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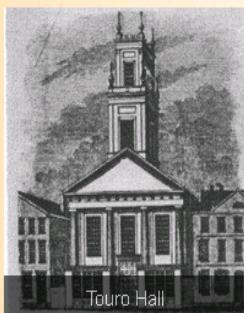
G R E A T E R H A R T F O R D

HERITAGE

Fall 2013

OUR NEW ON-LINE EXHIBIT!

Historic Synagogues of Hartford



Touro Hall



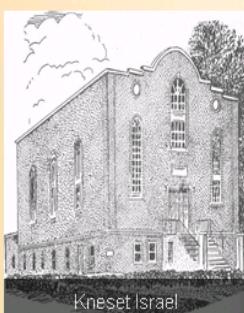
Beth Israel



Agudas Achim



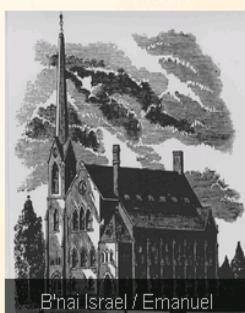
Ados Israel



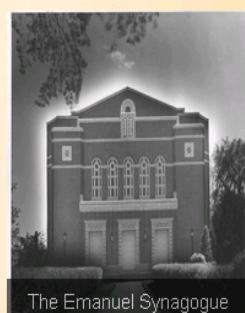
Kneset Israel



Beth Hamedrash Hagodol



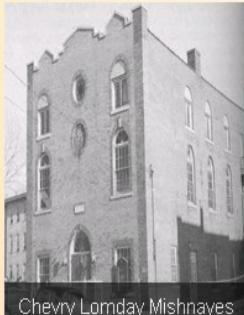
B'nai Israel / Emanuel



The Emanuel Synagogue



Beth Shalom



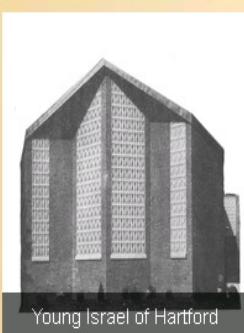
Chevra Lomday Mishnayes



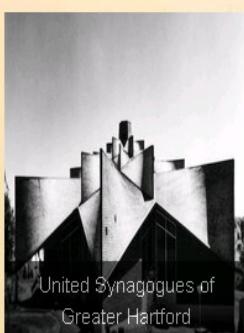
Bess Israel



Tikvoh Chadoshoh



Young Israel of Hartford



United Synagogues of
Greater Hartford

This online web exhibit showcases a wealth of information concerning the life and leadership of the historic synagogues of Hartford, along with an interactive timeline. Featuring archival images and commentary related to synagogue architecture, clergy, and significant moments in communal synagogue life, we hope you enjoy this new addition to our website. To access this exhibit, go to 'Exhibitions' on our website navigation bar, and click on 'Online' in the dropdown menu.

Please visit our website at www.jhsgh.org

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

(860) 727-6171

* NEW BOARD MEMBER
** DECEASED

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members and Friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that I begin my Presidency of the JHSGH Board. It all began about nine years ago when I happened to sit next to Estelle Kafer at an Emanuel Synagogue dinner. During our discussion she spoke about the work of the Society and its collections, mission, and programs. It sounded so interesting and worthwhile, that I immediately wanted to become involved. While still located in the JCC, I went to work on boxes of old photos that needed archival protectors and cataloguing, before the move to the new office on the Zachs Campus. I have been actively involved in many ways ever since.

The Society begins its 2013-2014 as active as ever. Our unique core mission: to collect and preserve the documents, photographs and memorabilia of the Jewish community of Greater Hartford, along with collecting oral histories of local individuals and families, sets us apart as a distinctive organization. To remain relevant, during the past three years, under the leadership of President Barbara Gordon, the Society initiated and invested in updating our web site (www.jhsgh.org), making it a state-of-the art, user friendly archival trove, utilized by students scholars, members, and the community at large. There will soon be an on-line synagogue exhibit available for viewing as well.

It's important that we expand, share and promote our gem of an organization to friends and family. We are not for Hartford natives only! The history of our community is representative of the Jewish cultural experience throughout the country. So, no matter where you grew up, you're going to find programs and events of interest to you.

Finally, I would like to welcome all our new members, and thank the Board of Directors for their commitment of time, energy and financial support.

From my family to yours, I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. *L'shana Tova*

Louise

F A L L 2 0 1 3 C A L E N D A R

Wednesday, September 18, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.

“Let’s Talk about Mrs. Auerbach”
Professor Virginia Hale and Marit Uusitalo
Adult Lounge, Mandell JCC

Monday, September 23, 2013 – 6:15 p.m.

Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Sunday, September 29, 2013 – 1:00 – 5:00

Monday, September 30, 2013 – 5:00 – 7:00
Sukkah Open House
In back of Community Services Building

Sunday, October 20, 2013 – 9:30 a.m.

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

Tuesday, October 22, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Wednesday, October 23, 2013 – 8:45 a.m.

“Heroines of the Lower East Side”
walking tour
Bus to New York leaves from CSB

Sunday, November 3, 2013 – 9:30 a.m.

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

Sunday, November 10, 2013 – 1:00 p.m.

“Documenting Maine Jewry”
Adult Lounge, Mandell JCC

Monday, November 11, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Lecture by Dr. Deborah Lipstadt
UCONN Hartford Campus, Auditorium,
Library Building, 1800 Asylum Ave., West
Hartford

Thursday, November 14, 2013 – 2:00 p.m.

“Vanished Downtown Hartford” – a talk by
Daniel Sterner, Adult Lounge, Mandell JCC

Thursday, November 21, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting, CSB

Sunday, December 8, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.

