An Exhibit Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

POWER OF PROTEST

THE MOVEMENT TO FREE SOVIET JEWS

June 26 - July 29, 2018
Chase Family Gallery Mandell JCC
335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, CT
Opening Program:
June 26th 5:30 pm

More information about the exhibit program to follow
President’s Message

To our JHS members and to all of our community,

Estelle Kafer and our board have been strengthening our marketing outreach, board operation and structure, while developing new programs. We recognize the vital need to reach out to existing members who seasonally leave our state and to younger generations working and living outside of Connecticut. We need a professional effort to develop and implement a social media and marketing plan to reach all of them no matter where they live. Denise Brodsky has generously given her time to create more impactful and engaging marketing, both promoting events and sharing their successes.

We have formed committees that can work year-round on a wide range of issues producing concrete solutions and creative ideas. I have been thrilled to see how so many JHS board members have engaged their skills, while sharing their experiences to move JHS forward. The new Governance Committee, led by David Harris is updating bylaws, our structure and policies.

The new Program Committee, led by Lance Goldberg, experimented with a new program called “All in the Family”. Thanks to David Diamond's hard work, JHS co-sponsored and collaborated with the Beth El Men's Club to plan this event. The program featured local business owners sharing the stories of how their businesses were started by their parents, the challenges they faced, their values, the importance of customer service and supporting our local Jewish organizations. I was so proud that JHS could provide them the opportunity to share those stories with our community. Howard Weiner of Woodland Auto Body, Michael Wolf of the Bloomfield Bicycle and Repair Shop and Harry Davidson of Pyne-Davidson Printers were eloquent and added humor and insights about their successes. Howard Weiner shared the story of how David Rosenthal's father at Blum Shapiro, encouraged one of their clients to pre-pay an entire year’s painting services to Howard's father, therefore providing him with the needed cash flow to keep Woodland Auto Body running. It was heartwarming to hear the pride in their voices. That to me is what our community is about, people helping people directly and through the support of our Jewish organizations.

A new, second program is coming that focuses on gathering and preserving Jewish recipes, photos of cooking together, teaching videos, blogs and stories intended to connect generations to each other and to JHS, as we all love our food.

We want to thank you for your support, which allows us to preserve your most treasured memories, photos and the history of our community for YOUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Wishing everyone a happy Passover,

Gary R. Schwartz

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**S P R I N G  2 0 1 8  C A L E N D A R**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – 7:00 pm**
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building, 333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

**Monday, March 12, 2018 – 6:00 pm**
Raise the Roof film screening and dinner
Co-sponsored by HJFF and JHS.
6:00pm - Dinner with filmmakers
7:30pm - Film
Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

**Sunday, March 25, 2018 – 9:30 am - 4:00 pm**
Family History/Genealogy Day Workshop
multi-session workshops to discover and share your family’s stories.
Co-sponsored with Emanuel Synagogue Adult education
Community Services Building

**Monday, April 23, 2018 – 7:00 pm**
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

**Sunday April 22, 2018 – 9:00 am - 6:30 pm**
Back to Brooklyn bus tour includes exploring Brooklyn’s Jewish neighborhoods
Co-sponsored with Emanuel Synagogue
Meet at Community Services Building

**Wednesday May 9, 2018 – 7:00 pm**
“Monuments Men: A Daughter’s Discovery” speaker program with Susan Fisher Sullam
Co-sponsored by Emanuel, Voices of Hope, Beth El, Beth Israel, and FVJC
Mandell JCC

**Tuesday May 22, 2018 – 5:30 pm**
“Back to the Old Country: the Jewish Food Renaissance” author presentation and food tasting with Jeffrey Yoskowitz
Co-sponsored with the Jewish Hartford European Roots Project
Location TBA

**Wednesday, May 23, 2018 – 7:00 pm**
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

**June 26 to July 29, 2018**
Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews traveling exhibit
Sponsored by NMAJH Museum
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Exhibit Opening Program:**
June 26, 2018 – 5:30 pm

Read our bulletin and view the full color pictures online at www.jhsgh.org

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**Coming in 2019**

**An Arts Tour to Israel**
March 3-14
Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and the Mandell JCC.

For more information, contact Estelle Kafer at 860-727-6171.

