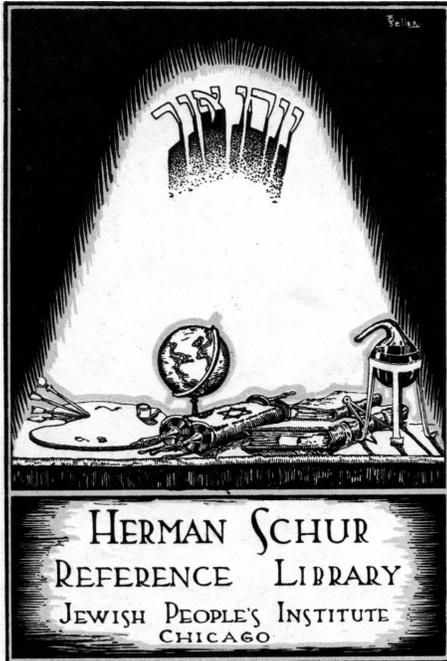




# chicago jewish history



Bookplate by Todros Geller, 1928.  
Chicago Jewish Archives.

## *CJHS Annual Meeting: Society Elects Board Members, Reviews Year's Activities*

On Sunday afternoon, November 6, at Temple Sholom, President Walter Roth called to order a brief year-end meeting of the Society.

The first order of business was the election of members to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. Leah Axelrod, Harold T. Berc, Dr. Irving Cutler, Dr. Rachelle Gold, Roslyn Lettvin, and Dr. N. Sue Weiler—all current Board members—and a new nominee, Melynda Lopin, were all unanimously elected by voice vote.

President Roth noted that 2005 had been filled with interesting programs: his talk on Ben Hecht and Meyer Levin at the Newberry Library on February 9; Dr. Adele Hast's talk on Chicago Women's Aid at UIC on March 8; Prof. Sheldon Nahmod's twenty-five year perspec-

pective on "The March on Skokie Controversy" at Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Synagogue on April 3; the program on the Greenebaum family at North Shore Congregation Israel on June 19; Judge Abner Mikva's oral history at K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation on September 18; and the Caryn Amster program that was to follow the meeting at Temple Sholom on November 6.

At a subsequent Board meeting, officers were elected to a two-year term. President Walter Roth, Vice-President Burt Robin, and Recording Secretary Dr. Carolyn Eastwood were reelected. The resignation of Treasurer Herman Draznin was accepted, and Dr. Edward H. Mazur was elected to succeed him.

Herman Draznin has served the Society since its earliest years—for over a quarter of a century. He was involved in an exciting event in Chicago Jewish history, when, as a young boy, he participated in the gymnastics exhibition during Jewish Day at the 1933 Century of Progress. He was a proud and happy (see picture) participant in our October 2000 commemoration of that day. Herman remains an active member of the Board. ❖



Herman Draznin.  
Photo by David Rigg.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Family Memoir:  
Writer Leonard Dubkin,  
Urban Nature Lover**

**Meyer Levin,  
Hassidism, and  
The Golden Mountain**

**From the Archives:  
The Library of the JPI**

**CJHS Publications  
and Other Works by  
Society Members**

**Two Programs:  
Abner Mikva at KAM-  
Isaiah Israel and  
Caryn Lazar Amster  
at Temple Sholom**

**Two Tours: Historic  
Summer Resorts and  
Neighborhoods**

## President's Column



Walter Roth

### IN SEPTEMBER 2004, OUR FAMILY TRAVELED TO NORTHERN ITALY

to honor the priest Don Francesco Brondello with the State of Israel's designation, "Righteous Among the Nations," and to honor the family of Andreina Blua, who had helped save the lives of my wife, Chaya, her mother, Hannah, her sister, Gitta, and other Jews who had fled over the Maritime Alps from Occupied France to Italy in 1943. The culmination of our family's 2004 trip

was a repeat of that wartime crossing, but in the opposite direction—from Italy, over Colle de le Ciriegian, into France. (This was the subject of my President's Column in *CJH* Fall 2004, which can be read on our web site—[www.chicagojewishhistory.org](http://www.chicagojewishhistory.org).)

### CHAYA WAS INVITED TO RETURN, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEXT COMMEMORATION, IN SEPTEMBER 2005.

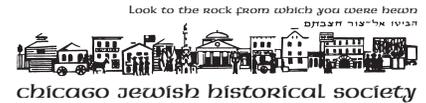
The organizers were Sandro Cappellaro and Alberto Cavaglion, Historian of the Institute of the Resistance and Contemporaneous Social Political Issues in Northern Italy. They received us with warm hospitality, picking us up from the airport in Nice and driving through the mountains to Saluzzo, where Sandro and his wife, Piera, put us up in a private apartment above theirs.

Saluzzo is a medieval town, nearly a thousand years old, located on a road that started in ancient Rome and led across the Maritime Alps. The history of this part of Northern Italy is very complicated. There were many small towns around Saluzzo in which Jews lived and maintained synagogues dating back to the year 1000 C.E. Today the only functioning Jewish communities in this area are in the large cities, Turin and Milan. There is a restored synagogue in the old Jewish ghetto of Saluzzo that dates back to the fifteenth century, but there are no Jews living there now. Those who had not been able to flee or go into hiding by 1944 were killed in Auschwitz.

We were hosted every night by other families of Christian friends dedicated to the study of the history of the persecutions of Jews and the Italian Resistance in 1943-1944. We enjoyed five-course meals of Northern Italian cooking amid lively political discussions. We learned that there were some Italians who helped Jews and others who were Fascists and vicious anti-Semites. Our hosts were descendants of those Resistance fighters who had made the saving of Jews part of their struggle against the Nazis.

On Friday, September 9, our daughter, Judy, her husband, Steve, and our grandchildren, Miko and Tema, joined us in reliving a historic occasion. That evening before a gathering of approximately one hundred guests, including historians, the mayors of three surrounding towns, university students, descendants of Resistance fighters and others, Chaya gave a talk on her experiences in Italy and France during the War, and Judy spoke about the Shoah legacy.

*continued on page 17*



### Officers 2005

Walter Roth	<i>President</i>
Burt Robin	<i>Vice President</i>
Dr. Carolyn Eastwood	<i>Secretary</i>
Dr. Edward H. Mazur	<i>Treasurer</i>

### Directors

Leah Axelrod  
 Harold T. Berc  
 Charles B. Bernstein  
 Rachel Heimovics Braun\*  
 Dr. Irving Cutler  
 Herman Draznin  
 Dr. Rachele Gold  
 Clare Greenberg  
 Dr. Adele Hast\*  
 Dr. David H. Heller  
 Janet Iltis  
 Marshall D. Krolick  
 Roslyn Lettvin  
 Melynda Lopin  
 Mark Mandle  
 Seymour H. Persky  
 Muriel Robin Rogers\*  
 Norman D. Schwartz\*  
 Dr. Milton Shulman  
 Dr. N. Sue Weiler  
 \*Indicates Past President

### Chicago Jewish History

*Chicago Jewish History* is published quarterly by the Chicago Jewish Historical Society at 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605. (312) 663-5634. Single copies \$4.00 postpaid. Successor to *Society News*.

