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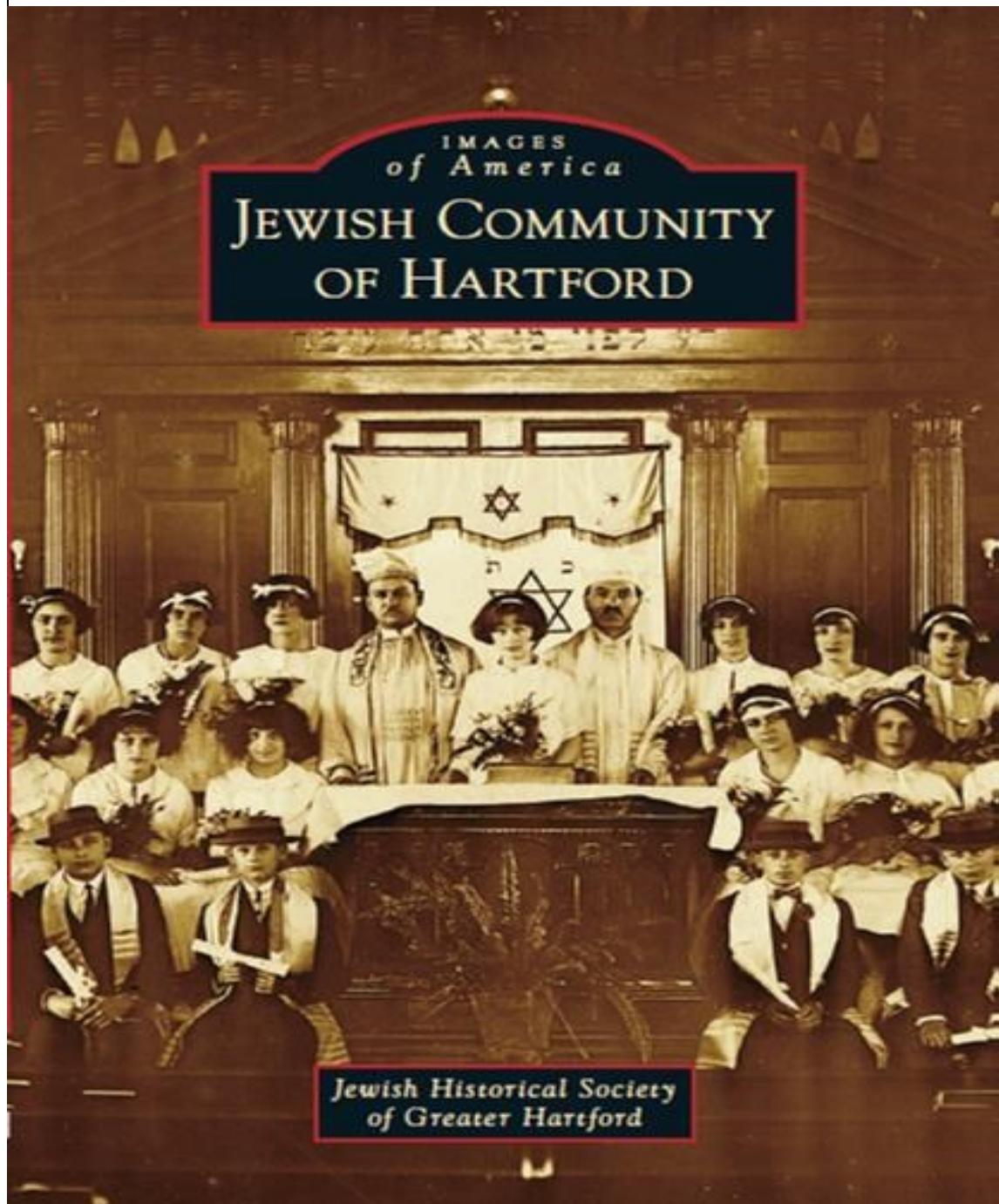
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
ESTELLE KAFER

* NEW BOARD MEMBER
** DECEASED

G R E A T E R H A R T F O R D

HERITAGE

Fall 2016



Jewish Historical Society
of Greater Hartford

Please Join Us for a Book Launch!

