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\*\* DECEASED

G R E A T E R H A R T F O R D  
**HERITAGE**  
Fall 2017

The Catskills of Connecticut:  
Remembering the Jewish Summer Retreats



Postcard from Banner Lodge, Moodus, Connecticut, "Connecticut's Most Popular Resort," mailed August 1964. Back of card reads: "Wish you were here! Having a wonderful time. You can too, by making reservations now for either Guest-Staff Reunion Week August 23-30 or Labor Day & Rosh Hashanah Holidays. Sincerely, The Banner Family"

**Presentation with Ken Simon**

**November 9, 2017**  
**7:00 PM**

Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117

*Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford*

**Come share your stories and photos of these Jewish resorts!**  
More information inside.

**Tuesday, October 24th: Opening of Photo Exhibit**

Connecticut Jewish Resorts exhibit will be on display at the Society office through  
March 2018.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

# President's Message

Dear Board Members, Members and Our Generous Community,

With the tragic events and loss of life seen in Charlottesville, we see the importance of our mission to capture for future generations the good, the bad, and the ugly. History repeats itself, so it is no surprise that we once again see neo-Nazis and other hate groups marching with tiki torches and chanting "Jews Will Not Replace Us" and "Blood and Soil". It is important for future generations to be able to see how our local leaders and institutions responded. The society collects and documents these events so future researchers can study them.

Recently, we created board committees to be able to focus on goals to further our mission and support Estelle and her hard working staff of Jeanne and Lynn. Both the Programming and Archiving Committees have met with strong attendance, identified goals, generated new, engaging ideas and generated action plans to move forward to implement those goals. The Archiving Committee will be looking at ways to update our software, digitize more of our oral histories, photographs and records, while generating clear policies to educate our community on what we do collect and what we do not collect.

We welcome our new board members: Denise Brody, David Diamond, Philip Handler, Ellen Lescher, Lisa Levy, and Michalee Merritt. We have been fortunate to add a wonderful group of interested and engaged individuals. Most notably is the fact that we have brought on people that will allow us to reach out to new geographic areas, new synagogues, and new organizations. This will help us to further our goals of generating more awareness of our mission, of the resources we have to serve our community, and our desire to collaborate with other institutions and organizations. We are also excited to welcome Lance Goldberg as the new JHS Vice President.

We want to thank our community for their support this year in making so many of our programs successful with strong attendance and generating new members. We need your continued support to bring family and friends to our programs, encourage others to become members, and for all of you to continue to make your generous donations and think of us in your estate plans. Growing our endowment is important so we can continue to share your accomplishments with future generations of your families and our community.

I, and all of us at JHS, want to wish you a happy and healthy New Year as the Jewish Holidays fast approach.

Thank you again for all you do.

*Gary R. Schwartz*

President

## F A L L   2 0 1 7   C A L E N D A R

### Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 12:15 pm

"The Revolution, the Constitution and American Jews" Brunch and Learn Program with Prof. Avinoam Patt Co-sponsored with JCC Senior Adult Program Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue. WH

### Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 7:00 pm

JHSGH 2018 Eastern Europe Trip information session with Professor Sam Kassow  
*Community Services Building*

### Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 6:30 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
*Community Services Building*

### Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 2:00 pm

Jewish Community of Hartford book talk with Estelle Kafer  
*Simsbury Public Library, 725 Hopmeadow St, Simsbury*

### Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2017 1:00 pm

"Jewish Farmers of Eastern Connecticut" presentation by Mary Donohue  
Co-sponsored with Congregation Beth Israel SAGE group  
*Congregation Beth Israel, 701 Farmington Avenue, WH*

### Monday, Oct. 16, 2017 7:00 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
*Community Services Building*

### Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2017 2:00 pm

Haven Film & Discussion with Edee Tenser  
Co-sponsored with Avon Public Library  
*281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT*

### Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017 7:00 pm

"Moving to the Suburbs: The Challenges of Fair Housing in Jewish West Hartford" A panel discussion  
Co-sponsored with The Emanuel Synagogue Adult Education  
*The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive WH*

### Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017 7:00 pm

"The Catskills of Connecticut" with Ken Simon, filmmaker and publisher  
*Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue. WH*

### Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017 7:00 pm

Family History Project with The Emanuel Synagogue  
7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes  
*The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive WH*

### Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017 7:00 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
*Community Services Building*

### Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017 7:00 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
*Community Services Building*

Find us on

facebook 

[www.facebook.com/jhsght/](http://www.facebook.com/jhsght/)

twitter

[@jhshartford](http://twitter.com/jhshartford)



Instagram

[www.instagram.com/jhshartford/](http://www.instagram.com/jhshartford/)

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!