### Editor-Designer

Bev Chubat

### Editorial Board

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

Send all submissions to:  
 Editor Bev Chubat, Chicago Jewish Historical Society, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605 or e-mail: [info@chicagojewishhistory.org](mailto:info@chicagojewishhistory.org)

## Exhibit: the Jewish Experience in Elgin

The Elgin Area Historical Museum in partnership with the Seigle Family Foundation of Elgin has announced the start of a prototype exhibit project entitled "Stories of Immigration, Identity and Assimilation: The Jewish Experience in Elgin."

Scheduled to open to the public at the Museum in June 2006, the exhibit will explore the immigration experiences, traditions, culture, home life, work, and community contributions of one of Elgin's earliest immigrant groups.

Area residents, groups and synagogues are invited to participate in the research phase of the project by contributing photographs, oral histories, letters, diaries, and other artifacts for possible inclusion in the final exhibit.

For further information contact the Elgin Area Historical Museum at (847) 742-4248 or [elginhistory@foxvalley.net](mailto:elginhistory@foxvalley.net). Exhibit Coordinator John Weck can be reached at (847) 683-7947 or [fva2000@aol.com](mailto:fva2000@aol.com). ❖

## Happy Historical Hanukkah! CJHS Members to Receive Chicago Jewish Time Line

The Society is participating in the celebration of 350 years of Jewish life in America by sending our members an illustrated time line of Jewish life in our own city. This keepsake will be mailed to arrive during Hanukkah. ❖

### Announcement of Research Award

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society is pleased to announce an annual award for research on Chicago Jewish history done by an undergraduate or graduate student. CJHS will award \$1,000 for an outstanding paper on a topic in Chicago Jewish history.

The paper should be 25 to 40 pages in length, with documentation in endnotes. Please request "Guidelines" for endnote form, font, and style at the address below. An independent committee of experts will judge the entries. The winner will be invited to present the research at a meeting of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. The winning essay will be considered for publication in the society's journal, *Chicago Jewish History*.

Each applicant should submit a paper and a letter of support from a faculty adviser by June 30, 2006, to:

**Adele Hast, chair**  
CJHS Award Committee  
Chicago Jewish Historical Society  
618 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60605

For further information, please contact Adele Hast at (312) 663-5634 or [adelehast@yahoo.com](mailto:adelehast@yahoo.com).

## February Talk at Newberry Library: How Genealogist Helped Historian Finish Story of Chicago Femme Fatale

"Dora Feldman McDonald: Sex, Politics and Murder" is one of the essays collected in Walter Roth's book, *Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past*. It is the story of a sensational 1908 murder trial. Dora, the Jewish wife of a powerful local politician and gambler, was accused of killing her young lover. After her acquittal she left Chicago. Historian Roth hoped to learn about her later life, but lacked the proper expertise and resources. Genealogist Mike Karsen, a noted professional researcher and instructor, and a member of CJHS, offered his services. In short order he filled out the life story of Dora (later Flora) Feldman.

The Newberry Library will be the site of a February evening program in which Mike Karsen and Walter Roth will participate. The genealogist will describe how he helped the historian finish this fascinating story. When the Newberry Library has set the date and time of the program, we will mail an announcement postcard to members of the Society. ❖

### Welcome, New Members of CJHS

Rena Gruenberg  
Leila Handelman  
Geryl Kramer  
Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Krugel  
Marlene Mitchel  
Marilyn Mittman  
Grace Newman  
Annette Rachofsky  
Gail Shapiro  
Michael Traison  
Rose Wandel  
Rabbi Burton Wax

## *Family Memoir*

# The Urban Nature Lover

BY PAULINE DUBKIN YEARWOOD

**M**y father, Leonard Dubkin, was ahead of his time.

In six books, numerous articles and his nature column, first in the *Chicago Tribune* and then in the Lerner Newspapers, he made unspoken arguments for the preservation of the natural world. He was an environmentalist when most people had never heard the word. His life's work and great passion, however, was convincing people that nature wasn't something that you had to drive far out into the country to observe; you could find it in city parks, back yards and empty lots, as he had done all his life.

Leonard Dubkin was probably best known to Chicago readers for his informative but folksy "Birds and Bees" columns in the Lerner Newspapers, which appeared from the late '50s until his death in 1972. But he was also the author of six books, beginning with *The Murmur of Wings*, published in 1944, in which he first wrote about his lifelong obsession with birds.

It was followed by *Enchanted Streets—The Unlikely Adventures of an Urban Nature Lover*, whose title is self explanatory, and then, in 1952, by his most popular book, *The White Lady*.

This slim volume told the story of an albino bat my father found living in a colony of brown bats on a plot of empty land between California and Kedzie avenues. "The White Lady"—his name for the little bat with whom he eventually developed a relationship of friendship and respect—seemed to capture the imaginations of readers. It went into several printings,



**Leonard Dubkin.**

*Collection of Pauline Dubkin Yearwood.*

appeared in condensed form in the *Reader's Digest* and, hopefully, convinced at least some readers that bats "are playful and friendly, not the malicious, spiteful little animals most people believe," in his words.

His next book, *Wolf Point* (1953) was a departure: the story of a real place, a secluded plot of land in the shadow of the Merchandise Mart, and its fanciful history over several centuries. *The Natural History of a Yard* followed in 1955. This book is especially dear to my heart since I—as a young child—figure prominently in it; it's about the small yard in front of our apartment building on Sheridan Road and the discoveries my father and I made there. His last book, *My Secret Places—One Man's Love Affair with Nature in the City*, published in 1972, was a kind of recap of all of his favorite places to observe nature in Chicago.

Six books, hundreds of articles, book reviews and columns -- if these achievements appear impressive, they are all the more so when you realize that Leonard Dubkin grew up in extreme poverty and was almost entirely self educated.

My father was born in 1905 in Odessa, now in Ukraine but then considered part of Russia; his parents came to the United States when he was a toddler and he grew up on the West Side of Chicago in a family of seven children. His father was ill and most of the time was unable to work, and the family often depended on Jewish charities to put food on their table. Leonard, being the oldest boy, had to drop out of school after eighth grade so he could go to work and support the family.

I am not sure how a young boy growing up in an urban ghetto could become interested in nature, but I know that by the time my father was eight or nine years old he had determined that he was going to be a naturalist. After his death I found a diary written when he was 12 in which he was already describing the specimens of insects and butterflies he caught in scientific terms and meticulously recording his observations of the natural world.

**H**e began writing articles on nature for a children's page in the *Chicago Tribune* and for several magazines for young people and came to the attention of social worker Jane Addams, the founder of Hull House, who gave him his first typewriter.

As a young man he continued to read widely, everyone from Charles Darwin to Charles Dickens, and to write articles on nature for various magazines and newspapers. At the same time he had to support himself and help out with the care of his mother, and he worked at a variety of jobs, from public relations to

driving a cab, which he did for several years during the Depression. Later he traveled throughout the country and worked on newspapers in a number of cities.

After he and my mother, Muriel Schwartz, an actress, married in 1934, he founded and ran a profitable business—a talent directory for Chicago radio and stage actors—for three decades or so. Aside from the books he wrote, he also became prominent as a reviewer of nature books and received many assignments from *The New York Times*, among other publications. He kept up a correspondence with most of the other nature writers of the time and had a warm friendship with Rachel Carson of *Silent Spring* fame.

