

# HERITAGE

Fall 2014

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
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\* NEW BOARD MEMBER  
\*\* DECEASED



Samuel Schwartz, Lebanon, 1946.

**NEW PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT**

**“RETURN TO THE LAND: JEWISH FARMING AROUND THE WORLD”**

on loan from the Museum of Jewish Civilization

Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, University of Hartford

Opening October 20 at JHSGH Office

Please visit our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org)

Society Hours, Monday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

(860) 727-6171

# President's Message

Dear Friends:

In the blink of an eye, the summer is over! I hope that it was great for all of you. Although summer is usually a time of relaxation for most of us, our Jewish Historical Society has been busy with preparations for exciting new programs for Fall, Winter, and Spring.

Having been born and raised in our Greater Hartford community.....the daughter of a North End mother (Ruth Novarr) and a South End father (Gil Hershman) has provided me with untold memories of so many names, places, and events. I have never failed to be amazed how frequently conversations in our community begin with.....“what was your maiden name, what street were you born on.....where did you go to school?.....do you remember?” And then the laughter, smiles, and reminiscing begin. But even if you didn’t grow up here—the Society offers many opportunities to learn about your current home. In addition, our programs cover a wide variety of Jewish topics.

If you are not yet a member, try us.....you’ll like us! If you are a current member, don’t forget to renew your membership. Enjoy our special membership privileges and events. Our wonderful dedicated professional staff led by Executive Director, Estelle Kafer and Project Manager, Bea Brodie will be happy to answer your questions regarding membership and volunteer opportunities. Whether you are a relative new-comer to our community or a “native”, please consider developing your own family archive for our collection.....we welcome labeled photos of significance, documents, and published articles relating to the history of your family.

Our special Jewish community has been part of Greater Hartford for many years. It is so important that our past history be preserved to ensure that future generations understand and embrace our heritage. Don’t forget that the JHS also offers many giving opportunities.....from General Membership to named opportunities of endowment funds or programs. I hope that you will consider supporting our vital mission.

My special thanks to our Immediate Past President, Louise Kaufman for her dedicated leadership. I know that she will continue to be an integral part of our organization.

Wishing all of you a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

Best regards,

*Sandra H. Rulnick*

## F A L L   2 0 1 4   C A L E N D A R

### Monday, September 15, 2014 – 6:30 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

### Tuesday, September 16, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Jewish Spain trip informational meeting  
(May 10-22, 2015)  
Community Services Building

### Thursday, October 23, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

### Sunday, October 26, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

“Back to the Old Neighborhoods” bus tour  
Bus leaves from the Community Services Building

### Sunday, November 2, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

*A Life of the Land* – bus tour to Eastern Connecticut Jewish farming communities  
Bus leaves from the Community Services Building

### Wednesday, November 5, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Jewish Genealogy Workshop  
Community Services Building

### Wednesday, November 19, 2014 – 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  
Community Services Building

**Don’t forget to renew  
your  
membership!**

**We want your  
E-MAIL  
ADDRESS !!!**

The Society’s bulletin is printed twice a year and is filled with information about upcoming programs and events, but e-mail is a very efficient and cost-effective way for the Society to keep you informed throughout the year about new activities being added to the Society’s busy calendar. If you haven’t been receiving e-mails from us, it’s because we don’t have your address. Send it to:  
[bbrodie@jewishhartford.org](mailto:bbrodie@jewishhartford.org)

### **Aim Chai Community Endowment Campaign**

Your gift can have an impact on the future of the Society

You can make a difference  
[www.AIMCHAI.org](http://www.AIMCHAI.org)

# Jewish Journey Through Spain



Please join the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford on a community wide trip  
Led by Professor Jonathan Ray of Georgetown University

*May 10-22, 2015*

**\$5199 per person**

Based on double occupancy  
Single supplement available

**\$5299** pp for Society non-members

- *Tour* Jewish Girona
- *Experience* flamenco
- *Tour* Jewish Seville
- *Visit* Capcanes Winery
- *Shabbat* in Madrid
- *Masterworks* by El Greco
- *Lectures* by Professor Ray and so much *more!*



Professor Jonathan Ray, the Samuel Eig Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the Theology Department, specializes in medieval and early modern Jewish history, focusing on the Sephardic civilization.

His courses include: Under Crescent and Cross: Jewish Middle Ages; Jews of Spain in the Middle Ages; and Jews and Judaism in the world of Islam.