7:00 PM Wednesday, September 14, 2016
B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, 180 Still Road, Bloomfield, CT

Book will be available at a discounted rate this evening only!
For more information contact Lynn at (860) 727-6170 or by e-mail
lnewman@jewishhartford.org

President's Message

Dear Members, Supporters, Donors, Our Board, Our Staff and Our Community,

I am honored to have been asked by the Board of JHS to be President, to be working with Estelle, and to try to build on the great accomplishments of Sandy H. Rulnick, our most recent president. I am also very excited to be joined on the board by new Board members Rebecca Selig, Alan Berkowitz, Michael Fishman and Gary Jones. I know they will be welcomed by our generous and existing board members and help generate new ideas and awareness throughout our community, resulting in a stronger organization and foundation for the future.

Our major focus for this Fall is the 45th Anniversary Gala on Sunday, October 30, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Emanuel Synagogue. The highlighted motivational speaker, Louis Ferrante, was an Italian member of the Gambino Family who converted to Judaism. I know you will be mesmerized by his fascinating and courageous story. As this JHS fundraising event only occurs every five years, we really need your support and participation to make this a successful night.

How many of you regret not asking a loved one (parent, grandparent or great grandparent) about where they came from, how they started their businesses, special recipes, their challenges and their successes? I hear these regrets so often with so many families. The Society's mission is to secure those unique family histories and important stories for future generations with labeled photographs, documents, oral and written records. If in doubt, please ask Estelle and our hard working staff before discarding any memorabilia or for assistance in documenting your family memories.

This year, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation and a generous donation from Jeffrey Hoffman, we will initiate a Family History Project, training Jewish educators in local religious schools to teach our children how to record and preserve their family's history. This opportunity to help forge bonds and promote appreciation and awareness between many generations will be inspiring. As Rabbi Philip Lazowski has said "If you continue to love the one you lose, you never lose the one you love." Let us help keep that love alive for you, your family, future generations and our community by securing their memories and stories.

On behalf of our Board, I want to wish our generous supporters and all of our community a Happy, Healthy and Wealthy New Year. I look forward to seeing all of you on October 30th at our Gala.

Gary R. Schwartz
President

F A L L 2 0 1 6 C A L E N D A R

Friday, September 9, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

“The 1843 Petition for Jewish Religious Equality”: A Talk by Mary M. Donohue
Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Ave.,
West Hartford

Tuesday, September 13, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Book Launch for *Images of America: Jewish Community of Hartford*: Celebrate the release of the Society's latest publication in conjunction with Arcadia Press.
B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, 180 Still Road,
Bloomfield

Thursday, October 20, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Sunday, October 30, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.

45th Anniversary Gala
“*From Mobster to Mensch*”
The Emanuel Synagogue 160 Mohegan Dr.,
West Hartford

Thursday November 3rd – 7:00 p.m.

Opening of exhibit “The Shanghai Jews”
Mandell JCC Gallery

Wednesday November 9th – 7:00 p.m.

Opening of exhibit “Hartford Remembers the Holocaust”
Museum of Jewish Civilization, University of Hartford

Thursday, November 17, 2016 – 2:00 p.m.

“*Harvesting Stones*” film screening sponsored by JHSGH and the Connecticut Historical Society
One Elizabeth Street, Hartford

Thursday, November 17, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Save the Date!

**Bus trip
Touro Synagogue
and Jewish Newport
walking tour**
Sunday, April 30, 2017

MORE DETAILS COMING!

**Meet Author
Betsy Lerner**

**Her new memoir
“The Bridge Ladies”**

**Thursday, April 20, 2017
12 Noon**

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
of GREATER HARTFORD

— 45th —
ANNIVERSARY GALA

from
mobster
to **mensch**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2016

The Emanuel Synagogue
160 Mohegan Drive
West Hartford, CT 06117

6:00 PM Reception

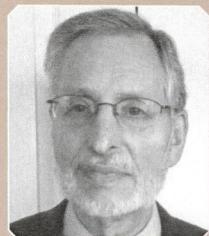
7:00 PM Welcome
(DINNER — STROLLING BUFFET)

— Give for Good —
A fundraising auction with purpose and heart

LOUIS FERRANTE...born in the Bronx...began hijacking trucks and selling "hot" merchandise in his teens...moved on to be part of the Gambino crime family. . .then a decade-long stint in Federal prison before becoming a best-selling author and speaker...