As a child I was the beneficiary of much of my father's wisdom as we took periodic "nature walks" and he encouraged me to observe the most minute happenings in the natural world around me. He was not at all religiously observant (although his Jewish heritage and Jewish culture were very important to him) but he imparted to me, to my mother and, I believe, to his readers a deep sense of spirituality and awe about the natural world and all living creatures. There was a hands-on component to his love for nature, too. My childhood "pets," in addition to dogs and cats, included snakes, turtles, spiders, butterflies that hatched from the cocoons he collected and wounded birds that he nursed back to health.

I can't help adding that he was a delightful person to be around, kind, gentle, interested in everything and with a highly developed if corny sense of humor and no compunctions about belting out the Yiddish songs he learned in his youth after a glass of Manischewitz at the seder table.

He was unsentimental about the natural world, however, and had strong views on the way human beings use and sometimes misuse nature. When he was writing for the *Chicago Tribune* while Colonel Robert McCormick was still at the helm, he wrote a column good-naturedly denigrating bird-watchers. They were not interested in observing the birds themselves, he contended, only in adding more species to their life list. (Of course, he also had a life list.) It turned out that Col. McCormick's wife was an avid bird-watcher—and my father was fired the day after the column appeared.

Shortly afterwards he began writing the "Birds and Bees" column for Lerner, an enterprise that was immensely satisfying for him. Perhaps because he wrote about nature in such down-to-earth, non-academic terms, it seemed to strike a chord with readers, too. In fact, a number of times we would get a call—sometimes in the middle of the night—from a reader who had found my father's name in the phone book and wanted to know what to do with a wounded squirrel,

turtle or bird they had found. He would either recommend they take it to a wildlife sanctuary or bring it to our house. I would often come home from school to find a shoebox with a recovering bird in it that my mother was zealously guarding from the attention of our cats.

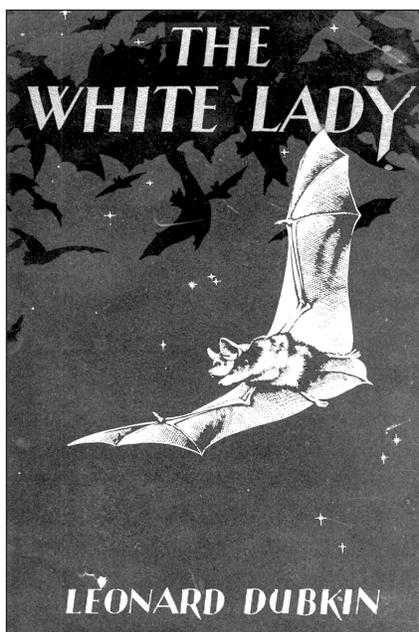
Although my father suffered from heart disease and crippling arthritis for many years, the work ethic he had developed as a boy growing up on the West Side impelled him to keep working, both at Lerner Newspapers and on his own writing, until the last days of his life. He died of a ruptured aortal aneurysm in 1972, at the age of 68.

In *My Secret Places* he wrote about the delight he took in a small empty lot to the side of the 'L' tracks near Howard Street and Ashland Avenue on Chicago's far North Side. When he worked at Lerner he walked there nearly every day to eat his lunch and observe birds, insects, plants and flowers. After his death the city of Chicago turned the lot into a city park—named Leonard Dubkin Park. It's still intact.

More than thirty years after his death, I often wonder how my father would view conditions today, with global warming, widespread air and water pollution, the extinction of so many species and other human-made insults to the natural world. I can't help feeling it is better that he is not here to see them. ❖

#### PAULINE DUBKIN YEARWOOD

is Managing Editor of the Chicago Jewish News. She is a former entertainment writer and theater critic for the Phoenix New Times and the Scottsdale (Arizona) Progress-Tribune. She has written for many other publications including the Arizona Republic, Chicago Tribune, Variety, Parents magazine, Jewish Women and Reform Judaism. Ms. Yearwood has two children, five cats, and a dog.



Collection of Pauline Dubkin Yearwood.

# Meyer Levin, Hassidism, and *The Golden Mountain*

BY WALTER ROTH

**M**y articles in recent issues of our quarterly have explored the wide-ranging writings of Meyer Levin. I have paid particular attention to the books he wrote while still living in Chicago prior to his move to Israel in 1948. Levin's best known Chicago books are *The Old Bunch* (about West Side Jews), *Citizens* (on the 1937 Memorial Day Massacre), *Compulsion* (on the Loeb and Leopold case), and *In Search* (an autobiography).

Meyer Levin returned to Chicago from his second trip to Palestine and Kibbutz Yagur in 1930, stopping on the way in Paris to see his friend, the Polish-born artist Marek Szwarc. Szwarc told Levin of legends he had heard in Poland about rabbis of the Hassidic movement. Levin was fascinated by them, and began at once to study their beliefs, first reading Yiddish tales and books that Szwarc gave him, then immersing himself in the collection of Yiddish booklets on Hassidism published by the Jewish Folklore Institute of Vilna, which he found in a library in Paris. He also read the books of Martin Buber and other scholars who had written about Hassidism.

Levin gathered the tales he liked best, translated them from Yiddish into English, and published them in 1932 as *The Golden Mountain: Marvelous Tales of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem and of his Great-Grandson, Rabbi Nachman, retold from Hebrew, Yiddish and German Sources*. It was illustrated by Marek Szwarc. (A third edition, retitled *Classic Hassidic Tales*, was published by the Dorset Press in 1985.)

Meyer Levin concludes his foreword to *The Golden Mountain* with this summary and acknowledgments:

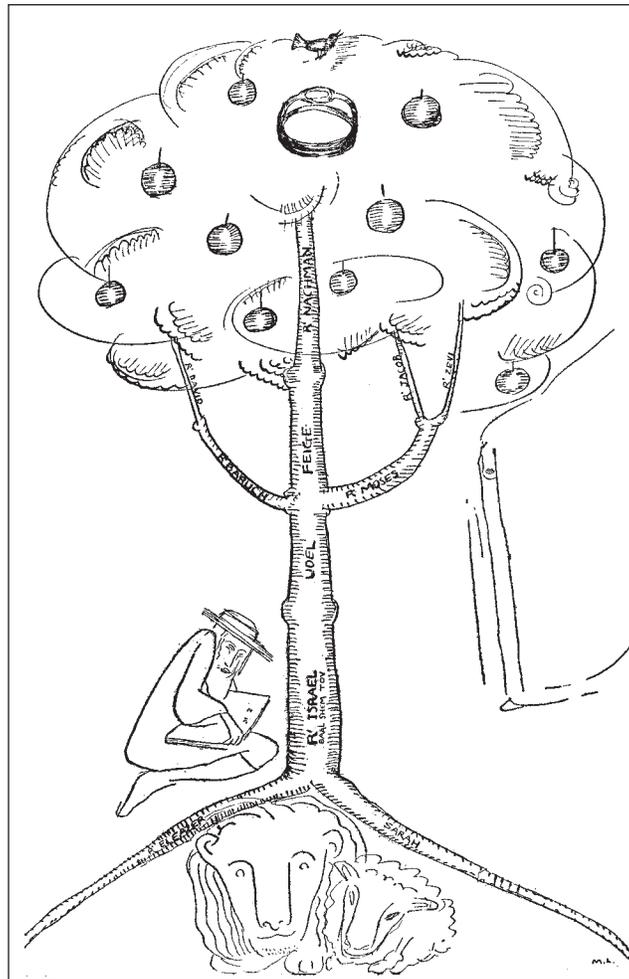
"I have tried to put the scattered legends of the Baal Shem Tov together so as to form a legendary life-story of Rabbi Israel, who was born in 1700 in Okup and died in 1760 in Medzibuz. His great-grandson, who was born in Medzibuz in 1772, and died in Uman in 1810, left thirteen tales, which were written down by his pupil Nathan. Of these I have here translated eleven; the other two are fragmentary and confused.

