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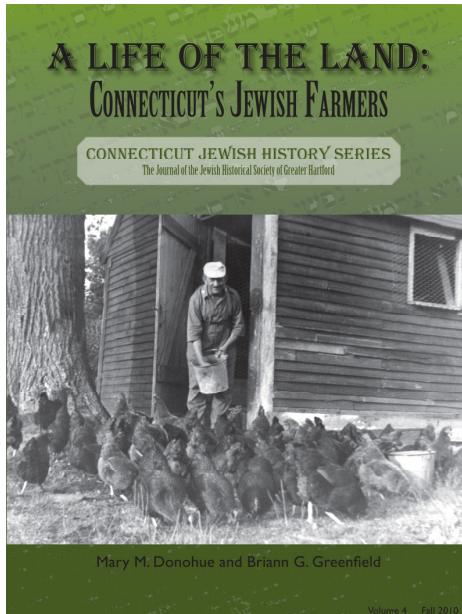
HERITAGE

Fall 2010

A Life of the Land: Connecticut Jewish Farmers

Wednesday, November 17, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

Chase Gallery, Mandell Jewish Community Center



A new journal, the fourth in the Connecticut Jewish History Series, focusing on the lives of Jewish farmers in Connecticut has just been published by the Society, with funding from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. Co-edited by Mary M. Donohue, Architectural Historian, Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and Briann G. Greenfield, Associate Professor of Public History at Central Connecticut State University, it begins historically with the migration of Eastern European Jews through America's cities and then to the Connecticut countryside. Why Connecticut? How did these immigrants operate successful enterprises with little or no farming experience? Who and what helped support and sustain them? The story of the resilience and perseverance of these Jewish farmers and how they impacted their communities is told through historical data, oral history interviews and unique photo essays.

Please join us for the launch of this journal on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chase Gallery, Mandell Jewish Community Center, to purchase the book and meet the editors. Free and open to the public.

JEWS OF CUBA

Co-sponsored by The Emanuel Synagogue

Sunday, October 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

Please join us for a fascinating look at the history and culture of Cuban Jewry, as a continuation of the Society's popular Jews Around the World series. The talk will be given by Enrique Levy, a Sephardic Jew born in Cuba of Turkish parents. Mr. Levy has led several groups from The Jewish Theological Seminary to the island.

The program will be followed by a dessert reception. Cost for the evening is: \$15.00 per person for JHSGH and Emanuel members, and \$18.00 per person for non-members. More information to follow.



President's Letter



I assumed the presidency of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford with a great deal of pride, excitement and a strong commitment to the continuity of our Jewish heritage. Our future is rooted in our past—and it is the future which matters so much.

As my grandchildren query me more and more about our family, it becomes even clearer to me that it is my responsibility to be able to answer these questions. There is no better way to do that than to be part of the Jewish Historical Society; become familiar with our archives, attend our events, and most importantly—add to these archives with your own memories and memorabilia.

There are so many wonderful events being planned for the coming year. This fall and winter be inspired by Father Patrick Desbois, discover the history and culture of the Jews of Cuba, visit the Jewish Museum and the magnificent Temple Emanu-El in New York, learn about Jewish farming in Connecticut, and videotape or write (or both) your memories as a gift to yourself and your family. In the spring there will be even more programs to enjoy.

I look forward to working with our Board members, our general membership and our outstanding Executive Director, Estelle Kafer and her staff. One of my goals is to increase our membership. It's a great gift for your children or grandchildren. I want to turn the pages of history and add a few pages of my own.

My warmest wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gordon

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

September 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting, CSB

September 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

An Evening with Father Patrick Desbois, author of *Holocaust by Bullets*, Lincoln Theater, University of Hartford
Tickets can be purchased by calling 800-274-8587.

October 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Pride, Honor and Courage: Jewish Women Remember World War II, Wilde Auditorium, University of Hartford

October 14 & 28, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

From Memory to Memoir: Writing Your Life Story, a two session workshop led by Susan Omilian, CSB

October 14, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Eastern European Trip Slide Show Presentation, The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

October 19, 2010 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. OR October 24, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Share Your Story with a video keepsake from YOUR STORY: TAKE ONE!, CSB

October 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Jews of Cuba, The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

November 11, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.