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Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/jhsghct/

The Society needs your help! How? It's easy! Like, share, and comment on our social media posts. The more people interact with our pages, the more people will see our history!
Join us for the Greater Hartford premier of the documentary *Raise The Roof*, directed by Yari Wolinsky, shown as part of the 22nd Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival. Artists Rick and Laura Brown are not Jewish and not Polish, and yet they set out to rebuild Gwoździec, one of the magnificent 18th-century wooden synagogues of Poland, the last of which were destroyed by Nazis during World War II. Their vision inspires hundreds of people to join them. Using their hands, old tools and techniques, they rediscover Gwoździec's history, culture, and art. *Raise the Roof* follows the Browns and the Handshouse Studio team to Sanok, Poland, as they begin building the new Gwoździec roof. The crew has six weeks to hew, saw, and carve 200 freshly logged trees and assemble the structure. Working against this deadline and despite torrential downpours and exhaustion, the team must create the structure, and disassemble it again for shipping and eventual installation in Warsaw's Polin Museum.

Cost: Pre-screening Dinner Program with filmmakers: $30 per person; Film Only: $12 per person.

RSVP to lnewman@jewishhartford.org or pay online at www.jhsgh.org by March 5th, 2018.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Hartford European Roots Project at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, UCONN

For more information on any of our programs, please contact Lynn Newman at 860-727-6170 or lnewman@jewishhartford.org.

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**Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews**

June 26 - July 29, 2018
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

A traveling exhibit from the National Museum of American Jewish History, *Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews*, will document one of the most successful human rights campaigns of the late 20th century. The panel exhibition showcases Americans’ efforts in the late 1960s through 1990 to free refuseniks—Jews who lived in the Soviet Union and were denied the rights to live freely, practice Judaism, or leave the country due to their religion. Through text, imagery and media, the exhibit will blend compelling personal stories of American Jewish activists and the Soviet Jews who immigrated to America and impacted our society in countless ways.

Many people experienced our visiting summer exhibit, *From Haven to Home*, which chronicled the history of American Jews. On September 13, 2017, Professor Avinoam Patt gave a lecture on the Revolution, the Constitution, and the American Jews (right), which was followed by a guided tour of the exhibit (left).

On November 2, 2017 we cohosted a panel discussion with The Emanuel Synagogue on the challenges of fair housing in Jewish West Hartford. Panelists Mary Donohue, Dr. Jack Dougherty, and Tracey Wilson explained how practices such as redlining determined where people could live. Listen to a podcast of the event at: [bit.ly/2BhvZ5x](http://bit.ly/2BhvZ5x).

On November 9, 2017, we took a trip down memory lane to the Catskills of Connecticut. Speaker Ken Simon talked about his childhood in Moodus near Banner Lodge, and many audience members shared their own recollections of the Jewish resorts of Connecticut.

In January 2018, teens from the FVJC–Emek Shalom JTConnect program interviewed residents of Hoffman SummerWood, asking questions about their family food stories.

It was “All in the Family” on January 23, 2018 when Howard Weiner of Woodland Auto Body, Michael Wolf of Bloomfield Bike Shop, and Harry Davidson of Pyne-Davidson Printers shared stories about their families and their family businesses at Beth El Temple.
A bus trip co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and The Emanuel Synagogue

Back to Brooklyn

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Join us for a visit to some of Brooklyn’s Jewish neighborhoods, learn about the history and revival of New York’s most interesting and desirable borough. Visit & explore sites, shopping, eateries, and more!

Cost: $65 for Society and Emanuel Members, $70 for non-members

THIS COST IS FOR TRANSPORTATION ONLY

Bus leaves from JHSGH office promptly at 8:45 am (please arrive by 8:30 am) and returns approximately 6:30 pm.

Register online at www.jhsgh.org. You may also download the registration form from our website and mail it along with a check made out to: JHSGH, 333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford, CT 06117.

For more information, contact Lynn Newman at lnewman@jewishhartford.org or 860-727-6170.

Monuments Men:
A Daughter’s Discovery of her Father’s Role in the Search for Nazi Plunder

Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7:00 pm
Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford
Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society, Voices of Hope, The Emanuel Synagogue, Beth El Temple, Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation and Congregation Beth Israel

Baltimore journalist Susan Fisher Sullam will tell the fascinating story of her discovery of her father’s role in “Task Force Fisher”. As a member of General Dwight Eisenhower’s staff during WWII, Lt. Commander Joel Fisher kept records detailing one of the greatest treasure hunts in history. His documents, found by his daughter after his death, chronicles how Fisher led a task force during the closing months of the war that located and recovered billions of dollars’ worth of gold, silver, currency and artwork looted by the Nazis.

Cost: $10 in advance, $12 at the door.
Register online at www.jhsgh.org.

Back to the Old Country:
The Jewish Food Renaissance

Tuesday, May 22, 2018  5:30pm

Featuring Jeffrey Yoskowitz

A food lecture and delicious tastings! Location TBA.