"Many of these tales I first heard from the lips of Marek Szwarc, of Lodz and Paris, a true Chassid [*sic*] and a great artist. To him I am profoundly grateful. I wish also to thank the Jewish novelist Sholom Asch for the loan of his excellent collection of Chassidic literature; and to express my indebtedness to Leo Schwarz, of New York, for his scholarly aid, especially in relation to the Rabbi Nachman sources."

**T**he book was well received by reviewers in such newspapers as the *New York Evening Post*, *Christian Science Monitor* and the *New York Herald Tribune*. In later years, Elie Wiesel called it an excellent translation and telling of Chassidic tales.

*The Golden Mountain* not only illustrates Levin's narrative talent, it also confirms his youthful spiritual homecoming to his Yiddish roots. This would be added to the sense of homecoming he had discovered a few years earlier in Palestine, among the independent and courageous Jews who would establish the State of Israel.

What Levin learned in translating and editing the Chassidic tales had an important impact on his future work and understanding the many facets of his Jewish culture. A few



Drawing by Meyer Levin.  
 "THE TREE OF THE BAAL SHEM TOV."  
*The Golden Mountain.*

years later he would write *The Old Bunch* about the first and second generation Jews of Chicago's West Side, all of East European heritage, who would adopt English as their language in place of Yiddish. In *The Kibbutz Buchenwald Diary* (see my article in *CJH* Summer 2005), he translated the writings of Holocaust survivors from Yiddish to English. ❖

The two shortest tales in *The Golden Mountain*:

### THE MAD DANCERS

**A**LREADY the voices of opponents were raised against the Baal Shem's teaching, for many rabbis could not understand his ways. Some said of him that he dishonored the Sabbath with singing and freedom, some said that his ways and the ways of those who followed him and called themselves Chassidim were truly the ways of madmen.

One of the scholars asked of the Baal Shem, "What of the learned rabbis who call this teaching false?"

The Baal Shem Tov replied, "Once, in a house, there was a wedding festival. The musicians sat in a corner and played upon their instruments, the guests danced to the music, and were merry, and the house was filled with joy. But a deaf man passed outside the house; he look in through the window and saw the people whirling about the room, leaping, and throwing about their arms. 'See how they fling themselves about!' he cried, 'it is a house filled with madmen!' For he could not hear the music to which they danced."

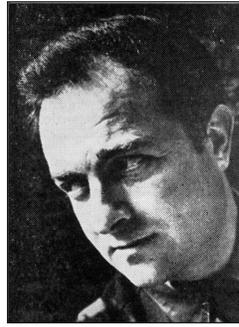


Illustration by Marek Szwarc. *The Golden Mountain*.

### PRAYER

**O**NCE Rabbi Israel passed through a house of prayer. An old Jew sat there huddled over a book, reading in hasty mumble, reading faster and faster, hour after hour.

Rabbi Israel said, "He is so absorbed in his learning that he has forgotten there is a God over the world."



Meyer Levin

Copies of many of Meyer Levin's books can be found on the shelves of the Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago Public Library—including *Reporter*—his early, Ben Hecht-style book about the life of a Chicago newspaperman. Check the library's online catalog: [www.chipublib.org](http://www.chipublib.org).

## CJHS Publications

*These two reference works are out of print, but copies can be found at the Harold Washington Library Center, Chicago Public Library, 400 South State Street, and the Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 618 South Michigan Avenue.*

### HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF CHICAGO.

Edited by Hyman L. Meites; new introduction by James R. Grossman; foreword by Thomas R. Meites and Jerome B. Meites. 1990. Facsimile of the original 1924 edition. Includes special supplement excerpts from the 1927 edition. Includes biographical references and index.

**SYNAGOGUES OF CHICAGO.** Edited by Irving Cutler, Norman D. Schwartz, and Sidney Sorkin. Project supervised by Clare Greenberg. 1991. Computerized compilation of synagogue listings in Chicago city directories since 1851. Includes every year's complete listings; a one line summary of each congregation; its active years; street address; name of rabbi; and name of president if available.

### CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORY:

**INDEX 1977-2002.** Compiled by Adele Hast. 2002. The first 25 years of the Society's quarterly journal. Paper, 23 pages.

*The Index will soon be posted on our web site: [www.chicagojewishhistory.org](http://www.chicagojewishhistory.org). Reference copies can be found at the Asher Library, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. Limited quantities are available from the CJHS office, (312) 663-5634.*

FROM THE  
CHICAGO JEWISH  
archives

## The Library of the Jewish People's Institute

By Joy Kingsolver

From its founding in 1903, the Chicago Hebrew Institute had as one of its primary goals the education of immigrant Jews in Chicago, and the library played a key role. When a devastating fire swept through the Institute in 1910, the entire library was lost along with much of the interior of the building. Rebuilding began immediately, and the new building on the same Taylor Street site opened in 1914, with Philip Seman as the new Superintendent. The CHI was known for its involvement in art, drama, music and athletics, sponsoring groups such as the Institute Orchestra, the Players Club, and the Chicago Women's Arts Club, as well as swimming and boxing teams.

Energetic and visionary, Dr. Seman was an enthusiastic supporter of the library as an educational center. In his annual report for 1916, he portrayed librarians as educators, guiding readers through the confusing array of books on Jewish history and literature and encouraging good reading habits.

The library had eight staff members at that time and the collection totaled 7,670 books, 2,076 of which were supplied by the Chicago Public Library, and the library was in constant need of more shelves. The library

could accommodate about 80 readers at a time and was frequently overcrowded. In addition to working with students and adults, the library had a thriving children's department and sponsored activities such as Story Hour and Reading Circles.

In 1922, the Chicago Hebrew Institute was renamed the Jewish People's Institute and construction of a new home in the Lawndale neighborhood was begun. The new library was carefully planned; it was decided not to continue to host a branch of the Chicago Public Library, but to run the library completely independently. A collection of 5,000 volumes was proposed, including books in Hebrew, Yiddish, and other foreign languages, and a collection of Jewish and general periodicals. A circulating collection of pictures was also added.

