leaders concentrated on anti-semitism in the United States rather than "heroically attacking Hitler verbally from America." The American Jewish Committee, wrote Horwich, was opposed to the boycott, as was its great leader Dr. Cyrus Adler. And it was the Committee, which was organized in 1907 after the Kishinev pogroms, that had direct connections with similar organizations overseas. The B'nai Brith and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee also did not approve the boycott, according to Horwich.

Again and again Horwich reiterated his view that the boycott had been more harmful to the Jews of Germany than beneficial. The only recourse, Horwich concluded in his book, "should be one of defending and not offending...We must regain a demeanor and conduct that will unceasingly appeal to the conscience of the world. We must unceasingly drop all aggressiveness and restore, in its place, an age-old policy of 'dignified endurance'...Our aim is not to destroy Hitlerism but to survive it. We cannot destroy Nazism. That is the world's job, and let us hope it will be accomplished soon....That is the sort of fight to which we must devote our energies --a fight for ourselves and not against someone else."

### Pre-Hitler Roots of Varying Viewpoints

The bitterness that divided the Chicago Jewish organizations on the boycott issue is exemplified by a memo left by Max Kopstein in his files at the American Jewish Congress (now housed in the Chicago Jewish Archives at the Spertus Library). Kopstein was then a young attorney, an officer of the American Jewish Congress and a leader of the Chicago Joint Boycott Council. The memo, while undated, must have been written sometime in 1938. He, like other local Congress leaders, was closely identified with the national president of the Congress, Rabbi Stephen Wise, who was

considered the leading proponent of the boycott and other anti-Nazi demonstrations and protests.

In his memo, Kopstein attacked those American Jewish organizations which were not democratically elected as was the Congress. He claimed that in Chicago the Congress had a total individual membership of 5,000 and had 255 affiliated Jewish organizations, congregations, vereins and landsmanschaften, thus having a total membership of some 40,000 Jews. Each organization voted to send a representative to the Executive Council of Congress, claimed Kopstein, unlike other Jewish organizations which selected their leaders from the "wealthy" without any democratic participation by the masses. Kopstein claimed that while the "democratic" and "liberal" Jewish organizations supported the boycott, other Jewish organizations withheld their support. Those Jewish organizations and their leaders favored "quiet action". The remainder of Kopstein's memo is sharply critical of the so-called Jewish leaders who advocated behind-the-scenes action without participation of the masses. Differing attitudes toward the boycott in Chicago apparently had roots in older community differences as well as honest disagreement over tactics.

#### Jews and Christians Try Prayer

As an aftermath of Kristallnacht, an interfaith day of prayer on November 20 was designated by the National Conference of Christians and Jews for observance on a nationwide basis. In addition, The Yiddish Courier reported on November 22 (in translation from the Yiddish) that, "By prayer and the sounding of the Shofar Chicago Jews will join in the protest by the American people against the Nazi menace." It reported that thousands of Jews will gather at fourteen designated synagogues (all of which appeared to be Orthodox) to demonstrate their sorrow at Hitler's "blood-spilling hooligans." After describing the memorial services to be held in each synagogue in great detail, the Courier printed the following proclamation of the "Mercaz Harabbonim of Chicago":

We are witness to the incomprehensible horrible tragedy which has befallen our people. Come join this evening in synagogues in every neighborhood of the city. Let our cry of woe be heard. Let us open the gates of mercy with our



Stamps issued by the American Jewish Congress in the thirties as part of its controversial boycott of German goods.

tears. Young and old, men and women, come to the synagogue this evening. Close up your businesses! Put aside every task! Let us plead with God for mercy!...No one must remain at home tonight. The Father of Mercy must hear our voice, our tears and rescue us from our misfortune.