RABBI ARTHUR RULNICK...born & raised in Hartford & West Hartford...graduated from Columbia University in NYC...moved on to the Jewish Theological Seminary...then a career as a pulpit rabbi in Georgia, Massachusetts and Long Island, NY before retiring to Maryland...



Learn what ties these two men together as you hear about the remarkable journey...from Mobster to Mensch...

WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION COMING SOON

New Book: *Jewish Community of Hartford*

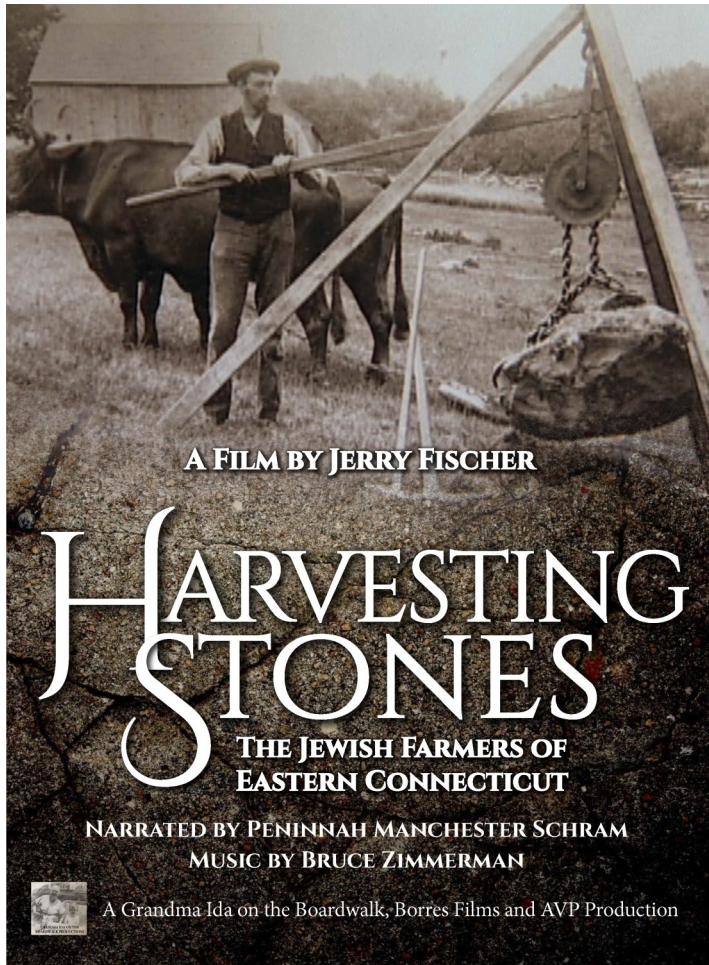
On Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00pm, the Jewish Historical Society will launch their new pictorial history volume, *Jewish Community of Hartford*, part of the *Images of America* series, Arcadia Publishing. The archival images and expanded captions were compiled by the Society staff and volunteers. The book highlights some of the people, organizations and institutions that have helped to shape this remarkable community. Included are interesting facts about notables such as Sophie Tucker, Norman Lear, Sol LeWitt, Kid Kaplan and many more. The evening will also feature a number of storytellers presenting their most compelling Hartford stories.

JHSGH is dedicated to the preservation and documentation of Jewish life in Greater Hartford. Through exhibitions, publications and educational programming, the organization promotes research and creates community awareness of the numerous Jewish contributions to the area.

The *Images of America* series celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the community today.

This event is free and open to the public. It will be held at B'nai Tikvoh-Sholom, 180 Still Road, Bloomfield CT. Books will be discounted on this evening ONLY. After September 14, books may be purchased at the Society office or online at www.jhsgh.org.