The most important new development was an agreement in 1926 by Marie Davis Schur to underwrite the new library in memory of her husband, Herman.\* The cost of equipment was estimated to be \$3,500, and the purchase of new books up to \$13,500 was funded. Inspired by her gift, other board members pledged money as well, and donations totaled \$19,000. This new infusion of money enabled the new library to keep up with increasing demands: in 1926, the library in the Taylor Street building circulated 25,810 adult books and 47,715 children's books, and counted 56,362 visitors for the year.

In honor of the new sponsorship of the library, a new bookplate was designed by Todros Geller (shown on page 1). Geller, a prominent Chicago artist who had begun teaching art at the JPI in 1920, included symbols



Children's section of CHI library, Taylor Street, 1916.  
Chicago Jewish Archives.

\* Fagel Unterman wrote in a letter to CJH, published in the Fall 2003 issue: "The only facility in the building named for a donor was the Herman Schur Reference Library. One of the librarians there for many years was Janet Adler MacDowell. In later years, it was Betty Dietz Dreizen, who became one of the librarians at Roosevelt University after the JPI closed its doors."

of both secular and Jewish learning in his design, under the Hebrew words *yehi or* (Let there be light).

The Jewish People's Institute at 3500 West Douglas Boulevard was formally dedicated in 1927. It remained a vital center of Jewish life for many years. In 1946, the JPI was transformed into the Jewish Community Centers and, following the shifting population, began opening branches on the North Side. The Lawndale branch closed in 1954. Over the many years of its existence, the Jewish People's Institute carried out its mission to educate, entertain, and care for thousands of Chicago's Jews, and the library played a central role in its success. ❖



**Herman Schur Reference Library, Jewish People's Institute, 1928.**  
Chicago Jewish Archives.

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

## CJHS Publications

### The Five Doris Minsky Memorial Fund Prize Books

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

*Distributed by Academy Chicago Publishers,  
(312) 751-7300, [www.academychicago.com](http://www.academychicago.com).*

**1. CHICAGO JEWISH STREET PEDDLERS.** By Carolyn Eastwood. **MEMORIES OF LAWDALE.**

By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. 1991. Paper, 103 pages. Illustrated. \$5.00

*The following Minsky books are available from the CJHS office, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Add \$3.00 slh for each book. Make check payable to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.*

**2. THE CHAYDER, THE YESHIVA AND I.** By Morris Springer. **MEMORIES OF THE MANOR.**

Eva Gross. 1993. Memoir of the Jeffrey Manor neighborhood. Paper, 95 pages. Illustrated. \$5.00

**3. THE CANTORS: Gifted Voices Remembered.**

By Bea Kraus. 1996. Author of two books on South Haven, and with Norman D. Schwartz, *A WALK TO SHUL*. Paper, 85 pages. Illustrated. \$5.00

**4. MY FATHER, MYSELF.** By Rabbi Alex J. Goldman. 1997. A son's memoir of his father, Yehudah D. Goldman, America's oldest practicing rabbi. Paper, 120 pages. Illustrated. \$5.00

**5. THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR CHILDREN.**

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

*The following books are also available from our office. Add \$3.00 slh for each book. Make check payable to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society.*

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

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

**THE CHICAGO JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: A Ten Year History.**

Edited by Irwin J. Suloway. 1988. Paper, 24 pages. Illustrated. \$3.00

## CJHS Publications

### A WALK TO SHUL

Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale  
and Stops on the Way



Bea Kraus & Norman D. Schwartz

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

By Bea Kraus and Norman D. Schwartz. 2003. Paper, 159 pages. Illustrated. \$19.95  
*Available at the Bariff Shop for Judaica, Spertus Institute; Museum Store, Chicago Historical Society; Rosenblum's World of Judaica.*

**VIDEO: ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE—100 Years of Jewish History in Chicago, 1833-1933.** Beverly Siegel, Executive Producer-Director. 1997. 30 minutes. \$29.95  
*Distributed by Ergo Media, Inc. P.O. Box 2037, Teaneck, NJ 10766; www.ergo-media.com.*

**THE ROMANCE OF A PEOPLE.** 2000. Program book for Jewish Day pageant at 1933 Chicago World's Fair. Paper, 72-page facsimile plus 8 pages of new material. \$15.00  
*Distributed by Academy Chicago Publishers, (312) 751-7300; www.academychicago.com*

## Books by Society Members

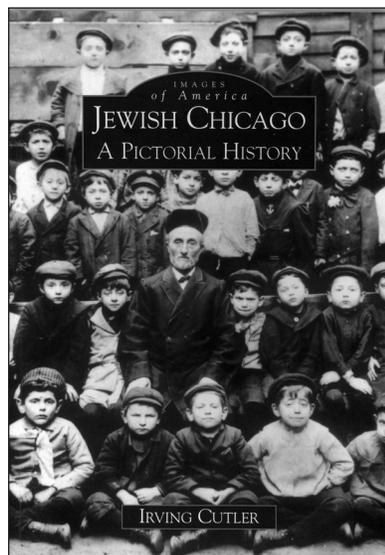
### LOOKING BACKWARD: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past.

By Walter Roth. 2002. Academy Chicago Publishers. The unknown story of Jewish participation in Chicago's great fair of 1893 is only one of the fascinating nuggets of history unearthed and polished by Walter Roth in the pages of *Chicago Jewish History*. Now, for the first time, the material has been collected in a single volume, chronicling events and people from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. Illustrated. 305 pages. Cloth \$27.95; paper \$16.95

### AN ACCIDENTAL ANARCHIST.

By Walter Roth and Joe Kraus. 1998. Academy Chicago Publishers. The story of young Lazarus Averbuch's fatal 1908 encounter with Chicago Police Chief George Shippy. Paper, 211 pages. Illustrated. \$16.95

**THE JEWS OF CHICAGO: From Shtetl to Suburb.** By Irving Cutler. 1996. University of Illinois Press. Vividly told history of Chicago's Jewish community, by a founding Board member of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society. 368 pages. Illustrated. \$29.95



**JEWISH CHICAGO: A Pictorial History.** By Irving Cutler. 2000. Arcadia Publishing. A sentimental snapshot of the city's Jewish community—its cultural, religious, economic, and everyday life. Includes 230 photographs and maps. Paper, 126 pages. \$18.99

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

### NEAR WEST SIDE STORIES: Struggles for Community in

**Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood.** By Carolyn Eastwood. 2002. Lake Claremont Press. Four extraordinary "ordinary" people try to save their neighborhood and the market at its core. Paper, 355 pages. Illustrated. \$17.95 *Also available on CD or audiocassette from Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, 18 S. Michigan Ave., Ste. 806, Chicago, IL 60603.*

**THE OXFORD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOOD AND DRINK IN AMERICA.** 2004. Oxford University Press. "Street Vending" by Carolyn Eastwood.

