



Near West Side Stories

Struggles For Community in Chicago's Maxwell Street Neighborhood

By Carolyn Eastwood

Winner of a Midwest
Independent Publishers
Association (MIPA)
Book Award, 2nd
Place, Regional, 2002.

Reviews and Endorsements

"Eastwood continues in the tradition of Berkow and Terkel to breathe life into our ethnic and working class past."

—Dr. Steve Balkin, Professor of Economics, Roosevelt University.

"Near West Side Stories is a great read. It deals with ordinary people living ordinary lives in an extraordinary community."

—Dr. Paul Green, Roosevelt University, Head of Department, School of Policy Studies.

"The book is a powerful indictment of the major forces that helped to bulldoze Chicago's most colorful, vibrant, historic but poor peoples' neighborhood and of the resolute and courageous individuals who fought to save their community."

—Dr. Irving Cutler, Professor Emeritus of Geography, Chicago State University, author of *The Jews of Chicago*.

"A wonderful work that will forever remind us of what we have lost—a way of life and a world of dreams, as well as a physical place."

—Dr. Perry Duis, Professor of History, University of Illinois at Chicago.

"If Chicago had a lower East Side, it would be Maxwell Street. Eastwood . . . has movingly illuminated the area with oral histories of four ethnically diverse neighborhood veterans."

—Elizabeth Lenhard, *Chicago Magazine*, February 2002.

"Eastwood's skill as a researcher sets the stage with cultural, sociopolitical, and chronological contributing factors; her talent as an interviewer/editor is a light touch that lets key players bring their own stories to life."

—Jean Kozlowski, *Cricket in the Corner*, "Spring Reads: Dragon Slaying," May 6, 2003.

". . . Near West Side Stories . . . recaps not only what Maxwell Street meant in the history of Chicago's Jewish, and later, Italian, black, and Mexican communities, but details the losing struggle to preserve parts of the historic neighborhood from redevelopment."

—Pauline Dubkin Yearwood, *Chicago Jewish News*, September 2002.

"Although Eastwood speaks with sadness of the destruction of the old market and much of the old neighborhood, her book has ensured that their history will not be destroyed."

—Greg Holden, *UIC Alumni Magazine*, July/August 2003.

“[A]s a historian, I find their stories extraordinary. Thank you Carolyn Eastwood for a wonderful job describing the neighborhood and the people.”

–Sue Weiler, *Working Women’s History Project Book Club*.

Humanizes the Long Struggle to Save this Great Neighborhood.

“This book is billed as an “oral history,” which it is, but it is much more than that. First, the author provides extensive background about each of the four urban ethnic enclaves of her interview subjects then goes on to describe it from their personal perspectives. Second, she has selected four truly remarkable people, activists in every sense of the word. Third, she has created a narrative based on multiple interviews and letters that manages to present a clear, readable and appealing story while retaining the authentic voices of her four subjects. Though intended to be representative of the four key ethnic groups that occupied Chicago’s Maxwell Street neighborhood for its last 100 years (Eastern European Jews, Italians, southern African-Americans, and Mexicans), the four interview subjects are each fascinating individuals in their own right. Taking nothing away from them, Eastwood doesn’t give herself enough credit for producing such compelling tales.”

–Amazon.com reader review, 5 of 5 stars, June 18, 2003.

A Gem!

“Maxwell Street, known to many in films like *The Blues Brothers*, was a unique Chicago gathering place. Carolyn Eastwood captures the spirit and energy of this rich tapestry of Chicago life that has slipped into history. Thankfully, her book preserves the voices and stories of that era.”

–Amazon.com reader review, 5 of 5 stars, June 25, 2002.

Also In Print

Chicago Jewish Historical Society Newsletter.

Chicago Jewish History, Winter 2002.

Chicago Journal, “The Good Old Days,” October 31, 2002.

The Chicago Reader, August 2002.

The Industrial Worker, March 2002.

Jewish Book Publishing News, Fall 2002.

Near West/South Gazette, December 2003.

Pioneer Press, October 2, 2002.

On the Radio

- WGN-720 AM, Chicago, “The Sunday Papers” with Rick Kogan.
- WUSN-99.5 FM, Chicago, Interview with Lee Ann Trotter.
- WCEV-1450 AM, Chicago, “Mosaic” with Lucyna Migala.
- WTMX-101.9 FM, Chicago, “Vantage Point” with Dr. David Unumb, Northeastern Illinois University.

Used in College Courses

- Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
- University of Illinois, Chicago, IL
- University of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
- Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN

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