#### Fund-Raising for Emigration Accelerates

Chicago Jewry also reacted to the November crisis with an outpouring of money. The newspapers reported on the fund-raising activities of different organizations, such as the Joint Distribution Committee, the Jewish National Fund, the United Palestine Appeal, ORT and Hadassah. Chicago Jews began a special \$2,000,000 drive to aid European Jews. One newspaper reported that a group calling itself the International Jewish Colonization Society was organized under the leadership of an unidentified young Chicago industrialist with a program for resettling European Jewish refugees. Many of these drives were to become coordinated at the end of 1938 with the founding of the United Jewish Appeal for Refugees and Overseas Needs.

The Reform Advocate carried a full-page ad on November 25 for a showing of the film "Inside Germany" at Orchestra Hall. Proceeds were to go to the Intergovernmental Committee for Political Refugees, headed by Myron C. Taylor, who later became American Representative to the Vatican. It is interesting to speculate concerning the content of the film and how it was made.

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## Chicago Jews' Reactions to Terrible Year 1938 (Cont'd)

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### Growing Anti-Semitism in America

On November 24 The Yiddish Courier carried a long story on Kristallnacht from the "Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin," the main news source for the Jewish press. An adjoining column reported "Agitation Combatting in Many Communities as Anti-semitism Grows". The growing anti-semitism which was therein reported was occurring not in Europe but in the United States. The paper carried disturbing reports from various speakers of outbreaks of anti-semitism across the country.

A long column reported on a recent radio broadcast over Station WMCA in New York by Rev. Charles E. Coughlin of Royal Oak, Michigan. This broadcast was characterized as the first anti-semitic attack over a nationwide radio network in American history. Father Coughlin's theme was that the Jews were suffering because Nazism "is a defense mechanism against communism for which, he implied, Jews were responsible". The Chicago press denounced the broadcast and on December 11 Chicago's George Cardinal Mundelein declared that Coughlin spoke only as a private citizen and in no way represented the opinion of the Roman Catholic Church. Nevertheless, Coughlin had many local admirers; and his magazine Social Justice was widely sold in Chicago, often outside churches on Sundays.

### Local Nazi Groups Flex Muscles

The Chicago press frequently reported on meeting of the Silvershirts, the Bund and other pro-Nazi groups active in the Chicago area. The press publicized their "heiling of Hitler, denunciation of President Roosevelt and attacks on the Jews." The Chicago Jewish press, in particular, carried numerous articles on the activities of these groups in various parts of the country. As the American Jewish Year Book of 1938 saw it, the "year witnessed an increase in activity on the part of anti-Jewish agitators...."

There were instances where Jews retaliated. A Chicago newspaper reported that on November 25 a free-for-all occurred at a tavern at 876 North Wells Street when 1,000 anti-Nazis waded into a Jew-baiting meeting of Silvershirts. Six persons were arrest-

ed. Several incidents of a similar nature occurring in New York were also reported after Kristallnacht.

The Jews who took on the Silvershirts on Wells Street after Kristallnacht most assuredly represented the real feeling of what Chicago Jews would have liked to be able to do to the Nazis in 1938. But as our brief review of the events of 1938 has indicated, the Jews of America in 1938 were powerless to change the political climate of the times. The authors referred to earlier, with their criticisms of their fellow Jews forget that they are writing in the 1980's and not in the context of conditions as they existed fifty years ago. By focusing on so-called inaction of fellow Jews, they tend to attenuate the guilt of the perpetrators of the crimes. By overlooking the realities of the times, the anti-semitism which was on the rise in America and the existing immigration laws which the Jews were powerless to change, they are rewriting history.

It was perfectly sensible for Jews of America to believe that only other governments and particularly that of the United States could stop Hitler. After Kristallnacht, the Jews found President Roosevelt to be an implacable foe of Hitler, a president who was willing to speak out in a country where the majority of the people were still committed to isolationism and keeping America out of foreign wars.

### Assigning Guilt Where It Belongs

These authors are undoubtedly motivated by a desire to teach us that we must not repeat the passivity and failures of 1938 when it comes to our fellow Jews overseas. That is of course true. But they should realize that fifty years have passed since Kristallnacht. Pre-World War II isolationism disappeared with America's victory over Hitler. America's immigration laws have changed, and today the State of Israel has an open door policy for all Jewish refugees.