### Looking Backward

TRUE STORIES FROM CHICAGO'S JEWISH PAST



WALTER ROTH

**A TIME TO REMEMBER: A History of the Jewish**

**Community in South Haven.** By Bea Kraus. 1999. Priscilla Press. Covers the 1920s through the 1950s, when this town on the Lake Michigan shore was home to a thriving Jewish summer resort community. Paper, 287 pages. Illustrated. \$24.95 [www.BKrausBooks.com](http://www.BKrausBooks.com)

**A PLACE TO REMEMBER: South Haven—**

**A Success from the Beginning.** By Bea Kraus. 2003.

Priscilla Press. Companion to *A Time to Remember*. Ranges from early America to the present day. Paper, 316 pages. Illustrated. \$24.95 [www.BKrausBooks.com](http://www.BKrausBooks.com)

**THE FLORIDA JEWISH HERITAGE TRAIL.**

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

**PRAIRIE DIRECTORY OF NORTH AMERICA:**

**U.S. & Canada.** By Charlotte Adelman and Bernard L. Schwartz. 2002. Lawndale Enterprises. The first-ever guide for visits to the prairie, an ecosystem unique to North America. Fifty pages are devoted to Illinois. Paper, 352 pages. \$19.95 *P.O. Box 561, Wilmette, IL 60091-0561; [www.Lawndaleenterprises.com](http://www.Lawndaleenterprises.com).*

**BRIDGES TO AN AMERICAN CITY: A Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften 1870 to 1990.**

By Sidney Sorkin. 1993. Peter Lang Publishing. A thorough study of the hundreds of service organizations, named after their Old World origins, that were a significant part of the immigrant experience. 480 pages. \$35.00 *Order from Mr. Sorkin at (847) 541-2188.*

**CHICAGO'S GREAT WHITE CITY: A Postal History Panorama of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.**

By Dr. Harvey M. Karlen. 2004. Berk-Hill Publishers. The author is a member of the Philatelic Writers' Hall of Fame. 283 pages. 480 black and white illustrations. \$50.00 + 4.00 s/h. *Order from Berk-Hill Publishers, P.O. Box 833, Oak Park, IL 60303.*

**THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AT TEMPLE**

**SHOLOM.** By Norman D. Schwartz and Rolf Achilles. Photographs by Rich Master. Design by Dianne Burgis. 2001. Temple Sholom of Chicago. Full color monograph describes and documents the twelve sets of beautiful windows. Paper, 20 pages. \$5.00 *Order from Temple Sholom (773) 525-4707.*

**JACK OF HEARTS—A FULL DECK.**

By Jack W. Ardell. 2004. Family-friendly short stories, poems, and cartoons. Paper, 150 pages. \$15.00 *Ardell Art & Craft, 5140 S. Fairview, #8, Downers Grove, IL 60515.*

*All books are available at local bookstores and online, unless specific ordering information is given. The out-of-print works may be available from used book dealers or on loan from the Chicago Public Library or the Asher Library.*

**CANDLES BURNED IN CHICAGO: A History of 53 Memorial Commemorations of the Warsaw**

**Ghetto Uprising.** The Midwest Jewish Council. Kenan Heise, editor; N. Sue Weiler, contributing editor. 2004. Author House. The stirring memorial gatherings mounted by a group of Jewish Chicagoans and their friends from 1944 to 1996. Paper, 132 pages. \$18.00 *Make checks payable to: The Midwest Jewish Council, P.O. Box 59032, Chicago, IL 60659-0032.*

**LEGACY: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family**

**Across Time and Circumstance.** By Werner L. Frank. 2003. Avoteynu Foundation, Inc. A portion of the book deals with the author's immigration to Chicago, and growing up in Hyde Park. 926 pages plus CD. \$49.00 *(800) 286-8296 or [www.avoteynu.com](http://www.avoteynu.com).*

**BREAKING GROUND: Careers of 20 Chicago**

**Jewish Women.** By Beatrice Michaels Shapiro. 2004. Author House. Paper, 137 pages. \$15.50 *Order from the publisher (888) 280-7715.*

**MINYANS FOR A PRAIRIE CITY: The Politics of Chicago Jewry 1850-1914.**

By Edward H. Mazur. 1990. Garland. 428 pages. \$75.00 *Out of print.*

**THE ETHNIC FRONTIER.**

Holli and d'A Jones, editors. 1984. Eerdmans. "Jewish Chicago: From Diversity to Community" by Edward H. Mazur (pages 46-68). Paper. \$19.95 *Out of print.*

**BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN MAYORS, 1820-1980.**

Holli and d'A Jones, editors; Edward H. Mazur, contributing editor. 1981. Greenwood Press. 441 Pages. \$49.95 *Out of print.*

**THE INVENTION OF THE JEW: Jewish-American Education Novels (1916-1964).**

By Bernard Sherman. 1969. Thomas Yoseloff. A literary study. 256 pages, paper. \$7.50. *Out of print.*

**ON YOUR OWN IN COLLEGE.**

By William C. Resnick and David H. Heller. 1963, 1964, 1969. Charles E. Merrill Books, Inc. Advice for college freshmen, with selected readings. 275 pages. *Out of print.*

*More books and music on the following pages*

## Books by Society Members

**THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHICAGO.** Edited by James R. Grossman, Ann Durkin Keating, and Janice L. Reiff. 2004. The University of Chicago Press. The “Judaism” entry was written by Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf; the “Jewish Community” entry by Dr. Irving Cutler. 1152 pages. Color insert; illustrations; maps. \$65.00

**RED SCARE IN COURT: NEW YORK VERSUS THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ORDER.** By Arthur J. Sabin. Foreword by Howard Fast. 1993. University of Pennsylvania Press. The author is Professor of Law at the John Marshall Law School, where he teaches History of the American Legal System, Products Liability, and Torts. *See online booksellers for prices.*

**IN CALMER TIMES: THE SUPREME COURT AND RED SCARE MONDAY.** By Arthur J. Sabin. 1999. University of Pennsylvania Press. 262 pages. *See online booksellers for prices.*

**THE CONVERSO LEGACY.** By Sheldon Gardner. 2004. Pitspopany Press. This work of historical fiction for young people takes place in the 1880s. As the Jews in Russia are being massacred in *pogroms*, Samuel makes his way to America, and eventually to La Rosa, New Mexico. Young Samuel fights to overcome the obstacles put in front of him by a sinister land baron. In the midst of his battle against evil, Samuel meets Esther, who seems to be his soul mate, but who is not Jewish. He is torn between love and religion until he learns her secret—a secret that will change their lives and the future of the city. 258 pages. For ages 10 to 14. Cloth \$18.95, paper \$12.95. (About the author: after many years of distinguished service on the Circuit Court of Cook County, Judge Gardner resigned his seat in 2004.)