## Trip Includes:

- Roundtrip transportation to JFK
- Roundtrip airfare between NYC and Spain
- Airport transfers upon arrival and departure
- 3 nights Barcelona
- 3 nights Madrid
- 2 nights Seville
- 2 nights Granada
- 1 night Toledo
- Breakfast daily, some lunches, 6 dinners including:
  - Welcome dinner in Barcelona
  - Shabbat dinner in Madrid
  - Farewell dinner in Toledo
- All touring with a local licensed English speaking guide in an air-conditioned motor coach.
- All transfers & entrance fees per itinerary

Not Included: Passport, Travel insurance, Gratuities,

## Information Session:

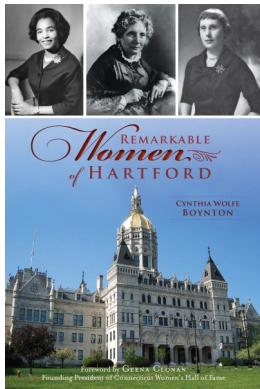
September 16, 2014 at 7:00PM  
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford  
Community Services Building  
333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford

For additional information contact:  
Fay DeHaas 860-206-8244 • fdehaas@cruiseplanners.com  
Estelle Kafer 860-727-6171 • ekafer@jewishhartford.org

## REMARKABLE WOMEN OF HARTFORD

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 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 the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Free and open to the public.



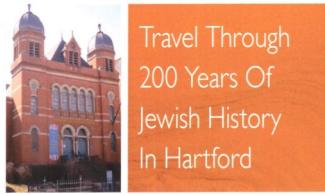
## COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS OUTREACH PROJECT

The Community Collections Outreach Project was recently launched as a means of providing assistance to institutions seeking to better preserve their own history, while also adding to the Society's archives. Our coordinator, Ruth Ann Graime, along with our archivist, will be teaching participants approved preservation methods, and also encouraging them to develop their own institutional collections policy, enabling them to make educated choices about what to preserve for both their own archive and the community repository at the Society, when space is limited.

In addition, we are in need of volunteers to interview and/or videotape in order to update our own archival oral history collection. We plan to reach out to current and former rabbis, community leaders and others who have been active locally in recent years and add their voices to those of past generations, so that our archive will remain an important resource for years to come. If you are interested in working with us please call Bea at 860-727-6170 or [bbrodie@jewishhartford.org](mailto:bbrodie@jewishhartford.org). Training for interviewers will be provided.



## Back to the Old Neighborhoods



Travel Through  
200 Years Of  
Jewish History  
In Hartford



## “BACK TO THE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS” BUS TOUR

If you haven't yet taken the “Back to the Old Neighborhoods” bus tour—this may be your last chance. Whether you grew up in Hartford, or currently call it your home, this tour explores many aspects of the immigrant Jewish experience that was typical, not just of Hartford, but of so many urban areas in the country. The tour stops at the Charter Oak Cultural Center (formerly Congregation Beth Israel), as well as the former Agudas Achim and Emanuel Synagogue, now both churches, where we are warmly welcomed by the current congregants. Our professional guide shares his knowledge of the community's history, and also discusses the architectural importance of each building.

The next tours will take place **Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** The cost is \$24/per person for members and \$28/per person for non-members. For more information call 860-727-6170 or to register go to our website: [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org). Don't miss the bus!!

**Be part of our upcoming  
exhibit:**

## TRADITION AND CELEBRATION: HISTORY AND ART OF THE JEWISH WEDDING

For Summer 2015, we are planning an exhibit on the history, traditions and transformation of the Jewish wedding. The art of the *Ketubah*—contemporary and ancient will also be explored. If you have any unusual candid pictures from your wedding, or interesting stories about your special day—please share them with us. We are happy to scan your photos and return them immediately.

We invite you to join our planning committee!

## Save the Date...

**Sunday, April 19, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

“A Taste of India” with Rahel Musleah, program about the Jews of India  
The Emanuel Synagogue

**Wednesday, April 22, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Bus tour of Chick Austin House followed by the Coney Island exhibit at the Wadsworth Atheneum

