Breaking the Glass

THE AMERICAN JEWISH WEDDING

An Exhibition of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

Featuring vintage wedding gowns from the UConn Historical Costume and Textile Collection, ancient ketubah reproductions from the Judaica Collection, Beinecke Library, Yale University and JHSGH archival photographs.

June 26 - September 30, 2015
Chase Family Gallery
Mandell Jewish Community Center

Thursday, June 25
Patron Cocktail Reception | 6:30 pm

Watch for your invitation coming soon!
www.jhsgh.org
Dear Friends:

Spring is almost here (I sincerely hope!!) and I am quite certain that we are all looking forward to seeing the last of the snow, welcoming warmer weather, having longer days, and the opportunity to engage in new adventures.

Our Jewish Historical Society invites you and your friends to join us as we……

**LEARN more about two of the most "Remarkable Women" of The Hartford community.....Sophie Tucker and Beatrice Fox Auerbach. Join Book Talk author, Cindy Wolfe Boynton on March 25th.

**JOIN US on a docent-led tour of The Austin House (Scarborough Street) and a tour of "Coney Island Visions of an American Dreamland" at the Wadsworth Atheneum on April 15th.

**EXPERIENCE "A Life of the Land".....a guided bus tour of Jewish farming communities in Eastern CT.....April 19th.

**MEET "The Jews of India" with Rahel Musleah.....a continuation of our Jews Around the World series.....June 4th.

**ENGAGE with author, Dr. Risa Sodi, whose fascinating talk about Holocaust Art Restitution will be the special program of our Annual Meeting, June 16th.

**CELEBRATE with us at the gala opening of our Jewish Wedding Exhibit on June 25th.

**SUPPORT the Society with a donation, Aim Chai bequest or named fund. THANK YOU!!

As our archival collection continues to grow, please consider allowing the JHS to become the permanent repository for the memories and histories of your family. We welcome photos, letters, documents, and recordings detailing the lives of our Jewish community. On a personal note, I recently created two family archives (one for each side of my family) and it is a very satisfying feeling to know that the Novarr/Hershman history will be secure for future generations.

Thank you! We are so very appreciative to those in the Greater Hartford community and beyond who have made the commitment to remember our JHS through the Aim Chai Campaign. Your support preserves the legacy of our wonderful heritage.

Wishing you a very Happy Passover.

Sandra H. Rulnick
President

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**SPRING 2015 CALENDAR**

**Friday, March 13, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.**
“Talking Tucker”
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.**
“Remarkable Women of Hartford” book talk by Cindy Wolfe Boynton
Co-sponsored by the Women’s Division, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
Board Room, Community Services Building

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.**
Docent-led tours of the Austin House and Coney Island Exhibit at the Wadsworth Atheneum
Meet at 9:30 at Community Services Building to carpool

**Sunday, April 19, 2015 – 9:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**
*A Life of the Land* bus tour to Eastern Connecticut Jewish farming communities. Bus leaves from commuter lot on Route 30 in Vernon.
See enclosed flyer

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

**Sunday, May 10, 2015 – Friday, May 22, 2015**
Tour of Jewish Spain led by Prof. Jonathan Ray
SOLD OUT!

**Thursday, June 4, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**
*Jewish Calcutta Through Music and Memory*, with Rahel Musleah
The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., WH

**Thursday, June 16, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**
ANNUAL MEETING
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Thursday, June 25, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.**
Opening reception for “Breaking the Glass: The American Jewish Wedding”
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**
BRIDAL FASHION SHOW AND VENDOR FAIR
The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., WH
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!

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**GO ONLINE FOR THE LATEST SOCIETY HAPPENINGS**

The Society’s website, [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) is the best source for the most up-to-date information about programs, exhibits and other events sponsored by the Society. It’s also an easy way to register for programs through PayPal or make donations. Contact bbrodie@jewishhartford.org if you would like to be added to our email list, and receive information about new programs and events throughout the year.
REMARKABLE WOMEN OF HARTFORD

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 2:00 p.m.
Community Services Building

Join author Cindy Wolfe Boynton as she discusses her latest book, Remarkable Women of Hartford and learn about some famous, and not-as-famous women who lived in Hartford. Ms. Boynton is an award-winning writer and editor who was a correspondent for The New York Times and editor of Better Health magazine. She is now an English and communications instructor at the Yale School of Medicine and Housatonic Community College. Co-sponsored by the Society and Women’s Philanthropy, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Free and open to the public.

