

The Jewish Traveler CHICAGO

By Maxine Silverstein

Chicago is one of my very favorite cities in the world. This fabulous city offers so much for everyone, but is especially important to my family since our daughter Kara has lived there for the past two and a half years. Kara has become my resident Chicago expert, and has provided us with great tips for Jewish activities, wonderful restaurants, world-class shopping, good museums, incredible art shows and festivals. We discover new and exciting things to do and see whenever we go to

visit. We do love this place.

Chicago has a rich Jewish history. By 1927, there were approximately 275,000 Jews living there. Chicago had the third largest Jewish population in the world. Almost 30% of Chicago's Jews were European born, and the city resembled an ethnic checkerboard. The most colorful area was around Maxwell and Halsted Streets, home to thousands of poor Eastern Jewish immigrants. There they recreated a bustling crowded Old World-style market complete

with open stands, live chickens, spirited haggling and a store that boldly advertised "We cheat you fair." An unusual number of prominent people had their roots there, including musician Benny



Maxine at Margie's Candies.

Goodman, Adm. Hyman Rickover, CBS founder William Paley, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg and author Meyer Levin.

With more than 110 synagogues, seven Jewish community centers, and a myriad of services and agencies, Chicago is an established and thriving Jewish community. Today, 260,000 Jews, representing a wide variety of religious and secular life, live in the metropolitan area. More than two-thirds live in the suburbs - especially to the north, along Lake Michigan from Evanston to Highland Park, and to the northwest from Skokie to Deerfield. Chicago has long been the center of Jewish life in the Midwest. In addition to attracting foreign immigrants (most recently from the former Soviet Union), the community has also grown from the movement of young Jews, many of whom are single, into the city. The largest concentration of Jews in the city lives in West Rogers Park. The sense of a tradi-

tional Jewish community is kept alive here by a cluster of kosher restaurants, food stores, bookstores, Judaica shops, synagogues, Hebrew schools and social service organizations.

There are some Jewish sites not to be missed. The Spertus Museum of Judaica is spread out over eight floors in a Jewish Federation-owned building. The museum features an outstanding permanent collection of antique Judaica, including an extensive collection of Torahs. The museum also houses the Field Gallery of Contemporary Art and a Holocaust memorial which relates the history of Nazi persecution through photographs. Also not to be forgotten at Spertus is the 70,000 volume Asher Library, the

city, as well as superb views of Lake Michigan, the Chicago River, and the skyline. One of our favorite restaurants is Manny's Café located on the South Loop. This fantastic cafeteria-style restaurant is over 60 years old and still going strong. The mile-high corned beef, potato pancakes and homemade gefilte fish are fabulous. Go on Saturday for lunch since this memorable place is closed on Sunday. Another favorite place of ours is Margie's Candies. Since 1921, all kinds of folks have made their way to Margie's nostalgically cluttered, crowded ice cream parlor, from Al Capone and The Beatles to bus loads of day-trippers seeking "The Best of Chicago." Margie's hot fudge is not to be missed.

Shopping in the Loop is very easy. Great stores like Nordstrom, Neiman Marcus, Saks, Bloomingdale's & Marshall Fields line Michigan Avenue. There are also lots of wonderful small boutiques on Rush Street that runs parallel to Michigan. Bloomingdale's has recently opened a magnificent home store in the completely renovated Shrine Temple. Lincoln Park is also filled with wonderful shops, bakeries and restaurants. Great shopping can be found in the suburbs in Oak Park and Highland Park too.

Every time we visit this wonderful city we discover new and exciting things to do and see. It is very easy to get around and visit the city and some of the suburbs. But the very best thing is the wonderful people with their delightful Midwest attitudes. Chicago is a great place to live and to visit. ☆



Maxine and Gary Silverstein at a Kasher Market in Chicago.

largest Judaica library between New York and Los Angeles.

Many sights of Jewish interest can be seen in the Loop, Chicago's business district. Chicago has a variety of kosher restaurants and food stores. The Hyatt Regency Hotel in Chicago is owned by the Pritzkers, a prominent Chicago Jewish family. This hotel has some of the best kosher cuisine in

Help for North Carolina's Hungry is on Its Way

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger Grants \$25,000 to North Carolina Nonprofits

Los Angeles, CA — MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger announced today that help for North Carolina's hungry and needy is on its way after awarding a total of \$25,000 to two of the state's hunger-relief organizations. Over the course of the last twelve months, MAZON granted \$3.2 million to over 290 programs nationwide.

In North Carolina, a \$13,000 grant went to the Food Bank of North Carolina in Raleigh, in support of the distribution of more than 24 million pounds of food annually to over 900 emergency feeding programs in 34 counties of eastern and central North Carolina; and a \$12,000 grant went to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina in Winston-Salem, in support of the distribution of over five million pounds of food annually to more than 400 charities in the 18-county service area.

Hunger is a nationwide problem affecting nearly 35 million Americans, including nearly 13 million children. In North Carolina alone, 385,000 house-

holds are food insecure, which means their access to nutritionally adequate or safe foods is limited or uncertain. North Carolina ranks tenth in the nation in the percentage of people living in food insecure households.

"Across this country, families are going to bed hungry," said Dr. H. Eric Schockman, President of MAZON. "MAZON helps them make ends meet, and also gives them the tools they'll need to provide for themselves in the long term."

Since 1986, MAZON has granted over \$30,000,000 to front-line anti-hunger organizations and advocacy groups throughout the United States working to aid needy families and at-risk children. A total of \$533,000 in grant money has been given to organizations in North Carolina since 1989.

Founded in 1985, MAZON is a national nonprofit organization that allocates donations from the Jewish community to prevent and alleviate hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds. www.mazon.org. ☆

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