Sponsored by Jewish Hartford European Roots Project, UConn Dodd Center
From the Director

Dear Members and Friends,

We are often directed to evaluate the work we do, our accomplishments and challenges. How do we measure the impact of the work we are committed to and the activities we offer? How do we know if a program or project is successful or making a difference? Obviously, we strive for increased awareness, membership and revenue. A room filled to capacity, numerous inquiries, and scholarly and community collaboration are accurate indicators.

But more rewarding is witnessing an engaged audience and the effect our programs have produced. The family that hears for the first time about a grandparent’s childhood school years during a Family History project interview. Two women who connect with special memories after a presentation about Connecticut resorts in Moodus. Attendees listening to a panel’s research about beloved neighborhoods that were once restricted to Jews. Learning about the struggles and accomplishments of local and familiar Jewish business owners and their generational family history.

We are starting a conversation, triggering a forgotten memory and documenting community history. We are connecting the generations and providing opportunity for thoughtful reflection and an understanding of our past and present. We should be proud our Society is committed to this unique and important responsibility!

Please join us for some wonderful programming this Spring – we have worked hard on developing very special events and look forward to your support. In addition, I am grateful to our hard working staff, Lynn and Jeanne, our Board Members who continue to donate their time and expertise, and a very dedicated group of volunteers and interns that come in weekly. Thank you to Leland and Paula Bradbard, Jeremy Schmitt and Sara Karz Reid for their work processing archival materials and cataloging our artifacts, and to Nancy Gordon for transcribing oral history interviews.

Join us for Family History Day on March 25 – Learn how to start YOUR family history conversations around the Passover table! Wishing you all a memorable Pesach,

Estelle Kafer

From the Archivist

Digitization is the latest buzzword. It’s easy to understand why; technology has changed the way we interact with information. Our first urge may be to digitize everything. However, this comes with invisible costs. Digitization takes time and resources, and the process can be slow and laborious. It’s not feasible to digitize every item we hold. On top of that, digital files aren’t foolproof! Did you know that paper, if properly stored and cared for, has a much longer shelf life than digital files? Formats change, programs become obsolete, and flash drives get damaged. So what can we do?

First, we prioritize the types of objects to digitize. Oral histories on cassette tapes are good candidates, since audio-visual material has a limited shelf life. We digitize using standard and widely used formats and back up our files so that they will be accessible over time. Yet digitization can go beyond a scanned image or document. Many of our collections have finding aids (similar to a catalog record on your local library’s website) posted online at www.jhsgh.org. These documents summarize the collections and allow researchers to locate the information with a simple Google search. I have received a variety of reference requests from people who have found our Society because of these guides. A few months ago, I was contacted by a researcher in Italy researching a family displaced by the Holocaust. The daughter settled in Hartford and had left us numerous documents regarding her unfortunately unsuccessful attempts to bring her parents to America. Another researcher sought information on an award named after Althea Silverman given to musically gifted Hartford students. She found articles and an oral history in the archive that answered all her questions! If we use digitization strategically to connect people to our collections, we can increase our visibility and ensure that our materials continue to draw interest from a wide range of researchers.

We can’t, of course, forget the physical items we have received recently. One item of note is a Hebrew School certificate granted by Temple Beth Israel in 1879 to Minnie (Stern) Lyon, given to us by Marjorie DiGalbo, along with a picture of her parents with President Truman. Elliott Donn continues to add to our collection of the local Jewish War Veterans post. Bob Fishman gave us a scarf from the 1987 Rally for Soviet Jews in Washington, DC. Judith Kronick brought us an assortment of items from the community, including a brochure from Fressers Restaurant. Mary Donohue helped us locate material on the Connecticut Jewish resorts, as well as other materials documenting S. Vogel Sons and Sophie Tucker.

If you have questions about research or donating material, e-mail me at jlowrey@jewishhartford.org. See you in the archives!

Jeanne Lowrey

Does Your Company Have a Matching Gifts Program?