**SHORT SEA SAGAS.** By Harold T. Berc. 2002. Athena Press. Unusual tales of over two hundred ships—mutinies, unusual sinkings, mystery ships sailing for years without crews, piracy! Concludes with a chapter on the author’s own experiences as a U.S. Navy combat officer in World War II. Paper, 190 pages. \$17.95

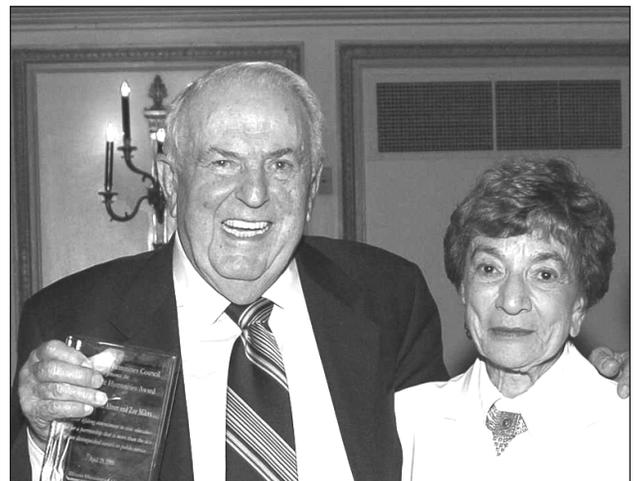
**THE ART OF THE YIDDISH FOLK SONG.** Sima Miller, soprano; Arnold Miller, piano. Chicago’s renowned concert artists. Four CDs each \$15.00; five audiotapes each \$10.00 *Sima Miller, 8610 Avers Ave., Skokie, IL 60076; (847) 873-6409.*

## Abner J. Mikva: Oral History Program Delights CJHS Audience

When he was serving on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Judge Abner Mikva would sometimes fly back to spend weekends at his summer home in Michiana. It was much more pleasant to read briefs on the Lake Michigan beach than in steamy Washington. But sometimes grains of sand would find their way into his papers. Once, when the court was back in session, his colleague Judge David Bazelon saw the beach sand sifting down. “*Shverer arbeter* (hard worker),” he remarked. Judge Mikva told us that this might have been the first time that two Yiddish speakers sat on the same American court.

Judge Abner J. Mikva was the guest speaker at our open meeting Sunday afternoon, September 18, in the sanctuary of K.A.M. Isaiah Israel Congregation, 1100 East Hyde Park Boulevard. The program format was a public oral history. President Walter Roth and our guest sat at a table on the *bima*. Roth acted as interviewer, asking the questions that prompted a fascinating narrative.

Abner Mikva was born in Milwaukee into a Leftist Jewish family. His first language was Yiddish, and as a child he was able to read the



**Abner and Zoe Mikva,  
recipients of the Illinois Humanities Council  
2005 Public Humanities Award.**

*Pictured at the IHC 30th Anniversary Gala  
Reception, Palmer House Hilton, April 28, 2005.  
Photo by Bruce Powell Photography.*

*Forverts* newspaper to his grandfather. When Walter Roth asked about his name, Judge Mikva answered that he had actually been named Abraham, but “Ab” was then thought to be a more acceptable American name than “Abe.”

Early in his eventful life in public service, he learned an essential lesson in Chicago politics. When, on his own initiative, he entered a ward office and approached a veteran local Democratic Party official for a job, he was asked who sent him. “We don’t want nobody nobody sent,” the pol explained.

This phrase has become part of Chicago folklore. It is the title of an excellent book that recounts the incident, and Judge Mikva recommended that we read it. (*We Don’t Want Nobody Nobody Sent: An Oral History of the Daley Years*, by Milton L. Rakove. Indiana University Press, 1979.)

Now in his eighth decade, Abner Mikva is still active in public service. Just this week a *Chicago Tribune* editorial lauded him for his work for the Illinois Gaming Board, overseeing the Emerald Casino license-revocation hearing:

“Congratulations to Abner Mikva for a fine job. The arguments by Emerald lawyers that Mikva is biased against the casino firm are laughable. Mikva, a former congressman, former judge and former White House chief of staff, has long been recognized as one of the most honest and independent people in the state—and he proved it once again with his work here....” ❖

## *Nostalgic Memoir of Toys and Tragedy In Chicago*

Caryn Lazar Amster was the guest speaker at our open meeting (following a brief business meeting) on Sunday afternoon, November 6, at Temple Sholom, 3480 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago. She spoke about her self-published true crime story, *The Pied Piper of South Shore, Toys and Tragedy in Chicago*.

The “Pied Piper” was her father, innovative toy store owner Manny Lazar. Kids followed him everywhere. The family store was at 79th and Constance. His wife Belle had named it Wee Folks when she saw the South Side neighborhood’s “sea of Irish faces.” She was reminded of the “wee folks”—leprechauns—described to her when she was a child in Joliet. Belle Lazar had been a teacher, and she established “a confessional of the counter,” taking mothers of troubled kids into the store’s back room to drink coffee and discuss their problems.



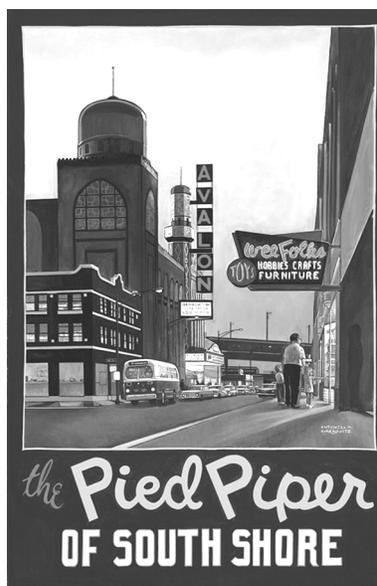
**Guest Speaker Caryn Lazar Amster and CJHS Program Chair Charles B. Bernstein. Temple Sholom, November 6, 2005. Photo by Bev Chubat.**

When the neighborhood at 79th and Constance had changed from Irish and Jewish to African-American, gang power became pervasive. The Nation of Islam, Malcolm X, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and the Clement Stone Foundation figured in the problems, Mrs. Amster told us.

In 1970, after twenty-five years in South Shore, the Lazars decided to move Wee Folks. They had already signed a lease in suburban Glenwood when Manny Lazar was murdered by a gang member in broad daylight amidst the toys in his store.

Caryn Amster is a marketing executive by profession, and she has created an interactive web site where former residents of South Shore and Joliet and can reminisce and enjoy online reunions:

**[www.chicagospiedpiper.com](http://www.chicagospiedpiper.com).**



The evocative, full-color book jacket painting by South Side-born illustrator Mitch Markovitz is also available as a poster that can be ordered at the web site. ❖

**Coming soon to your mailbox—membership renewal for 2006**

## CJHS Summer Tours: “Catskills of the Midwest”

**Sunday, July 17**

**A** drive-by to the crowded beaches and views of recent construction of upscale housing would lead us to assume a revival is underway in South Haven and Benton Harbor. As in the decline of Jewish aspects of the Catskills in New York and the Berkshires in Massachusetts, however, the Jewish element in the Southwest Michigan towns is somewhat missing.

During our July 17 tour of the Michigan sites, most of our group recalled vacations there with parents and grandparents during the pre-air-conditioning era, from the 1920s to the 1950s, and memories of a period long gone.

The fine museum exhibit, “Catskills of the Midwest—the Jewish Resort Era in South Haven,” with its videos and photos of the once-luxurious spas, with their broad verandas and lavish dining rooms/entertainment halls, evokes memories of those escapes from muggy summers in Chicago—but those sites have been demolished and replaced by subdivided homesites and B&B cottages. The exhibit truly captures the feel of that period when the hotel hosts, lavishing their guests with Jewish cooking and personalized entertainment and activities, made memorable occasions of those weekend or summer vacations.