No registration required. For more information call 860-727-6170



**JHSGH and Connecticut Historical Society
Co-sponsor**

“Harvesting Stones”

**Thursday November 17, 2016 at 2:00pm
Connecticut Historical Society
One Elizabeth Street
Hartford, CT**

**Panel discussion after the film
“Jewish Farmers Past and Present”**

This groundbreaking documentary presents the fascinating but unknown story of the American Jewish Pioneers who established farms and mini-agricultural resorts in eastern Connecticut. Filmed over a period of 14 years by Jerry Fischer, director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut.

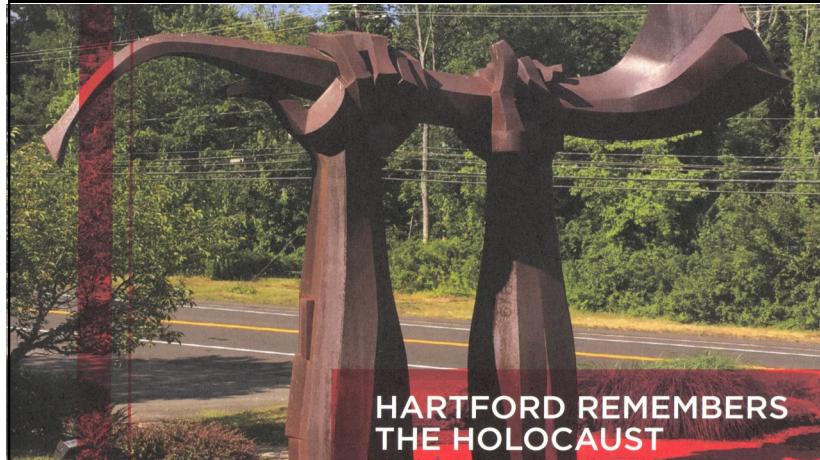
Also featuring the exhibit “Harvesting Stones”

\$7 admission at the door

DID YOUR FAMILY COME FROM POLAND?



This past July, JHS took its third trip to Eastern Europe, led by Professor Samuel Kassow. The group visited Budapest, Prague, Krakow and Warsaw and saw sites of great beauty and profound sadness. While in Warsaw, Dr. Kassow took participants to visit the Jewish Historical Institute, which houses the Jewish Genealogy and Family Heritage Center. Three young researchers there spoke about their work searching and collecting records and other documentation about the Jews of Poland, and offering to assist anyone who wished to learn more about their family's background. Their services are free, but they do request a donation to help fund the organization. For more information, contact the Institute at: familyheritage@jhi.pl.



Public opening of the new “Hartford Remembers the Holocaust” Exhibit at The Museum of Jewish Civilization

**Wednesday, November 9
Wilde Auditorium, Harry Jack Gray Center, University of Hartford**

7:00 pm: Kristallnacht Observance & program “The Future of Holocaust Memory in the 21st Century.

8:30 pm: Exhibit opening & “Portraits of Survival” photo exhibit.

Made possible by The Connecticut Humanities Council, the Maximilian E. and Marian O. Hoffman Foundation, Mandell JCC, the Jewish Historical Society, Jewish Community Foundation and the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

Family History on the Road Oral History Project



The Society has received a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation and a generous donation from Jeffrey Hoffman to embark on an exciting new project entitled "Family History on the Road." The Society will provide the necessary tools and training for Jewish educators in area synagogues and day schools to teach students how to conduct and document their family history. Last month, two consultants from the Jewish Women's Archive, Brookline, MA, came to present an oral history workshop to educators from The Emanuel Synagogue, Congregation Beth Israel, Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation-Emek Shalom, Beth El Temple, Hebrew High School of New England, and JT Connect. A curriculum and handbook guide for teachers and students

will be developed. Michaelee Merritt, project coordinator, will work closely with the educators, guiding them through the process. This first year will be a pilot phase with 5-6 institutions committed to introducing the program in the late fall. Hopefully, we expect the project to grow in scope and number as time progresses. We are very excited to announce that the **Family History Collection Hoffman Archive** will be the JHS repository for the documented family histories that the students will collect. We have inspiring goals for *Family History on the Road* - promoting family and generational continuity, learning the importance of preserving family stories for future generations and connecting past and present life experiences - valuable lessons for the students and their families.