**Sunday, May 10, 2015 – Friday, May 22, 2015**

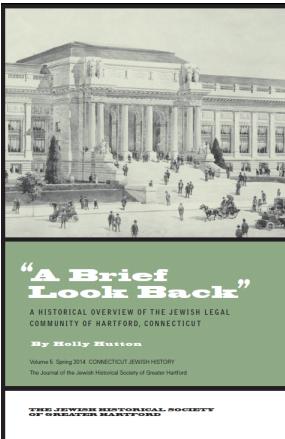
Trip to Jewish Spain

**June – August 2015**

Jewish Wedding Exhibit  
Chase Family Gallery – Mandell Jewish Community Center



## “A Brief Look Back”



On May 14th, the Society hosted a reception to introduce its newest journal, *A Brief Look Back: A Historical Overview of the Jewish Legal Community of Hartford, Connecticut*. The evening included a cocktail hour, a light buffet dinner and brief remarks by the Honorable David Borden, the Honorable Susan Peck, and the Honorable George Levine. Emcee, attorney Daniel Klau also provided a musical interlude. We are grateful to the members of our advisory committee, and our volunteers, who helped to make this evening such a success.

*A Brief Look Back*, written by Holly Hutton, provides a historical overview of Hartford’s Jewish legal profession and professionals, from the late 1800s to the present day. There are also essays by current lawyers and judges, along with photos and transcript excerpts from past interviews in the Society’s archives. This volume documents the long-standing anti-Semitism in the field, along with the changing climate that has led to the current level of acceptance at major law firms. The journal is available for purchase at the Society’s office or through our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org).

## JHSGH 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

This year’s Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to recap a very successful year for the Society. In brief remarks, Executive Director, Estelle Kafer, President Louise Kaufman and other officers reported on the trips, programs and fundraising activities of the Society.

The focus of the evening was the panel discussion on the Hartford circus fire, on its 70th anniversary. There were five panelists who dealt with various aspects of the tragedy. The Hon. Henry Cohn, author of *The Great Circus Fire: Creative Settlement of Mass Disasters*, detailed the way in which litigation and restitution were handled following the tragedy, and how new law was created in light of the unique circumstances. Brenda Miller, Executive Director of the Hartford History Center spoke about the Center’s Circus Fire Scrapbook Project. Michael R. Skidgell, author of *The Hartford Circus Fire: Tragedy Under the Big Top* shared many historical photos and other items from that day. Chief Charles Teale, the former Chief of the Hartford Fire Department talked about the fire itself, how it started and grew, who started it, and the consequences, both for the victims and for the first responders. Author Laura Woollett, who wrote the young adult book, *Big Top Burning! The Story of an Arsonist, A Missing Girl and the Greatest Show on Earth* (to be published spring 2015), described why she thought it was important to share this story with middle-school students.



Two boys standing near the animal chutes.

Following the panel presentation, members of the audience shared their own stories, which were very moving. Several had been in the tent that day and recalled how they were able to escape, while others told of losing friends and family members in the fire. We are grateful to our presenters and all those who shared their memories.

# From the Director

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful summer we had! We are looking forward to our informative fall programs and are also working on a few spring events you won't want to miss—more information will be coming later this fall. Since our publication, "A Life of the Land" was released in 2010, Mary Donohue, co-editor, and I have been talking about creating a tour of the Eastern CT early farming communities and highlighting the impact they made on the region. We are very excited to offer the November 2<sup>nd</sup> bus tour that will visit some of the synagogues and institutions that were built by these industrious Jewish farmers, and hear Mary's narrative which will detail this fascinating chapter of CT Jewish history.

If you need guidance with your family history search, the Genealogy Workshop on November 5<sup>th</sup> will be a good place to start. There will also be additional sessions for the seasoned genealogist with numerous helpful resources.

I am pleased to report that as of a few weeks ago, we have welcomed a new archivist, Sara Hawran. She is a recent graduate of the MLS program at Simmons College. We were sorry to see Greg Farr leave for a full time position at the Austen Riggs Center but we wish him well and appreciate the many archival accomplishments he contributed in the two and a half years he worked at the Society.

On behalf of the Society Board of Directors and myself, I would also like to thank Louise Kaufman for her dedication, enthusiasm and ongoing support as Society President this past year. I hope you will join me in welcoming our incoming president, Sandra Rulnick. Sandra brings her many talents and expertise as an outstanding community lay leader and I look forward to working with her as well as with our new Board members, Ann Brandwein, Gerald Roisman and Elaine Smith.

Please consider the many opportunities available to become involved with a project, learn something new, and make a difference with an endowment gift or program sponsorship. I look forward to hearing from you!

Wishing everyone a Sweet and Healthy New Year!