Today, the Jewish communities are small but vibrant in their zeal not to lose those memories. Perhaps the obvious signs can be found in the few synagogues, with local memberships determined to retain a presence in the area. Today, they are local teachers and professionals, not

the resort owners, retail store owners, farmers, and vacationers who occupied the seats when those synagogues were lovingly built. A quick study of the memorial plaques reveals names of Chicagoans whose roots were elsewhere, but whose families wanted them to be remembered in the locales where they loved to vacation, relax, laugh at semi-professional comedians, eat to excess, socialize with new friends while their parents played cards and Mah-Jongg, and simply kibbitz at the beach or on the veranda.

Later, in Benton Harbor, a vegetarian lunch at Mary’s City of David, followed by a casual visit to their museum, afforded us a change of pace from the resort atmosphere. Some of us even recalled watching their famous bearded baseball team of years past. Only a guided tour of these historic sites can supply the flavor of that era. Our sincere thanks to Leah Axelrod for once again executing a well-planned, informative, and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

—Allen and Sue Meyer

“*Vacationing, Identity, and the Jewish American Dream*” is the name of the upcoming exhibition at the Spertus Museum, 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago. It will be on display from February 5 through June 4, 2006.

## and “Chicago Jewish Roots”

**Sunday, August 28**

**I**rv Cutler has shepherded so many nostalgic Jewish Chicagoans through the old neighborhoods! There are always “oohs” and “aahs” as the tour bus rolls down Roosevelt Road past the former sites of Silverstein’s and Gold’s restaurants.

Dr. Cutler reports that on this year’s “Roots” tour, one woman held a cell phone to her ear, listening to her father in Florida as that far away former Chicagoan accurately named the West Side streets and landmarks as the bus passed them.

Another of this year’s participants was a lively octogenarian, Mrs. Sylvia Pekay, who remembers the Jewish institutions of the West Side very well. She is the daughter of Rabbi Ephraim Epstein (1876-1960), who served as rabbi of Congregation Anshe Kneseth Israel—popularly known as the *Russishe shul* (Russian synagogue)—for almost half a century. He was a prominent figure in the Chicago Orthodox community, involved in the establishment of the Hebrew Theological College on Douglas Boulevard and the planning of its successor in Skokie. He was instrumental in the rescue of many Jews from Europe during the Holocaust, and in providing aid to Israel. There were a dozen people in Sylvia Pekay’s party, including her son Michael Pekay, his wife Donna, in-laws, and dear friends.—B.C.



**Ephraim Epstein,  
circa 1924.**

*History of the Jews of  
Chicago.*

## CJHS Tribute Cards

The Society reminds our members about the availability of our tribute cards. These attractive cards can be used to honor someone, memorialize a loved one, thank a friend, or offer congratulations. The cards are printed on heavy white stock, folded to 4 x 9¼ inches.

They bear the handsome CJHS logo on the outside. Printed inside is our mission statement, "The Chicago Jewish Historical Society, through its many programs and publications, collects, preserves, records, and retells the history of the Jewish community of Chicago," and "A gift has been made to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society by \_\_\_\_\_." There is also space for a personal message if you care to add one.

A pack of eight cards and envelopes is \$10.00. Individual cards can be mailed for you from our office at a cost of \$5.00 per card, postage included. To order packs of eight or single cards, call the Society office at (312) 663-5634. ❖



**Anshe Kneseth Israel Synagogue, 3411-19 West Douglas Boulevard, circa 1924.** *History of the Jews of Chicago.*

This photo and another from circa 1986 appear in *A WALK TO SHUL: Chicago Synagogues of Lawndale and Stops on the Way* by Bea Kraus & Norman Schwartz. (See book listing on page 10.)

## President's Column *continued from page 1*

Then there was a discussion. The evening ended with an informal dinner prepared by this group of dedicated friends (to which Chaya and I contributed our share of wine and dessert), then fireworks and resounding choral singing.

On September 10, our Italian friends drove with us to the small town of St. Martin Vesubie in France, where a thousand Jews had fled the Nazis on the day of the Italian Armistice, September 8, 1943, and began their trek into Italy. Chaya and her family were among them.

Then, on September 11, in the early morning, a large group of people drove up to the gathering point, called the Madonna, the same place from which the Jews fled in 1943. From there, those who felt they were able, proceeded to scale the Colle de Finestre, a mountain with large, treacherous rocks.

After a long climb of over two hours and accompanied by cold, torrential rain and hail, Miko, Tema, Judy and Steve reached the top and joined an Italian group that had come up through Italy. Chaya, too, managed to reach the top, with difficulty. There she spoke there about her experience in September, 1943, about the September 11 attacks, and Hurricane Katrina. "When government fails," she said, "individuals have to act according to their conscience!"

After coming down from the mountaintop we attended a rally in a driving rainstorm in St. Martin where Yad Vashem honored three families who had hidden a number of Jews during the War. That rally ended with the singing of *Hatikvah* and *La Marseillaise* (somewhat ironic, considering the anti-Semitic policies of Vichy France in 1942-1943.)

The next day, our last in Europe, we took a hike to the neighboring village of Venacon. I was determined to scale a mountain, which I was unable to do the day before. Now, with the encouragement of my daughter and grandchildren, I managed to climb a difficult path to a place called "The End of the World." From there we had a magnificent view of a huge valley. We could see many small houses down below. I wondered how many Jews had tried to escape to this place, and for whom this indeed had been the End of the World. ❖

# About the Society

## What We Are

The Chicago Jewish Historical Society was founded in 1977 and is in part an outgrowth of local Jewish participation in the American Bicentennial Celebration of 1976. Muriel Robin was the founding president. The Society has as its purpose the discovery, preservation and dissemination of information concerning the Jewish experience in the Chicago area.

## What We Do

The Society seeks out, collects and preserves written, spoken and photographic records; publishes historical information, holds public meetings at which various aspects of Chicago Jewish history are treated; mounts appropriate exhibits; and offers tours of Jewish historical sites.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to become more involved in the activities of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society? We invite you to take part. Please contact any of the committee chairpersons listed here.

### ■ Membership Committee

Dr. Rachele Gold  
(773) 338-6975 and  
Mark Mandle  
(773) 929-2853, Co-Chairs

### ■ Oral History Committee

Dr. N. Sue Weiler, Chair  
(312) 922-2294

### ■ Program Committee

Charles B. Bernstein, Chair  
(773) 324-6362

### ■ Tour Committee

Leah Axelrod, Chair  
(847) 432-7003

## Membership

Membership in the Society is open to all interested persons and organizations and includes a subscription to *Chicago Jewish History*, discounts on Society tours and at the Spertus Museum store, and the opportunity to learn and inform others about Chicago Jewish history and its preservation.

## Dues Structure

Membership runs on a calendar year, from January through December. New members joining after July 1 are given an initial membership through December of the following year.

Life Membership .....	\$1000
Historian .....	500
Scholar.....	250
Sponsor.....	100
Patron/Family .....	50
Individual/Senior Family .....	35
Synagogue/Organization.....	25
Senior Individual/Student.....	20

Make checks payable to the Chicago Jewish Historical Society, and mail to our office at 618 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Dues are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

## www.chicagojewishhistory.org

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

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

**e-mail: [info@chicagojewishhistory.org](mailto:info@chicagojewishhistory.org)**

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



*chicago jewish historical society*

618 South Michigan Avenue • Chicago, IL 60605

**PRESORT  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Permit No. 6835**

**First Class Mail**