Last few weeks to see

## From Haven To Home Exhibit



On Display until September 24<sup>th</sup>

**Monday - Saturday:** 9 am - 6 pm  
**Sunday:** 9 am - 3 pm



## The Revolution, the Constitution and American Jews

Wednesday, September 13, 2017  
12:15 pm

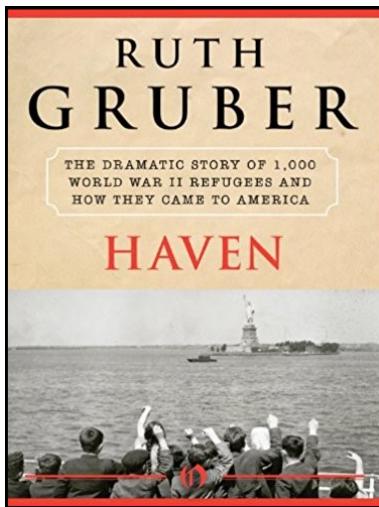
Join us for a Bagel Brunch & Learn program with Professor Avinoam Patt. Guided tours of the *From Haven to Home* exhibit, will be available after the program.

Cost: \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members and walk-ins. Pre-registration closes September 8<sup>th</sup>. Make checks payable to JHSGH and mail to 333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT or pay online with Paypal at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org).

*Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and the JCC Senior Adult Program*

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

## Haven Film & Discussion with Edee Tenser



**Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 2:00 pm**  
Avon Public Library, 281 Country Club Road, Avon, CT

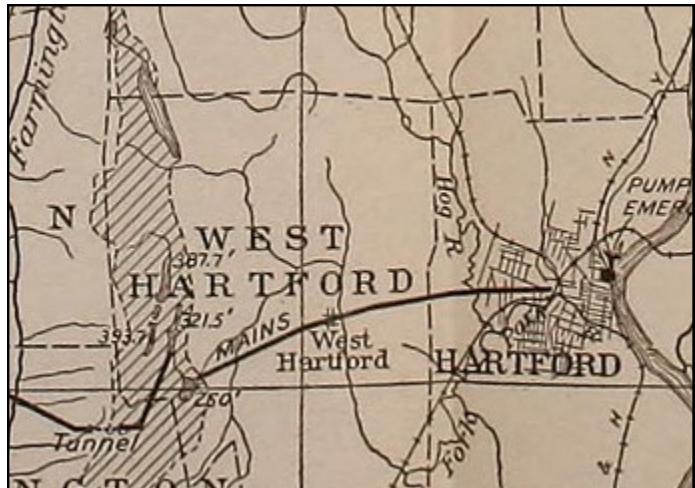
*Haven* tells the true, inspiring story of the efforts of Ruth Gruber to save almost a thousand Christian and Jewish refugees from war by bringing them across the Atlantic to New York and grant them safe haven from the Holocaust. Educator Edee Tenser, who specializes in social justice, humanities and human rights, and the lessons of the Holocaust, will lead a discussion following the film.

No registration is required, for more information please call the Avon Public Library at 860-673-9712 or visit [www.avonctlibrary.info](http://www.avonctlibrary.info).

*Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and Avon Public Library*



## Moving to the Suburbs: The Challenges of Fair Housing in Jewish West Hartford



**Thursday, November 2, 2017  
7:00 pm**

**The Emanuel Synagogue  
160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford, CT**

**Panel Discussion:** How did restrictive covenants and religious discrimination shape our neighborhoods in the past and present?

Tracey Wilson, West Hartford Town Historian

Dr. Jack Dougherty, Trinity College

Mary Donohue, Connecticut Explored Assistant Publisher

*Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and The Emanuel Synagogue*

We had marvelous turnouts for our spring & summer programs! Here are some pictures we snapped for the archives!



In March, Jeffrey Hoffman, Michalee Merritt, Estelle Kafer, and Gary Schwartz officially dedicated the Family History Collection of the Hoffman Archives.



Ted Merwin spoke on March 28<sup>th</sup> about the delicious history of the Jewish deli as we noshed on sandwiches from Crown Market.



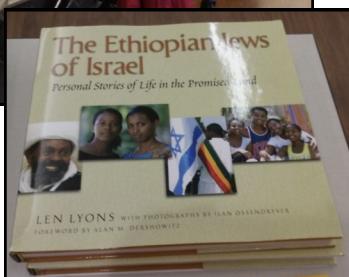
Andrée Aelion Brooks lectured on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at The Emanuel about the Jews of Spain as we enjoyed a Spanish style kosher meal.



