Burial records of three Chicago synagogues — South Side Hebrew Congregation, Ohavei Emunah and Etz Hayyim. There are a total of 550 records which include the deceased’s name and death date, as well as cemetery section, lot and grave number at Waldheim Jewish Cemetery, Gate 44, Mt. Nebo Cemetery.

Records span 08-April-1891 to 27-May-1952. They include some receipts for purchase and/or sale of cemetery plots, location, price paid and date of transaction. These cemetery records were indexed via CSI (Crowd Sourced Indexing).

Kehilath Anshe Dorum (also known as South Side Hebrew Congregation or SSHC) was a Conservative synagogue, founded in 1889 with 12 members. Between 1893 and 1899, SSHC met at rented halls such as the South Side Turner Hall, 3143 State Street (building built by Flanders & Zimmerman).

The Congregation acquired a lot on Indiana Avenue near 35th Street, and broke ground in March 1899. The cornerstone was laid in May of the same year and the building’s exterior was finished about October 1899. The congregation occupied the building, designed by Henry L. Newhouse and located at 3435 S. Indiana Ave., from 1899 to 1915 [from 1920-1960, the building housed the offices of The Chicago Defender]. In 1893, the congregation purchased one and a quarter acres in Forest Home Cemetery (Forest Park), now Waldheim Gate No. 44 Mt. Nebo Cemetery.

Kehilath Anshe Dorum’s location is listed at 59th and Michigan in the city directory of 1923 (114 E. 59th). Note: B’nai Sholom Temple Israel built a synagogue in 1914 at 5301-09 S. Michigan Avenue, designed by architect Alfred S. Alschuler. Although the synagogue is gone, the adjacent community center and education building, built in 1915 for Kehilath Anshe Dorum, still stands at 114 E. 59th Street. It now is the home of the Jubilee Temple CME Church.
On July 23, 1926, it was reported that the Etz Hayyim Congregation of the South Shore contracted for the purchase of a site for its temple, to be located at the northeast corner of 74th Street and Chappel Ave. The following year, it was reported that SSHC and Ohavei Emunah merged on March 27, 1927. Additionally, it was reported that SSHC also merged with Etz Hayyim on May 22, 1927. The cornerstone for the building, originally intended for Etz Hayyim, was laid on July 17, 1927. It was described as a three-story building made of stone and brick, and would feature a synagogue, classrooms, assembly rooms, a social hall, dining room and gymnasium. The building was designed by Morris L. Komar and the names of the three congregations are carved into the stone lintel over the front entrance of the building. Later that year, the combined congregation celebrated the High Holidays at the new location at 7359 S. Chappel Ave. as well as at the location on 59th Street. On June 24, 1928, the congregation officially dedicated their new synagogue. In 1948, an additional school building was constructed. The congregation relocated to Chicago’s Near North side in 1971 and changed its name to Central Synagogue. Since that time, it has occupied a variety of locations in that area. The building on Chappel now houses the All Nations Worship Assembly church.

For more information email us at SSHC@jgsi.org

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South Side Turner Hall image from Art Institute of Chicago’s Ryerson and Burnham Art and Architecture archive
SSHC @ Indiana Ave near 35th street (3435 S. Indiana Av) image from the website Forsottensynagogues.com
59th and Michigan (114 E. 59th) Jubilee Temple CME image by Brûlée’s Laker posted on Flicker
Images (building and close-up of doors) of Chappel Ave location from Chicago’s Forgotten Synagogues, pg. 116 - available via Google Books