TALKING TUCKER

10:00 a.m. Friday, March 13, 2015
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell Jewish Community Center
335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford

$20 in advance—$25 at the door
(includes breakfast, book talk and one ticket to an encore screening of The Outrageous Sophie Tucker on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.)

Do you think you know a little, a lot, or nothing at all about Hartford’s own Sophie Tucker? Learn more about the “The Last of the Red Hot Mamas” at a breakfast and book talk with authors and filmmakers, Susan and Lloyd Ecker, her official biographers. Although Sophie left the city for stardom around the world, she never forgot her local roots and remained committed to this community. In fact, she is buried in The Emanuel Synagogue cemetery, and there is still a great deal of interest in her life and career. The Eckers will discuss their book, I am Sophie Tucker: A Fictional Memoir and the film based on it.

Sophie was a larger-than-life persona who influenced performers like Bette Midler and many others. Friend of kings, queens, presidents, actors and gangsters, she told so many versions of her life story, that often she couldn’t tell truth from fiction. This book, the authors say, is “about 85% fact, and the other 15% . . . who knows?”

For more information or to pre-register, go to our website: www.jhsgh.org/talkingtucker.html, or send a check made out to JHSGH to the Society office, 333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford.
In conjunction with the JHSGH exhibition “Breaking the Glass: The American Jewish Wedding” We invite you to a unique Bridal Fashion Show and Celebrations Vendor Showcase

“SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW”

Featuring contemporary and vintage bridal gowns Refreshments, raffles, and resources to make your event special!

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 6:00pm Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford

Do you still have your bridal gown or your mother’s in your closet? We are looking for gowns from 1930-2000 and models to wear them! Please visit www.jhsgh.org for more information and vendor and sponsorship forms.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gail and Jeff Adler  
Morris Banks  
Sandra Blackman  
Amy Charney and Lewis Wise  
Jan Draymore  
Barbara and Paul Fleischer  
Rhoda and Todd Gladstone  
Herbert G. Isaacson  
David L. Jacobs  
Edith and Melvin Katzman  
Sheryl and Stuart Kopel  
Abbey and Stephen Kreinin  
Judy Kulick  
Laurie Mandell  
Deborah Mehlman  
Charlotte L. Meyer  
Judith Moses  
Leigh Newman  
Linda Rigono  
Julia Rosenblum and Leonard Felson  
Linda and Michael Saffer  
Ronald and Susan Silverberg  
Robert H. Smith, Jr.  
Lois and Jason Tanzer  
Edee Tenser  
Michael Wilder

Aim Chai Endowment Campaign WWW.AIMCHAI.ORG

The Jewish Community Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and 27 community partner institutions are collaborating to strengthen and sustain the future of Jewish Hartford for generations to come.

As of March 1st, we are very grateful to the following individuals who have made a commitment to the campaign for the benefit of the Society.

Sandy and Arnold Chase  
Naomi and Michael Cohen  
Barbara and David Klau  
Debbie and Steve Kleinman  
Lauri and David Miller  
Gerald Roisman  
Lea and Richard Rubenstein  
Sandra and Marshall Rulnick  
The Zachs Family Foundation
In the newest installment of the Society’s “Jews Around the World Series”, join us on Thursday, June 4, 2015 when our speaker will be Rahel Musleah. Ms. Musleah was born in Calcutta and is the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its root to seventeenth-century Baghdad. She will present a multi-media song, story and slide program as she shares her intimate knowledge of this ancient community’s past, along with its customs and melodies. Her program weaves a rich tapestry of heritage and culture little-known to most, and offers a compelling legacy for the Indian Jewish communities whose population has dwindled to 5,000 today. She is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Hadassah Magazine, Publisher’s Weekly and others. For more information go to our website at: www.jhsgh.org or call 860 727-6171.