We learned about some of the earliest Jewish American history on our April 30<sup>th</sup> bus trip to Touro Synagogue in Newport, RI.



As part of the Mandell JCC's Israel Week, we screened the film *Bal Ej: The Hidden Jews of Ethiopia* by Irene Orleansky, and Len Lyons spoke on the topic on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

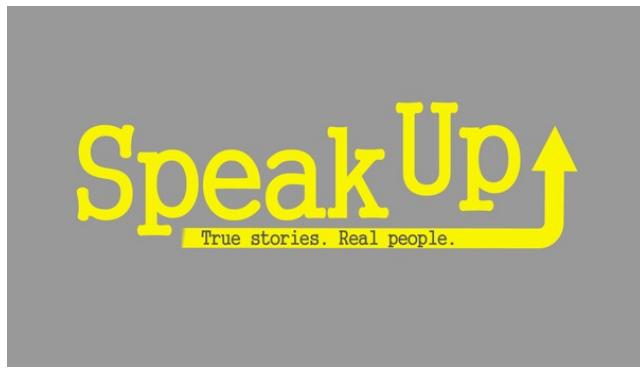


Once again our gracious hosts welcomed us on our Hartford Bus Tour on May 21st.

Bennett Muraskin spoke at our Annual Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> on the history of Jews in American sports. We also welcomed six new board members: David Diamond, Lisa Levy, Michalee Merritt, Ellen Lescher, Philip Handler, and Denise Brodey (not pictured).

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Speak Up Storytelling Workshop *Growing up in West Hartford*



with Matthew Dicks

A workshop to learn how to craft your story.

**Workshop:**

Sunday, March 4, 2018, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
(pre-registration required)

**Speak Up Showcase:**

Thursday April 26, 2018, 7:00 pm

*Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society*

A bus trip

### *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, restaurants, synagogues, and more!

*Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and The Emanuel Synagogue*



### *The Catskills of Connecticut: Remembering the Jewish Summer Retreats*

**November 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm**

**Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT**  
*Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society*

**\$5 Members, \$7 Non-Members & Walk Ins**

From the late 1880s through the early 20th century, Jewish urban workers and their families came to Connecticut farms as summer boarders looking for rest and relaxation in the countryside. City dwellers flocked by steamboat, rail, and later car to numerous boarding houses, camps, cottage colonies, and resorts in Connecticut. Over time, many Jewish farmers developed thriving resorts in Colchester, Moodus, Lebanon, and East Haddam. Places like Banner Lodge, Levy's Grand View, and Dember's featured swimming pools, dance halls, and stage entertainment. So many people came in towns like Moodus that the vacationers doubled their population for the season. In the 1960s, lower airfare and changing vacation habits doomed the country resorts. Most have been demolished; others have found a new life as religious retreats, a 4-H camp, and RV/camping sites. Ken Simon, filmmaker and historian of Connecticut's ethnic resorts, will examine the phenomena that created "The Catskills of Connecticut". **Those with memories of the resorts are invited to share stories and photos during a discussion following Simon's lecture.**

Simon grew up on his family's farm in Moodus, delivering eggs produced by their 55,000 Rhode Island Reds to the surrounding resorts. He later worked as a resort golf caddy, soda jerk, and lifeguard. The eggs laid by the birds paid for Simon's education at Syracuse University, where he received a degree in television/film/radio. His career includes publishing and editing weekly alternative newspapers, working as a freelance editorial and marketing consultant, and producing/writing/directing Emmy winning public television programs.

# From the Director

Dear Friends,

In the past few months we have been saddened to hear of the closing of Temple Beth Tefilah in East Hartford, Beth El Synagogue in Torrington and Beth Hillel Synagogue in Bloomfield.

What will happen to the history of these once vibrant Jewish houses of worship? Unfortunately, all across the nation many synagogues are struggling to survive due to declining membership and, in some areas, an aging population. As the national shift of the younger generation seems to be turning away from religious participation, the responsibility of keeping the faith and traditions alive is falling to a dwindling older generation.

It is very emotional and heartbreak for founding synagogue families to think their decades-long unique history will be lost and forgotten. As our Jewish community's repository, the Society is here to accept, safeguard, and preserve this historic material within our archive. These items can include synagogue programs, newsletters/bulletins, scrapbooks, flyers, newspaper articles, milestone event booklets, photographs and more. The history of every synagogue is important and valuable as it documents the contributions these institutions have made to their communities and beyond. Most importantly, by contributing their historic records to the Society archive, institutions can be reassured knowing that their legacy will be acknowledged for descendants and future generations.