New York City Bus Trip to the Jewish Museum and historic Temple Emanu-El, bus departs from CSB

November 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

A Life of the Land: Connecticut Jewish Farmers Book Launch, Chase Gallery, Mandell JCC

EASTERN EUROPEAN TRIP

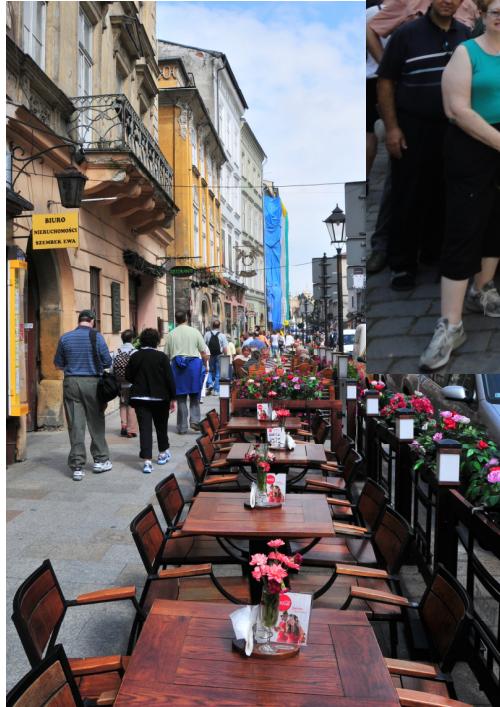
What an amazing journey we had! Trip participants included: Maxine and Manny Lerman, James and Diane Friedman, Laura Berlin and Dr. Fred Gladstone, Galya and Dr. Jonathan Greenberg, Ann and David Brandwein, Estelle Kafer, Jeffrey and Llyn Kaimowitz, Martin and Dorine Toyen, Honey Sue and Joe Springut, Fay deHaas, Dr. Samuel Kassow, Edith Mavor, Rabbi David Small, Robin Shapiro, Sam Shapiro, and Claudia Lieberman and Andrew Epstein from New York.



Last remnant of Ghetto wall,
Warsaw



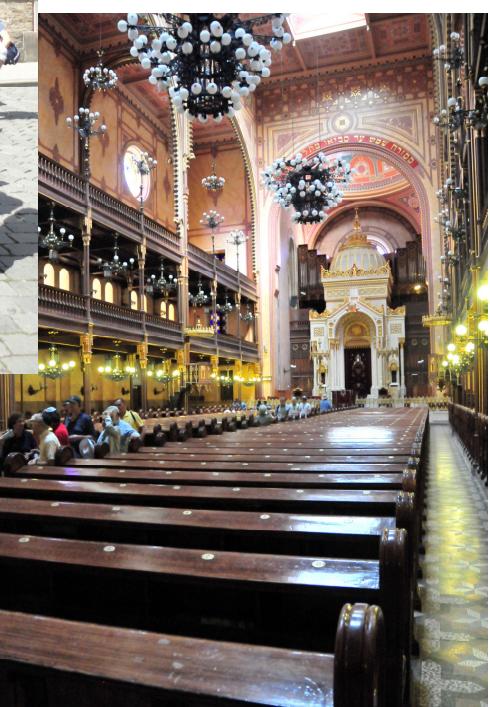
Nozyk Synagogue, Warsaw



Walking the old Jewish quarter of Krakow



Trip Participants



Dohany Synagogue, Budapest

Please check out our
trip blog at <http://easterneuropejourney.wordpress.com>

VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT TRAINING

Tuesday, September 21, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

In conjunction with the national Veterans History Project, we will sponsor a training for those interested in conducting oral history interviews with war veterans in our Jewish community.

Please join us on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. to learn how to interview this special group. The session will be lead by Eileen Hurst, Project Director at Central Connecticut State University, which is an archive partner with the United States Library of Congress. The interviews will be housed in our archives, as well as at CCSU and the Library of Congress. If you are interested in participating, please contact Bea at 860-727-6170 or bbrodie@jewishhartford.org.

If you or someone you know has served in the armed forces and would like to be interviewed, please contact us.

RECONNECTING WITH NORTH END FRIENDS

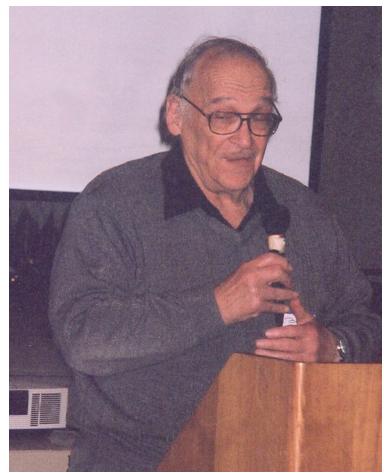
If you grew up in Hartford's North End, then The Emanuel Synagogue was the place to be on Thursday, May 6. Two special reunions were planned for that day by Board member and project chairman, Susan Justin Viner and her committee. The committee included: Harold Mindell, Marvin Lapuk, Marvin Schaffman, Barbara Coopersmith Siskin, Joel Mandell, Joan Hyne



Dan Blume shares his memories of growing up in the North End

Suppin, Jeff Rudolph, and Reba Levin Nassau. At 3:00 those who graduated from high school from the 1930s to the early 1950s met, and those who graduated from the mid 1950s to the 1970s came together in the evening. It was a time for laughing, chatting and reminiscing.

The Society's DVD of North End photos was shown to great enthusiasm and applause. Several former North End residents shared some of their own special memories and comedian Mike Jacobs added his humorous insights about being a Jewish kid growing up in the North End.



Barry Berson addresses the crowd to share his experiences

Neighborhood, Stories from Hartford's North End. When the book was first published in June 2009 the response was overwhelming. More than 500 people came to The Emanuel Synagogue for the book launch party. Now in its third printing, copies have been sent all over the country and orders still come in regularly. The Society is hoping to be able to collect additional stories about the North End, as well as other Hartford neighborhoods. Several people did bring their stories and photos with them to the reunion and we expect to receive many more.



Comedian Mike Jacobs performs for a crowd of North Enders

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT "REMEMBERING THE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS"?

If you would like to have your story or anecdote included in our new project about growing up in Hartford's neighborhoods, please write it down and send it to us. This is a unique opportunity to relive those special memories and share them with others who will enjoy and appreciate reading them.

For our latest oral history project, we're not only looking for North End stories, but we want to include vignettes about the South and West Ends of town. Don't worry about style—we're more interested in content. All material will be carefully edited for length and to avoid repetition. If you have any photos that you would be willing to share, we're happy to scan them into the computer and then return them to you. Don't be left out!

Please mail your material to: Bea Brodie, 333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117 or e-mail to:
bbrodie@jewishhartford.org

THE HOLOCAUST BY BULLETS

A PRIEST'S JOURNEY TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MURDER OF 1.5 MILLION JEWS

Using the Museum's archives to inform his search, Father Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest, is leading a historic undertaking to locate every mass grave and site at which Jews were killed in Ukraine and Belorussia during the Holocaust.

For more information on Father Desbois, visit www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/desbois

Monday, September 27

7 p.m.

University of Hartford
Lincoln Theater
200 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, Connecticut

Admission is \$8 per person; free for students. Donations are welcome and may be made when purchasing tickets. To purchase tickets, call 800.274.8587.

All proceeds go to the Fund for the Study of the Holocaust in the Soviet Union, which supports the work of Father Desbois.

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM ushmm.org



DEV1042A.PDF

For more information, contact the Museum's New England Regional Office at 202.488.6585 or newengland@ushmm.org.

THIS PROGRAM IS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Agudas Achim Synagogue
Anti-Defamation League, Connecticut Regional Office
Archdiocese of Hartford
Beth David Synagogue
Beth El Temple of West Hartford
Beth Hillel Synagogue
Central Connecticut State University Hillel
Congregation Beth Israel—Adult Learning Committee
Congregation Tikvoh Chadoshoh
The Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Hartford
Hartford Hillel Foundation
Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT)
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
Saint Joseph College
Trinity College Hillel
UConn Hillel
Voices of Hope
Yachad Greater Hartford Jewish Community High School

FAMILY HISTORY DAY

On Sunday, May 2, 2010, the Society sponsored Family History Day, a program designed to encourage and educate people about collecting and preserving their family's stories and treasures. We were delighted to have Arthur Kurzweil as our keynote speaker and as a workshop presenter. Mr. Kurzweil is America's foremost Jewish genealogist and the author of one of the definitive books on the subject, *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History*.

His address, *Jewish Genealogy as a Spiritual Pilgrimage* was both entertaining and inspiring, as he detailed his own search for his family's past—often with humorous results. He then taught sessions on advanced genealogy and on Holocaust research. Other workshops dealt with genealogy for beginners, memoir writing, oral history interviewing, preserving photos and documents, and scrapbooking. Marcy Cain and Bob Kagan of YOUR STORY—TAKE ONE! conducted several videotaped interviews during the course of the program. A number of organizations and businesses also took part in the Vendors' Showcase, which highlighted goods and services available for both the budding and experienced family historian.

We would like to thank the members of the Family History Day Committee for their assistance with this program: Marcy Cain, Judy C. Faust, Rebecca Furer, Tobey Gitelle, Georgia Haken, Betty Hoffman, Marcia Meyers, Doris Nabel, Arthur Nassau, and Maura Nemirov. The assistance of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Connecticut was most appreciated. We are also grateful to our sponsors for their support: Steven Kleinman, Roberta Tansman, and Susan and Allan Viner. The program was partially funded by a grant from the Sylvia and Lewis Sheketoff Family Fund at the Jewish Community Foundation and the Greater Hartford Arts Council, United Arts Campaign.

From the Director

Dear Friends,

I recently returned from the Society sponsored Eastern European Jewish journey. My mind is still spinning with the sights we witnessed, the history we learned and the emotions we felt as we experienced Warsaw, Krakow, Auschwitz/Birkenau, Prague and Budapest.

Everywhere our group of twenty-seven went, we were constantly reminded of a vibrant community that once existed, remnants of a rich culture left behind. Walking on cobblestoned alleyways, praying in 13th century synagogues, treading gently through miles of cemetery tombstones, standing amongst the ghetto perimeters, we listened to so many stories; accounts of heroism and bravery, courage and endurance, anguish and despair. But despite the heart wrenching images and horrific tales, we felt a spark of hope; an interest to learn more about the past. Young people in Poland, Prague and Budapest, questioning their heritage, are discovering a connection to the Jewish community that was once so much a part of their country's history.

In the course of ten days we connected to the generations of the past. We brought back their stories of hardship and resilience to be shared and retold, while reflecting and cherishing a journey to always remember! Please join us on October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at The Emanuel Synagogue for a slide presentation of the trip.

I hope you will take advantage of our fall season full of activities and programs. Don't miss the opportunity to preserve your family's history. Schedule a taping or workshop to record your story for your children and grandchildren. Come listen to the fascinating history of the Jews of Cuba and, closer to home, Connecticut's Jewish farmers.

As we celebrate the Jewish New Year, a reminder that the coming year brings another celebration - the Society's 40th Anniversary in 2011! Plans are underway for a number of memorable events and programs to mark this special milestone.

Wishing you and your family
a sweet and healthy New Year,

Estelle

SHARE YOUR STORY—LEAVE A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

Voices of Memory

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 24, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Society is offering you an opportunity to tell your story and preserve your memories. Or, bring in a family member as a way of hearing and keeping their memories alive. Marcy Cain and Bob Kagan of YOUR STORY: TAKE ONE! will be at the Society's offices on two separate dates to videotape interviews. You can bring in someone of your choice to conduct the interview, or Marcy and Bob will lead the interview themselves. There will also be a pre-interview conversation to determine what you would like to discuss.

A copy of your videotape will become part of the Society's oral history collection, and an unedited DVD will be yours to take home and share with your family for many years to come. What a wonderful gift to give your loved ones. Cost for the half hour session is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. Please call Bea at 860-727-6170 to schedule your appointment.

From Memory to Memoir: Writing Your Life Story

Thursday, October 14, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 28, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Turn memories of significant events in your life into a memoir for your children and grandchildren. Learn where to start, how to get organized and keep going until you finish. Get tips on pictures and documents to include and how to self-publish your story. No previous writing experience required. Cost for the two session workshop is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members.

Susan Omilian of West Hartford is a published fiction and non-fiction author who works as a writing coach and teacher. She teaches weekly memoir writing classes.

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 printed.

In honor of:

Dr. Irving Waltman on his birthday
from Mr. and Mrs. Philip Feltman

Sally and Jerry Wagner on their 60th wedding anniversary

Lil Hillman on her 100th birthday
from Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman

Wishing a speedy recovery to:

Gloria Bein
from Susan and Allan Viner
from Estelle Kafer

David Klau
from Susan and Allan Viner
from the Board of Directors, Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

IN MEMORIAM



Laurel Eisner
Lillian Grant
Arthur Mitlak
Sylvia Schlossberg
Evelyn Shapiro
Alfred Weisel
Barrie K. Wetstone

ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford took place on Thursday, June 17, 2010. The program began with a welcome from outgoing president, Elliott B. Pollack. Estelle Kafer, Executive Director reported on this past year's projects and programs, and spoke about exciting new initiatives for the coming year. Steven Kleinman gave the Treasurer's report and David Harris proposed the new slate of officers.

The Society's new president is Barbara Gordon. Other new directors are: Loel Goldblatt, David Nemirov, Sandra Rulnick, and Jeremy Weingast. Outgoing directors are: Martin Epstein, Dr. Samuel Kassow, Manny Leibert and Dr. Alan Schwartz.

Following remarks from Barbara Gordon, Louise Kaufman introduced *Pride, Honor and Courage: Jewish Women Remember World War II*, the documentary film produced by the Society. The film premiered in October 2009, and since then it has been shown at the Greater Hartford Jewish Film Festival and at The Suffolk Y Jewish Community Center in New York. The evening ended with a dessert reception.

In memory of:

Leah Lantz
Andy Sheketoff
from Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman

On the occasion of the Yahrzeits of parents Mollie G. Pollack and Samuel B. Pollack
from Elliott B. Pollack

General Fund contributions:
from Barbara McClintock

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Andrus
Harriet and Robert Berland
Lieba Bernstein
Marcy Cain and Robert Kagan
Dvora Caspi
Robert Eisner
Bernice Ellis
Roslyn and Leon Elston
Mark and Ellie Goldberg
Ruth and Loel Goldblatt
Ina F. Goldfarb
Lillian Hochman
Samuel M. Hurewitz
Robert Katz
Margaret Bramson Lesser
Emily Lessner
Judy and Richard Levy
Dr. Allen and Ellen Mayer
Joan and William J. Prensky
Dr. Kove J. Schwartz
Dorine and Martin Toyen

YOU CAN NOW USE YOUR CREDIT CARD FOR PROGRAMS AND PUBLICATIONS

It couldn't be easier to register for events or purchase books and journals. Check out our newly redesigned website. It is more user-friendly and is updated regularly so you can always access the latest Society information. And our PayPal account allows you to securely use your credit card online to purchase books, renew your membership, or register for most programs.

Go to www.jhsgh.org and enjoy our new look and a simpler way to conduct all your transactions.

JOIN THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

Your membership dues not only support programs, projects and exhibits that educate and entertain, but they also help us in our efforts to preserve and archive the history of Hartford's Jewish community.

You receive benefits as well, including:

- Access to the archival collection without charge
- Staff assistance with personal research
- Discounts on events and projects sponsored by the Society
- Special invitations to new exhibits and other openings
- Discounts on Society publications
- The satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to preserve the past for future generations

Become a member and show your support for the Society's work.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US

We are dedicated to collecting and preserving your historical documents, photographs and memorabilia of the Jewish community of Greater Hartford.

Help preserve our rich legacy for future generations.

Become a member, support us, volunteer!

Jewish Historical Society office hours are:

Monday—Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our telephone number is (860) 727-6171

Email: jhsgh@jewishhartford.org

Website: www.jhsgh.org

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

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