Rahel Musleah

Susan Viner has purchased a historical book filled with stories written by students of Hartford, Weaver and Bulkeley High Schools from 1925 - 1930. There are some recognizable last names that may be related to descendants of these people. If you know anyone who is a descendant or relative of any of the those listed below, please contact Susan Juster Viner in Windsor at 860 - 688-6642 or at pharmate@sbcglobal.net:

- William Baron
- Ruth Fine
- Louis D. Harris
- Cornelia Gross
- Elodie Salmon
- Lena Cravzow
- Victor Zimmerman
- Louis Salzberg
- Robert Burstein
- Norma Goldschmidt

Risa Sodi holds a B.A. in History and Italian from Smith College, an M.A. in French and Italian from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in Italian language and literature from Yale University. From 1995-2013, she served in the Yale Italian Department as the Senior Lector II and Language Program Director. Dr. Sodi has lectured in Canada, England, France, Italy, and the U.S. on the Holocaust in Italy, Italian Jewish authors, and the restitution of Holocaust looted art objects. She has published many articles and monographs on the subject including A Dante of Our Time: Primo Levi and Auschwitz. Her most recent publication is a chapter in the Modern Language Association volume, Approaches to Teaching Primo Levi (2015).
From the Director

Dear Friends,

This past January, I was delighted to have the opportunity to be interviewed for the Public Access TV Show, *CT Valley Views*, an independently produced program by Susan Patricell-Regan. The taping was then distributed to many local community public access networks, making it available to hundreds of viewers. Susan formulated a conversation that would achieve my goals of promoting and raising awareness of the Society and the important work we do. If you are interested in taking a look at the program and edited versions of two of our films, here is a link: [http://youtu.be/nTRiiUey66g](http://youtu.be/nTRiiUey66g)

This month we will begin the second phase of our Community Collections project with the help of trained volunteer interviewers. We will set up interviews with professionals and lay leadership documenting their years of service and significant contributions to Hartford, capturing a snapshot of our community’s historical legacy.

We are very grateful to those individuals that have included the Society in their estate plans. Their generosity of a gift through the Jewish Community Foundation’s Aim Chai Campaign will help sustain our organization into the future. Additionally, we appreciate and welcome your necessary support and contributions toward our daily operating expenses, special projects and exhibits.

We have many interesting, informative and inspiring events happening this spring and summer and look forward to your participation. Please remember to invite your friends and family to join you, visit our website and stop by the office for a tour of the archives!

Wishing you and your family a joyous Passover!

Estelle

From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

I have been the Society’s archivist for almost six months now, and it has been a very busy six months. Since the fall we have had a number of research inquiries and new acquisitions. Our new acquisitions include a bris outfit from the 1920s, several Emanuel Synagogue scrapbooks, and a fascinating collection of World War II-era letters donated by Susan Schenker. These letters were written by Dora Greenbaum to her brothers in the U.S. military and provide an interesting look at Hartford life in the 1940s. Please consider contributing your own family documents and photographs to our archives—we would be happy to have them!

We have been involved in some exciting projects recently. We are currently preparing a Jewish wedding exhibit for the upcoming summer, which will use photos and wedding gowns from our archives. We are also proud to announce that over 40 of our finding aids are now accessible through the Portal to American Jewish History, a project of the American Jewish Historical Society and the Center for Jewish History. The portal compiles the finding aids of Jewish archives and historical societies around the country. These finding aids are also available on our website—take a look and see what resources our archives have to offer!

I am happy to be part of the important work being done at the Jewish Historical Society. Please let me know how I can assist you, and consider donating your own materials to the Society’s archives.

Best regards,

Sara

MEET OUR NEW ARCHIVIST — SARA HAWRAN

Sara Hawran joined the Society staff last August. Sara’s always had an interest in history, which led her mother to bring her to the Windsor Historical Society, where she began volunteering while in high school and remained for seven years. She majored in history at Mt Holyoke College and received her MS degree in Library Science from Simmons College. During her undergraduate and graduate years, she held a number of jobs and internships, which allowed her to pursue this passion. She has worked in the collections department of the Eric Carle Museum, held a summer job as a curatorial intern at Sturbridge Village, and interned at the Transportation Library of the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. In addition, Sara worked in the research room of the JFK Library in Boston and spent a semester at the American Jewish Historical Society, also in Boston.

