

FROM THE NSCI ARCHIVES

"Your membership at NSCI can make a difference in others lives."

One may never know how one impacts others lives in this world. However, could anyone imagine one's membership to their synagogue could have major impact on others lives? This may sound philosophical, but it was true on November 29, 1938 at 12:30 pm, at the Standard Club in Chicago. There was an emergency meeting of the NSCI Board of Trustees called by then President James I. Loeb, at the request of the Senior Rabbi, Charles Schulman. President Loeb stressed urgency of action on the part of the BOT and the congregation to sponsor and bring a Rabbi and his family from Germany. Remember, it was 1938 and Adolph Hitler has been in power since July 31, 1932. This urgent meeting came only 19 days after Kristallnacht- The Night of Broken Glass- when all of the temples in Germany were destroyed by the Nazis. This was an urgent matter, because as the Trustees learned from President Loeb there was a movement in Germany to intern all Jews.

Rabbi Arthur Bluhm and his wife of Krefeld, Germany were already in a concentration camp in November, 1938. President Loeb, on behalf of Rabbi Schulman, requested that the Trustees of the congregation sponsor the rabbi and his wife and bring them to the United States. The Trustees were setting in motion NSCI's congregational commitment to support Rabbi Bluhm and his wife until they could support themselves. After the board discussed the matter, a motion was made by Albert F. Mecklenburger, and was seconded by Lester S. Felsenthal. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

In the troubling times we are living through

today, looking back on one's history can shed light on situations or bring one's perspective into order. Many people in our congregation, community, and the country are experiencing difficulties in making ends meet. Our synagogue and the congregation at large is stepping up once again, having an impact on others lives. This can be seen not only through reduction in membership fees, for those who are experiencing difficulties, but in our Feed the Homeless Program that is run by Lois Davis, which is even more important, now than ever before. The same can be said for the Sisterhood's food drive for the Ark, an ongoing project.

These are just a few ways people of our congregation make a difference in others lives. So one might ask, why has the Ruthie and Bill Katz Archives taken a story from 1938 and called it to your attention and compared it to what is going on today. Well, that is our job. We explore the past, preserve it, learn from it, and share it. If we can teach from it and hopefully learn from it, then all the better. All of this information and more can be requested by outside scholars, temple members, students, staff, and historians. If you are interested in reading more about the Rabbi Bluhm story, please request the research material that was put together for a German scholar by e-mailing: archives@nsci.org or call (847) 835-0724, Ext. 675 ask for Merle Branner. The archives can help if you are working on a project for school or just doing personal research and learning. If your project relates to American Jewry, our archive dates back to 1920, when the congregation was founded. The archives would be happy to assist you in your research.

Merle Branner,
Archives Chairperson

RABBI HERBERT BRONSTEIN TO BE HONORED

Our own Senior Scholar/Rabbi Emeritus will be honored Sunday evening, October by the pre-eminent inter-religious based environmental educational and advocacy organization, FAITH IN PLACE for his contributions to environmental consciousness and programming in metropolitan Chicago.

The event will take place at the annual dinner of Faith in Place at Garfield Park Sunday evening, October 4, 2009. All are invited. To make reservations or for more information call 312/773-4644.

Rabbi Bronstein teaches Religious and Ethical Perspectives on the Environment at Lake Forest College. He initiated the Chicago Board of Rabbis/Jewish Community Council intercongregation program that took place at our synagogue. He serves on the Environment Committee of the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago of which he was founder with the late Joseph Cardin Bernardin, and speaks widely in Chicago and elsewhere on environmental issues.

He also served on the committee initiated by our member Charles Frank which advanced the highly successful Clean Air project of the Sierra Club.

Celebrate the Ruach



NSCI members (l to r) Danny Weinberg, Jody Weinberg, Perri Courtheoux, and Larri Sherman at the recent Celebrate the Ruach program at OSRUI. It was the largest event in OSRUI's history, with over 900 alumni, camper and staff parents, and friends gathered at OSRUI at a fabulous concert featuring Rabbi Joe Black and Debbie Friedman.

We want to keep in touch with our college students!

Please call Lisa Goosmann at the synagogue office at 847/835-0724 or email her at lgoosmann@nsci.org with your child's college information: name/school/ mailing address/email/phone/expected graduation date.

Be sure to tell your college students to check out our NSCI college page on Facebook.