It is also vital that we document family history. Your family's story – stories of visiting Connecticut summer resorts, stories of moving to the suburbs, of growing up in West Hartford and family food stories and recipes will all be the focus of many of the Society's projects and programming this coming year. Please join us to share your anecdotes, listen to our community voices, and discover how to document, preserve and write your memoir and/or family history in upcoming workshops we will offer.

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest and I hope you will continue to invite your friends and family to events and to our website and Facebook page.

A new year brings us enthusiastic new board members, exciting initiatives, inspiring programs, and always insightful learning about Jewish history!

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy and Healthy New Year,

*Estelle*



## From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

It sure has been a busy summer! Two new interns are working to process collections and enter information into our archival database. Their work helps us gain a stronger understanding of what is stored inside the boxes, which helps us to better assist those looking to use our materials. We have had a constant stream of requests, both over e-mail and in person, from people looking to use our wonderful archival collections. Researchers have looked at a variety of items, particularly our extensive oral history collection. Several families of Holocaust survivors have contacted us looking for interviews conducted with their loved ones decades ago. It is extremely gratifying to share the contents of our collections with these individuals. The ability to bridge the gap between generations is one of my favorite aspects of archival work. Seeing how much these interviews mean to the families really illustrates the importance of everything we do to collect today's history for our children and grandchildren.

A number of new items and artifacts have arrived since the spring. Susan Viner gave us several volumes of *The Chronicle*, a student publication of Hartford Public High School and Weaver High. Jeff Granoff donated a Liberty potato sack from Harry Liebman's farm in Ellington, which was found in a house for sale in New Haven! Charlotte Berman gave us two prints. Marlene Scharr sent us a beautiful woolen scarf from G. Fox. Elliott Donn brought in new additions to our existing documentation of the Jewish War Veterans Post #45. Michael Cohen gave us a scrapbook made by his mother, Emma Cohen, documenting the organization of youth services with United Synagogue Youth (USY) at The Emanuel Synagogue. Arline & David Wolansky donated an assortment of materials related to the Hartford Yeshiva as well as the *ketubah* of Sam Smith. Our biggest donation came from Joyce Peck of Beth El Synagogue in Torrington, which closed this summer. The collection contains decades' worth of newsletters, programs from various events, and numerous photo albums. While we are sad to see another synagogue close, I thank them for having the foresight to ensure that their records and history will be safely preserved.

We always love receiving your materials from the past. But don't forget, document your own life in the Jewish community and share it with us, don't assume that someone else is doing it! The time to act is now, before papers get thrown away and the people who know the answers to our questions are no longer with us. As the saying goes, if not now, when?

Feel free to e-mail me at [jlowrey@jewishhartford.org](mailto:jlowrey@jewishhartford.org) for questions about research or donation of material. You may also visit the archives section of our website, located at <http://www.jhsgh.org/collections.html>, to discover descriptions (known as finding aids) of some of our collections, as well as additional information regarding the types of materials we collect. See you in the archives!

*Jeanne*

# 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:***

*Bernice Bader*  
Fern Blood

*Father of Deborah Feigenbaum*  
Nathan and Miriam Bassok

*Doris Golinsky*  
Elliott B. Pollack

*Ronald Kaplan Jacobs*  
Elizabeth and James Huebener

*Bess and Sidney Koppell*  
Martin Koppell

*Lillian Bayer Marlow*  
Barbara Arion  
Judith Bayer  
Lieba and Victor Bernstein  
Eleanor Caplan  
Benjamin Daniels  
Joan Marlow Golan  
Irma Menschell  
Ana Oman  
Barbara Rayburn and Family  
Greta M. Rubinow  
Amy Lynn Silverman

*Mother, Mollie G. Pollack*  
Elliott Pollack

*Faye Rosenthal*  
Susan and Allan Viner

*Mary Rutenberg*  
Gideon Rutenberg

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

*Estelle Kafer*  
Gloria Bein  
Nancy A. Kramer

*Ted Madfis's 90th birthday*  
Madge and Tom Conway  
Sheila and Bud Jacobs

*The marriage of our daughter*  
*Cynthia to Dr. Brian Acker*  
Dr. Norman and Denese Mann

*Arthur and Reba's 60th anniversary*  
*and Reba's special birthday*  
Lauren and Steven Nassau

*Reba and Art Nassau's 60th*  
*wedding anniversary*  
Eleanor Caplan  
Michael and Naomi Cohen  
Barbara and David Klau  
Joseph and Joan Segal

*Ruth Solomkin*  
Joan Walden and Jake  
Mendelsohn

## ***General Contributions:***

Michael and Evelyn Fishman  
Marilyn Lassow  
Steven and Leslie Neiditz  
Edith Meade and Irving  
Shiffman  
Bruce Putterman and Teri Bayer  
Joel Wind and Al Munzer

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Selma Gordon, Mother of Nancy Gordon  
Robert H. Gross, Sr.  
Lillian Bayer Marlow

## **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 or the Heritage Society, please contact Estelle at 860.727.6171 or [ekaf@jewishhartford.org](mailto:ekaf@jewishhartford.org).