She enjoys doing the various responsibilities of a historical society archivist, but she particularly likes answering questions from members and others who want information about various items in the collection or who need help with genealogical or research projects.

Sara is also helping out on the technology end by maintaining our website and sending out many of our e-blasts. You can reach Sara at 860 727-6173, and she would be delighted to assist you.
Thoughtful Contributions
Contributions to the Jewish Historical Society are a thoughtful way of honoring or memorializing an individual, or commemorating an event, and at the same time supporting the Society. All contributions of $18.00 or more will be listed.

In memory of:
Bess & Sidney Koppell
Martin Koppel
Joseph Hurwitz
Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman
Fran S. Friedman
Marsha and Ed Lotstein
Judge Jerry Wagner
Helga Allweiss
Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman
Adam Cohen
Marsha and Ed Lotstein
Michael Wagner
The Needelman Family
Dr. R. Leonard Kemler
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown
Carolinn Hillman, Nathan Hillman and Henry M. Hillman
Lillian Hillman
Ellen Banks
Morris Banks
Seymour Benson
Marilyn Benson
Larry Malitz
Barbara and Ira Levin
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yazmer
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

In honor of:
Barry Gordon’s birthday
Evelyn and Bob Harris
The marriage of Ilana Kafer and Michael Weinreich
Susan and Allan Viner
Louise Kemler Kaufman
Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown
Bob Fishman and Elliott Tertes receiving inaugural Henry M. Zachs Spirit of Judaism Award
Susan and Allan Viner

Sandra Rulnick becoming President of the Jewish Historical Society
Marsha and Ed Lotstein
Lil Marlow’s 95th birthday
Irma Menschell and family
Tammy Kagan Levine
Sandra and Marshall Rulnick
Elissa and Elliott Donn
Shirley Morrison

With best wishes for a speedy recovery:
Marsha Lotstein
Paulette and James Lotstein

General Donations:
Peter Doherty
Bette D. Glickman
Loel Goldblatt
Mindelle Seltzer
Lillian Marlow
Gail and Jeff Adler
Annette and Seymour Gavens

IN MEMORIAM

Jack Dolinsky
Abe Homar
Joseph Hurwitz
Harold Rothstein
Hon. Jerry Wagner

PRESERVATION SOCIETY
The Preservation Society is composed of members who have chosen to give at the $1000 level of membership. We are immensely grateful to these individuals for their generous support.

Trudy and Louis Brown
Eleanor Caplan
Naomi and Michael Cohen
Rochelle and David Fierston
Joan Kemler
Muriel Kesten
Reba and Arthur Nassau
Henry Zachs
Jessica and Erich Zachs

HERITAGE SOCIETY
The Heritage Society is composed of members who have chosen to give at the $1800 level of membership. We are immensely grateful to these individuals for their generous support.

Sandra and Arnold Chase
Tobey Gitelle
Louise and Todd Kaufman
Deborah and Steve Kleinman
Gerald Roisman
Please join the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford on a community wide trip to JEWISH CUBA
February 14-22, 2016

$4700 per person
(pricing based on double occupancy for JHSGH members)
$4800 for non-members
$399 Single supplement

Trip includes:
• Round trip transportation from Miami
• 1 night in Miami
• 5 nights in Havana
• 2 nights in Santa Clara
• Breakfast daily, 7 lunches, 5 dinners including:
  • Welcome and farewell dinner
  • Shabbat dinner with community members
• Gratuities
• All transfers & entrance fees per itinerary
• All touring with a local licensed English speaking guide in an air-conditioned motor coach

(Not included: passport, travel insurance, flight to Miami)

Information session:
April 27th, 2015 at 7:00 PM
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
Community Services Building
333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford

View the full flyer at www.jhsgh.org/pdf/flyers/Cuba2016.pdf

For more info contact:
Fay DeHaas 860-206-8244 ● fdehass@cruiseplanners.com
Estelle Kafer 860-727-6171 ● ekafer@jewishhartford.org

Zachs Campus
JHSGH
333 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117

SHALOM CUBA

$4700 per person
(pricing based on double occupancy for JHSGH members)
$4800 for non-members
$399 Single supplement