An examination of Chicago Jewry's reaction to Kristallnacht reinforces what is already evident. The guilt of Kristallnacht and its aftermath rests first and foremost on the Nazis and their European accomplices. Revisionist history, whether written by gentiles or Jews, cannot detract one iota from that.

## Congregation B'nai Zion (Cont'd)

[Continued from page 5]

ing the forties Rabbi Lassen, in ill health, sought early retirement. The congregation engaged Rabbi Jacob Siegel, who married the daughter of Abraham Finklestein, a devoted member and five-term congregational president. However, Rabbi Siegel served only a short time before leaving for a Detroit pulpit.

In 1945 Rabbi Henry Fisher came from Rochester, New York, to lead the congregation, which he served until 1964 when he became emeritus. By 1948 membership reached 850 families and more space was needed, primarily for classrooms.

### Large Addition Built

The congregation was able to purchase the property adjacent to the west and built thereon the Wolberg Community Center, which includes the Oliff Auditorium, a large hall which can seat 1100 worshippers on the high holydays, as well as nine classrooms. The new space was badly needed when it opened in 1957, for membership had reached 1100 families and a similar number attended religious school classes.

Since Rabbi Fisher's 1964 departure, the B'nai Zion pulpit has been occupied by Rabbis Morris Fishman, David Lincoln, David Saltzman, David Graubart and, currently, Norman Kleinman.

### Change Requires Adjustments

Through subsequent years the community and demographic patterns have changed. Children raised in Rogers Park have married and left the neighborhood. Chicago Jewish families have tended to settle farther west or in the suburbs. Rogers Park is no longer the Jewish community that it once was. The neighborhood is changing rapidly. The apartments and homes adjacent to the synagogue buildings are gradually being occupied by Blacks and Hispanics.

The number of Jews living in Rogers Park today is probably down to half its peak of 20,000 and it seems to be dwindling each year. Significantly, the average age of the Jewish population there has increased consistently and has recently been estimated as around sixty-five years.

### B'nai Zion Adapts, Perseveres

Despite gloomy predictions and although its demise has frequently been

## List Benefits of Belonging As Membership Renewal Time Approaches

As Society memberships expire with the close of the calendar year, Membership Chairman Marian Cutler reminds current members of the numerous benefits they enjoy.

"The advantages are many," she said recently, "but I want to emphasize just a few." Then she went on to mention a subscription to the Society quarterly, reduced rates for our popular summer tours, the right to attend the annual members' brunch, advance notice of meetings, discounts on purchases at the Spertus Museum shop and free bus service to meetings at distant locations.

This past year each member also received a complimentary copy of the special tenth-anniversary publication, she added. A new addition to membership benefits is the eligibility of current members to receive a free copy of each CJHS publication to be published by the Doris Minsky Memorial Fund as it appears. The fund hopes to produce its first during 1989.

Dues receipts make possible most Society efforts to preserve local Jewish history, including exhibits, the taping of oral histories, the collection of archives and the provision of speakers as well as the social hours which precede meetings. Dues are kept low so that everyone can assist in the work of the Society.

Regular dues begin at \$15.00 per year --less than five cents per day. Seniors and students may belong for as little as \$10.00 yearly. A full schedule of dues appears on page 16.

Renewal notices will go into the mail shortly after the close of the holiday season. They will be sent to all members except those who joined for the first time since July 1.

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forecast as imminent, Congregation B'nai Zion continues to be strong and continues to serve the needs of an older Jewish community and those of newly arriving immigrants from the Soviet Union. This year, in the midst of its seventieth anniversary, spearheading this major function is the congregation's first woman president, Ruthe Sacks. B'nai Zion sees a need for a Jewish house of worship in Rogers Park for the foreseeable future, and, as long as the need exists, it intends to be there to fill it.