Many large corporations offer programs where they will match an employee’s donation to an eligible nonprofit, effectively doubling or even tripling the gift. Companies such as Apple and IBM use a company called Benevity (benevity.com) as a clearinghouse for those donations, because they will transfer the donation directly to the beneficiary from both the donor and the corporation that matches the donation. The Society is registered with benevity.com to receive donations from eligible employees. Please check with your company to see if they offer matching donations.
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:
Israel Bachar
Ronit Shoham
Ellen W. Banks
Morris Banks
Howard H. Belkin
Louise Belkin
Al Cohen
Burt and Linda Miller
Doris Golinsky
Bobbe Basch
Herbert Golinsky
Bobbe Basch
Joan Hoberman
Harvey Hoberman
Rose and Wilbur Levin
Nanette Levin
Roz W. Levy
Bobbe Basch
Lillian Marlow
Rabbi Richard and Lisa Plavin
Milton Schwartz
Rebecca Schwartz
Nancy Lee Schwartz
Our mother and Bubbie, Edna Shainfarber
The Nadler Family
Edna Shainfarber
Gloria Bein
Phil and Toby Berman
Debra Chillock
Charlotte and Marvin Gottlieb
Hylton Joffe
Renana & Ron Kadden
Richard Leapman
Lisa Rosen
Eugene and Anja Rosenberg
Elizabeth Rosenfeld
Rabbi Israel Stein, a Hartford boy, a Rabbi’s Rabbi, and our close friend.
Barbara and David Klau
Steven R. Weber
Elizabeth Weber

In honor of:
The 50th birthday of Lance Goldberg
Jeremy Arcus-Goldberg
Naomi, Seth, Hannah and Sari Cohen
Laura Levy
Meryl and Douglas Nay
Karen and Alan Tuvin
The 61st wedding anniversary of
Margaret and Robert Lesser
Margaret and Robert Lesser
The Jewish Historical Society’s efforts to preserve Jewish history in the area
Joyce Peck and Sally Bergad,
Beth El Synagogue
The Jewish Historical Society for the good work that you do
Ed Fishman
The Jewish Historical Society in helping to go through the JCSO archives
Jewish Children’s Service Organization Board
The help and friendship of Brad Hoffman and Howard & Helen Falk
Arthur Nassau
David Klau’s second Bar Mitzvah
Lois and David Hager
Gary Schwartz, Lisa Schwartz and Jacob Schwartz
Nancy Lee Schwartz
Ruth S. Solomkin
Harvey Hoberman

General Contributions:
Ann and David Brandwein
David Jacobs
Rabbi Richard and Lisa Plavin
John O. Tannenbaum
Susan and Allan Viner

Giving Tuesday:
Phyllis and Robert Berman
Paula and Leland Bradbard
Lance and Deborah Goldberg
David and Barbara Klau
Gerald Roisman
Susan and Allan Viner

JOIN THE PRESERVATION OR HERITAGE SOCIETIES
The Preservation Society is composed of members who have chosen to give at the $1,000 level of membership. The Heritage Society consists of members who have chosen to give at the $1,800 level of membership. Both groups provide crucial support for all of the Society’s activities. These donations, above and beyond the normal dues categories, enable us to remain financially stable, while at the same time providing the level of service and programming that this community has come to expect from the Society. If you would like more information about making a gift to either the Preservation Society of the Heritage Society, please contact Estelle at 860.727.6171 or ekafer@jewishhartford.org.

HERITAGE SOCIETY
We are immensely grateful to the following individuals for their generous support at the $1800 level.
The Zachs Family Foundation, Inc.
Michael and Naomi Cohen
Muriel R. Kesten
Coleman and Judie Levy

PRESERVATION SOCIETY
We are immensely grateful to the following individuals for their generous support at the $1000 level.
Elaine Charendoff
Charlotte Brick
James Cohen
Bernice Ellis
Bette Glickman
Doris and Herbert Golinsky
Leslie Jacobson
Leo Novarr
Teddy Grody Paul
Susan Renert
Edna Shainfarber
Robert Whitman

IN MEMORIAM
Charlotte Brick
James Cohen
Bernice Ellis
Bette Glickman
Doris and Herbert Golinsky
Leslie Jacobson
Leo Novarr
Teddy Grody Paul
Susan Renert
Edna Shainfarber
Robert Whitman

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Jeanne and Marshall Elman
Mickey & Joyce Libbin
Stanley Peck
Ellen K. Roth
Barbara Rowlson
Elaine Sandler
Will Schoen
Ellen Spiro
Edie and Irv Shiffman
Karen and Alan Tuvin
Elizabeth Weber
Arnold Zackin

Please visit our website at www.jhsgh.org
Society Hours:
Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm
(860) 727-6170
Coming in June!

Delicious Memories
A Food Blog of the
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

Our new website plus our new food/recipes/stories blog!

Don’t forget to e-mail your photos, recipes, and memories to
Lynn Newman at lnewman@jewishhartford.org.

For more information, go to www.jhsgh.org.

Zachs Campus
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333 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117