Jewish Refugees in Shanghai (1933-1941)

犹太难民在上海 (1933-1941)

A Journey of Hope for
More Than 18,000 Jews to China
November 1 – December 1, 2016
Mandell JCC Gallery

In partnership with JFact and Confucius Institute at Central Connecticut State University, Greater Hartford Jewish Federation and Jewish Historical Society

JHS and Congregation Beth Israel Co-Sponsor

"The 1843 Petition for Jewish Religious Equality"

A Talk by Mary M. Donohue

Friday, September 9th
7:30 pm

Congregation Beth Israel
701 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Connecticut's State Constitution of 1818 deliberately excluded Jewish congregations. Mary M. Donohue, Assistant Publisher for Connecticut Explored magazine, will explain the Jewish community's 1843 petition to the Connecticut General Assembly for full religious equality, as they fought for the right to own property and build synagogues.

From the Director

Dear Friends,

I hope your summer was relaxing and enjoyable. Hopefully, you had a chance to stop by the John Meyer Exhibit at the Mandell JCC Gallery. Listening to visitor's happy memories of wearing these favorite 60's fashions was very rewarding! We greatly appreciate the Norwich Slater Memorial Museum loaning us this exhibit.

This past June, the Society experienced some changes, bringing new faces to the office and organization. Bea Brodie, project manager for ten years, retired. Bea skillfully and efficiently handled numerous administrative details with dedication and compassion and I am very grateful for her invaluable support and friendship throughout the years. We are delighted that Lynn Newman, former Renbrook School librarian for 29 years, has joined us as the new project administrator. Our archivist, Sara Hawran, also left in May to accept a full-time position at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. We are happy to announce that Jeanne Lowrey, a Society intern experienced with our database, has taken on the position. Our extremely committed and supportive president, Sandra Rulnick, has handed over her fob and files to our new president, Gary Schwartz. I look forward to working with Gary and our new Board members, Alan Berkowitz, Michael Fishman, Gary Jones and Rebecca Selig.

With the upcoming volume "Jewish Community of Hartford" coming out in a few weeks, as well as working on exciting and innovative programs, such as the 45th Anniversary Gala, the Society staff is keeping busy! We look forward to seeing you at the Gala on October 30, an evening you won't want to miss! Co-chairs Abbey Kreinik and Sandra Rulnick, along with a stellar committee have been working hard with many fabulous details. Please invite your friends and family, forward our e-blasts and website information. We count on and appreciate your support to sustain the organization and ensure the history of OUR community is preserved for the future!

Wishing you a very Happy and Healthy New Year! *LaShana Tova!*

Estelle



From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

I was thrilled to step into the role of archivist this May. As some of you may know, I have been interning here at the Society since August of 2014, entering information into our collection database to help facilitate searching. I have loved getting to know the Greater Hartford Jewish Community as I've worked with our collections, and I look forward to continuing to learn as I settle into this new role.

We have received quite a few new acquisitions in the past few months. Debra Wilder brought us a box of wonderful material from the Emanuel Young People's League that were collected by her mother, Sylvia B. Eisenberg. Helen Weisel donated a scrapbook of religious school activities, also at the Emanuel, that had been given to her husband Alfred by Rabbi Morris Silverman, and Gloria Bein gave us a box with the ashes from a mortgage burning ceremony at the Emanuel! Sue Bergen dropped off scrapbook pages documenting the affairs of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism and Gail Zieky Karasik donated a photograph of the founders of Agudas Achim. Dr. Louis Brown gave us the transcript from an 1980 interview with Rabbi Hans Bodenheimer from a Holocaust Survivors project at the University of Connecticut. Craig Banks added to his family's papers with documentation of his relatives' war service. Helga Allweiss brought in various program books for graduations and dinners from the Hebrew Academy, Hebrew High School, and Chabad. We've also received several more video interviews with area Holocaust Survivors. Thank you so much for these documents, and keep them coming!