## **HERITAGE SOCIETY**

We are immensely grateful to the following individuals for their generous support at the \$1800 level.

*Dr. Louis and Trudy Brown*  
*Steven and Deborah Kleinman*  
*Morton L. Weinstein and Stacy R. Nerenstone, MD*

## **PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

We are immensely grateful to the following individuals for their generous support at the \$1000 level.

*Eleanor Caplan*  
*Rochelle and David Fierston*  
*Arthur and Reba Nassau*  
*Gerald Roisman*

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Denise Brodey  
Harriet Cutler & David Bass, MD  
Lenore Blank  
Shifra & Gary Bykoff  
Dr. Michael Feldberg  
Elinor Flink  
Rona Gollob  
Leonie Goodfriend  
Joan Grey  
Norman Hecht

Renee M. Janow  
Harvey Jassem  
Tini Koss  
Leon Laufer  
Lisa Levy  
Theodore Madfis  
Sandra Needelman  
Greta M. Rubinow  
Barbara Ungar  
Janet C. Wallans

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

Society Hours Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm

(860) 727-6170

# Delicious Memories: A New Food Blog

*Coming soon to the JHSGH website!*



*Luckman Family Passover 1952  
Photo from Nancy Luckman Jacobson*

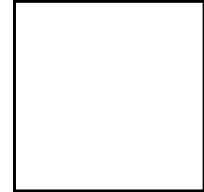
Food is part of our identity. Every family has a story about food, a favorite recipe or a treasured photo of eating or cooking together. By preserving these favorite memories we are creating family and community history and connecting the generations.

## We want your family's food stories and scanned photos!

We are looking for stories about traditions, favorite recipes, celebrations, holidays, etc. and your own photos to go with them. These collected stories and photos will be posted on our new blog very soon.

**Please send your submissions to Lynn Newman at [lnewman@jewishhartford.org](mailto:lnewman@jewishhartford.org).**

Zachs Campus  
JHSGH  
333 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117



# DISCOVER YOUR JEWISH HERITAGE

## Explore the Richness of Jewish Life in Vilnius, Prague, Warsaw and Krakow

**JULY 15-27, 2018**

**\$4,299 per person**

*(Land price only)*

**INFORMATION SESSION:  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 AT 7PM**

Jewish Historical Society of  
Greater Hartford  
Community Services Building  
333 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford

*Please Join the*  
**Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford**  
on their 4th community-wide trip led by  
Professor Samuel Kassow of Trinity College



### **TRIP INCLUDES:**

- Airport transfers upon arrival & departure
- 3 nights in Vilnius
- 3 nights in Prague (Shabbat)
- 3 nights in Krakow
- 2 nights in Warsaw
- Breakfast daily, some lunches and dinners
- All touring with a local licensed English speaking guide in an air-conditioned motor coach
- All transfers & entrance fees per itinerary

### **TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Lectures by Dr. Kassow
- Tour the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw
- Tour of the former Warsaw Ghetto
- Nozyk Synagogue
- Krakow Synagogues
- Tour of Historic Josefov
- Alt-Neu Synagogue, Pinkas & Maisel Synagogues
- Vilnius Choral Synagogue

*Itinerary is subject to change*

*Not Included: Airfare, gratuities and travel insurance*



### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Estelle Kafer**  
Executive Director  
Jewish Historical Society  
of Greater Hartford  
(860) 727-6171  
[jhsgh@jewishhartford.org](mailto:jhsgh@jewishhartford.org)

**Fay deHaas, CTA**  
Travel Consultant  
Kreative World Travel  
(860) 206-8244  
[fdehaas@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:fdehaas@cruiseplanners.com)

Dr. Samuel Kassow is the Charles H. Northam Professor of History at Trinity College. He holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University and lectures locally and nationally.

Currently he is a consultant to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. Dr Kassow has lectured and taught in Russia, Poland, Israel, Lithuania and Mexico. He is the author of multiple publications including *Who Will Write Our History – Rediscovering a Hidden Archive from the Warsaw Ghetto*.



**SPACE IS LIMITED – CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT**