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ESTELLE KAHER

* NEW BOARD MEMBER
** DECEASED

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

FALL 2017 CALENDAR

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 7th and 8th 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



www.facebook.com/jhshgct/



twitter.com/jhshartford
or [@jhshartford](https://twitter.com/jhshartford)



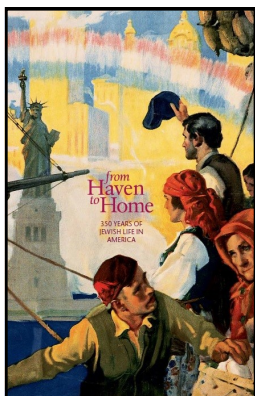
Instagram

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 24th

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



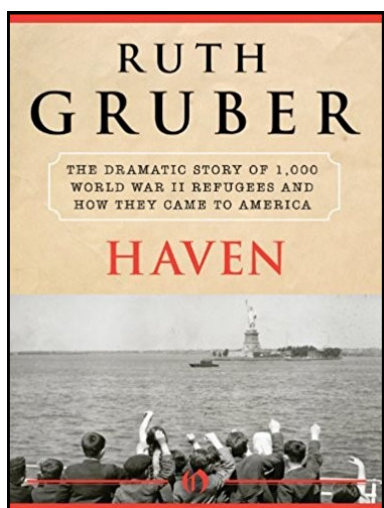
Join us for a Bagel Brunch & Learn program with Professor Avinoam Patt. Guided tours of the *From Haven to Home* exhibit, will be available after the program.

Cost: \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members and walk-ins. Pre-registration closes September 8th. Make checks payable to JHSGH and mail to 333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT or pay online with Paypal at www.jhsg.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.

Haven Film & Discussion with Edee Tenser



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

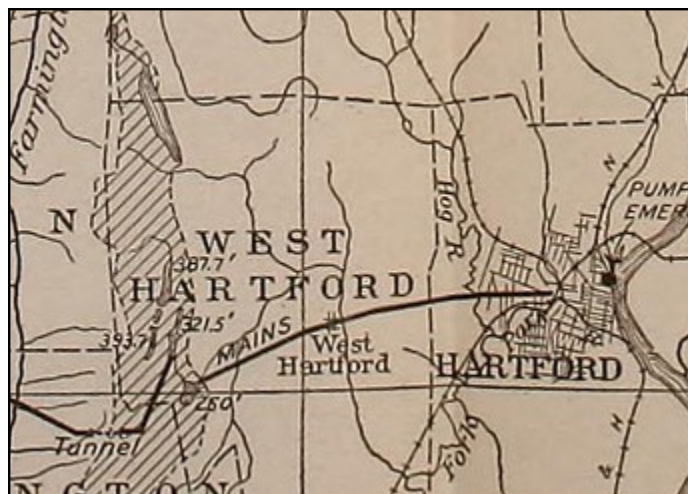
Haven tells the true, inspiring story of the efforts of Ruth Gruber to save almost a thousand Christian and Jewish refugees from war by bringing them across the Atlantic to New York and grant them safe haven from the Holocaust. Educator Edee Tenser, who specializes in social justice, humanities and human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

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 28th about the delicious history of the Jewish deli as we noshed on sandwiches from Crown Market.



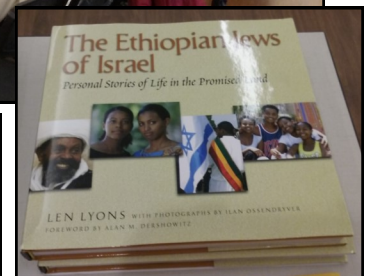
Andrée Aelion Brooks lectured on April 2nd at The Emanuel about the Jews of Spain as we enjoyed a Spanish style kosher meal.



We learned about some of the earliest Jewish American history on our April 30th 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 2nd.



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



Bennett Muraskin spoke at our Annual Meeting on June 12th 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

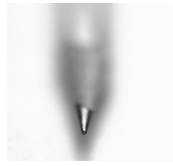
Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society

\$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 heartbreaking 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 for questions about research or donation of material. You may also visit the archives section of our website, located at <http://www.jhsg.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

Mendelssohn

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

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.

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

IN MEMORIAM



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

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

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*

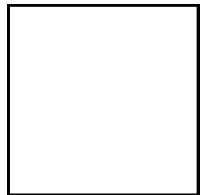
Food is part of our identity. Every family has a story about food, a favorite recipe or a treasured photo of eating or cooking together. By preserving these favorite memories we are creating family and community history and connecting the generations.

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 our new blog very soon.

Please send your submissions to Lynn Newman at newman@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

Fay deHaas, CTA
Travel Consultant
Kreative World Travel
(860) 206-8244
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