I have also been responding to a wide variety of reference requests, a number of which involved the historic farms documented in our collection. Several researchers have also come into the office to work. This steady stream is proof that people are learning about the Society as a resource and are taking advantage of our unique collections, which are available for research by appointment. If you are interested in donating your own materials, please let us know! We would be glad to preserve your family's history.

Take care! Hope to meet you soon!

Jeanne

MEET OUR NEW ARCHIVIST: JEANNE LOWREY

Jeanne had a love of history from an early age. Her first taste of archival work came while volunteering at the Burlington [CT] Local History Room during high school. She attended Smith College, majoring in American Studies and completing an Archives Concentration. She has interned at the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C., and worked at the Smith College Archives for two years. Jeanne joined JHSGH shortly after graduation, and is currently working towards a master's degree from Simmons College in Library & Information Science, focusing on Archival Management.

Jeanne is particularly passionate about preserving the stories and records of groups often overlooked or undervalued in mainstream society. She is thrilled that JHSGH exists to help fill in some of the gaps, and would love to help expand the collection's reach throughout the Greater Hartford region to capture the diversity of Jewish experience of the area.

You can reach Jeanne at 860-727-6173 or jlowrey@jewishhartford.org.

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:

Husband, Irving Bein

Gloria Bein

Kopel and Sarah Seidman

Arnold and Hermia Aronson

Our parents

Susan and Allan Viner

Benjamin Kostin

Eileen and Elliott Pollack

Bess and Sidney Koppell

Martin Koppell

Beatrice Schneider Greenberg

Gary and Joan Greenberg

Harry Meier

Susan and Allan Viner

Lisa and Gary Schwartz

In honor of:

61st wedding anniversary of Margaret and Robert

Lesser

Margaret Lesser

The retirement of Bea Brodie

Susan Viner

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ronald and Brina Abrahams

Alan Berkowitz

Irma Fay Carter

Michael Fishman

Barry Goldberg

Gary D. Jones

Michalee Merritt

June Rosenblatt

Charles Rotenberg

Rebecca Selig

Phyllis Winkler

We are looking for volunteers who can help with filing our archival material. If you are interested, please contact Jeanne for more information.

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.

Dr. Louis and Trudy Brown

Eleanor Caplan

Elaine Charendoff

David and Rochelle Fierston

Coleman and Judie Levy

Arthur and Reba Nassau

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.

Steven and Deborah Kleinman

JOIN THE PRESERVATION OR HERITAGE SOCIETIES

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 or the Heritage Society, please contact Estelle at 860 727-6171 or ekafer@jewishhartford.org.

IN MEMORIAM

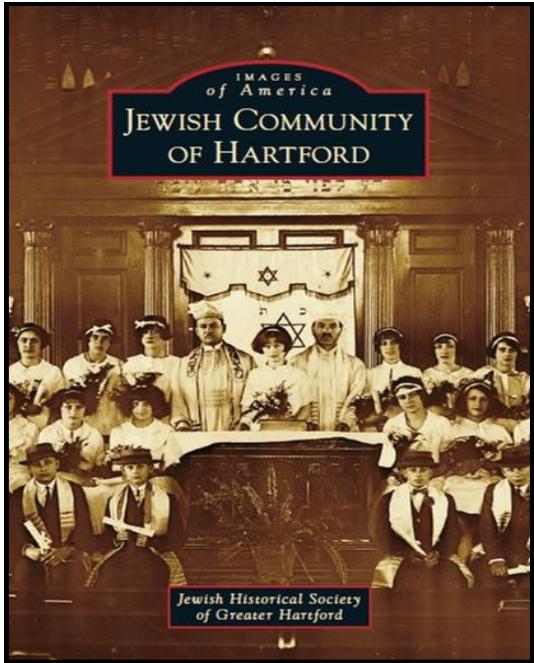


David Borden

David Chase

Harry Meier

Mickey Weinstein



Order *Images of America: Jewish Community of Hartford* today!

Cost: \$23.50 plus \$5 for shipping

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of copies: _____ Total: \$ _____

Also available online starting September 15th at
<http://www.jhsgh.org/books.html#arcadiabook>

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Zachs Campus
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