*Estelle*

## Our Trip to Warsaw, Krackow, Budapest & Prague - July 2014 Comments from Participants

*"I enjoyed visiting the different cities and walking among the people in the streets and squares at night."*

***"I enjoyed it all. The education part mixed with the touring and free time to explore the different places was very enjoyable. The friendships, new and old (spending 12 days amongst the same people), were made and renewed, especially during the group and individual meals."***



Society trip to Poland, Prague and Budapest July 2014

*"The trip came at an unusual juncture in time; exploring the cities of Eastern Europe and their distinct histories, visiting the Nazi death camps and experiencing viscerally the evil perpetrated on our people, asking ourselves the questions about how we deal with these realities 70 years later. And underlying the entire trip was the fighting in Israel and Gaza—another group of mad men committed to destroying us. This trip was truly a reunion with our past, an important encounter with our present, and lastly a vision of the future, exemplified by a group of Israeli teenagers wrapped in flags with the Mogen David on them."*

Join JHSGH and Kreative World  
Travel  
to

## Tour Israel

June 13 - 26, 2015  
\$2,799.00 per person\*



11 nights, Tel Aviv, Tiberius, Jerusalem, Dead Sea and Eilat

Information Session at the Society  
September 10, 2014 at 7:00 pm

\*This price is based on double occupancy and does not include airfare, travel insurance and transportation to JFK.

# 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:***

*Frederick Helene*

Louise and Todd Kaufman

*Sally and Isadore Levitz*

Elaine Charendoff

## ***In honor of:***

*Abe Homar*

Judith Homar

*Roz Waltman Levy's special birthday*

Bobbe Basch

*Elliott B. Pollack on Father's Day*

Mark, Jessica, Max and Oscar Mindich

*Lea Rubenstein*

Richard Rubenstein

## ***With thanks to :***

*Gregory Farr for his help with research on Judge Morris Cutler*

Joyce Cutler Shane

## ***General donations :***

Linda and Henry Cohn

Ruth and Gilbert Hershman

Libby and Bennett Pearl

Alan Smith

## **PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Eleanor Caplan

Rochelle & David Fierston

Reba and Arthur Nassau

Henry Zachs

Jessica and Eric Zachs

Judith Zachs

## **HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR INTERVIEW PROJECT**

As Holocaust survivors age, it is even more vital for us to preserve their stories for future generations. These voices must never be stilled, so that they can continue to testify to the horrors of the Shoah, and bear witness to this time of man's inhumanity to man, as well as the continued need for hope.

For this reason, members of Voices of Hope, the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors have contacted the Society in order to jointly coordinate an oral history project, designed to capture the faces, voices and memories of Holocaust survivors in our area. The Society provides training in how to conduct an interview and will work with Voices of Hope to identify individuals to be interviewed. If you know of a Holocaust survivor living in the Greater Hartford area, please contact the Society with his/her name and contact information. Even if that individual has been interviewed by another organization, it's important that we have an oral history available in our community, for use by local students, educators, and researchers.

## **HERITAGE SOCIETY**

Sandra and David Chase

Deborah and Steven Kleinman

Gerald Roisman

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Sara Bernstein and Joseph Shortall

Sandra and Arnold Chase

Elly and Steve Cohen

Mark S. Cohen

Janet and Stanley Cohen

Ruth and Gilbert Hershman

Janet H. Lassman

Vivian and Gerald Marks

Susan Peck

Iris Rosenberg

Jeffrey Rudikoff

Sydney T. Schulman

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Frederick Helene  
Seymour Benson

# HELP US PRESERVE MEMORIES

## Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

**Complete this form** for membership and/or donations (Please print)

Sophie Tucker circa 1950

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**For Membership:** please check the appropriate category and amount level you wish to support.

Membership dues are effective July 1 to June 30 of each year

Heritage Society \$1,800  
 Preservation Society \$1,000

Scholar \$500  
 Archivist \$250

Historian \$125  
 Friend \$50

Senior\*/Student \$36  
\*62 and over



**To Donate:** please fill out the information below.

Enclosed is my (our) gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment methods

Check (please make checks payable to: JHSGH, and return in this envelope.)  
 Credit (please visit our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) and use our secure PayPal account)  
 Please send additional contribution envelopes.  I am interested in more information about the Society.  
All gifts of \$18.00 and above will be acknowledged in the Society's Bulletin. Your donation is fully tax deductible.

### Questions?

Contact us at [jhsgh@jewishhartford.org](mailto:jhsgh@jewishhartford.org), call 860-727-6171, or visit our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org).

Zachs Campus  
JHSGH  
333 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