“Jewish Major Leaguers in Their Own Words”
Book Talk about professional baseball by
Peter Ephross
Location TBA



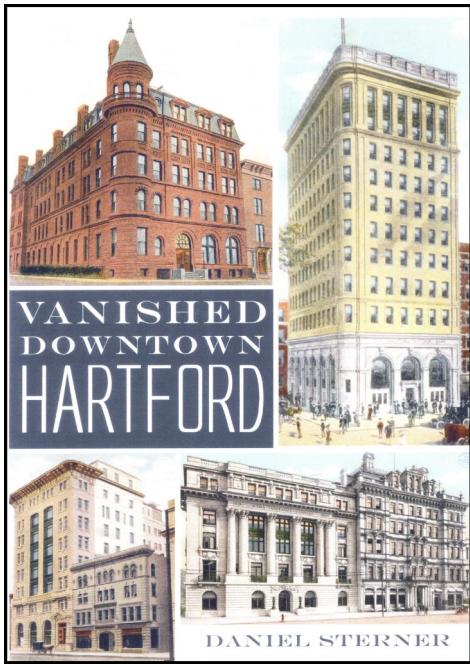
Like us on
Facebook

twitter



We want your E-MAIL ADDRESS !!!

The Society’s bulletin comes out 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



VANISHED DOWNTOWN HARTFORD

A BOOK TALK BY AUTHOR, Daniel Sternner

2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 14, 2013

Adult Lounge, Mandell Jewish Community Center

335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Daniel Sternner, author of *Vanished Downtown Hartford*, will recall the lost face of downtown and talk about the historic landmarks that still remain. He will also focus on Hartford's structural evolution. In July, Mr. Sternner was recently a guest on "Where We Live" on WNPR, speaking with other experts about the way that urban renewal and other means of "revitalizing" the city have impacted Hartford.

Daniel Sternner majored in history at Wesleyan University and earned a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago. He has been a guide at the Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe Houses in Hartford and the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum in Wethersfield. His website, Historic Buildings of Connecticut (historicbuildingsct.com) and his previous book, *A Guide to Historic Hartford, Connecticut*, have both won awards from the Hartford Preservation Alliance.

GRAND STATE OF MAINE

Sunday, November 10, 2013

1:00 p.m., Mandell Jewish Community Center
333 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford

The Society is partnering with **Documenting Maine Jewry** to present an afternoon of reminiscing and storytelling about Jewish Life in Maine. **Documenting Maine Jewry** is a community based history project providing information on Jewish citizens of Maine through a state of the art genealogical and historical resource reflecting the Jewish traditions of memory, remembrance and inter-generational learning.

If you were born in Maine, have lived in Maine, went to camp in Maine, fell in love in Maine or just like Maine, join us for this opportunity to tell us how you are connected to Maine and what that means to you. Go to the website:

www.MaineJews.org to see thousands of photos, links to Maine Jewish organizations and people, and to listen to oral histories. You may hear the voice of someone you know.

There is a \$15.00 registration fee which goes to support this project. To register, send a check to: Elaine Kahaner, 239 Ludlow Road, Manchester, CT 06040. For further information e-mail: elainecrasnick@gmail.com



"Holocaust Denial: A New Form of Anti-Semitism?"

PROFESSOR DEBORAH LIPSTADT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Library Building Auditorium, UCONN, 1800 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford

Dr. Deborah E. Lipstadt is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. She is also the author of several books, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*; *Beyond Belief: The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust*; *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*; and *The Eichmann Trial*.

Professor Lipstadt is a noted Holocaust scholar and lecturer. At Emory, she created the Institute for Jewish Studies and served as its first director. She also directs the website known as HDOT (Holocaust Denial On Trial) (www.hdot.org) which provides answers to questions frequently raised by Holocaust deniers. She was a historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and served two terms on the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. In 2005, she was part of a delegation representing the White House at the 60th anniversary commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz. She also spoke to the State Department on the impact of the Eichmann trial on April 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the trial's start.

Although the lecture is free, seating is limited. Those wishing to attend may pick up tickets after October 1st from one of the following sponsoring locations: the University of Connecticut, Mandell JCC, Congregation Beth Israel, and Beth David Synagogue.



Beatrice Fox Auerbach:

The Woman, Her World and Her Wardrobe

July 25 - September 27, 2013

Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, CT

Special Programs

Thursday, August 15 - 6 pm • Wednesday, September 18 - 1 pm

This exhibit is presented in partnership with the Jewish Historical Society and The University of Connecticut Historical Costume & Textile Collection Department. Co-Curated by Laura Crow and Maarit Uusitalo.



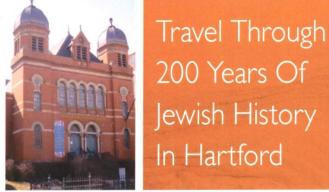
BEATRICE FOX AUERBACH: THE WOMAN, HER WORLD AND HER WARDROBE

Explore the history of a very unique and powerful woman through her wardrobe and personal accessories. Beatrice Fox Auerbach was an extraordinary woman — a loving mother and grandmother, a world traveler, an influential philanthropist, and the owner and CEO of America's largest privately owned department store, G. Fox & Co. This exhibit includes garments and personal items from the UCONN Historical Costume and Textile Collection, along with historical information and archival photos of Mrs. Auerbach from throughout her life. **Please join us for a lecture held in conjunction with the exhibit on Wednesday, September 18th, at 1:00 p.m. with Professor Virginia Hale.**

THIS EXHIBIT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

“BACK TO THE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS” BUS TOUR

Back to the Old Neighborhoods



Travel Through
200 Years Of
Jewish History
In Hartford



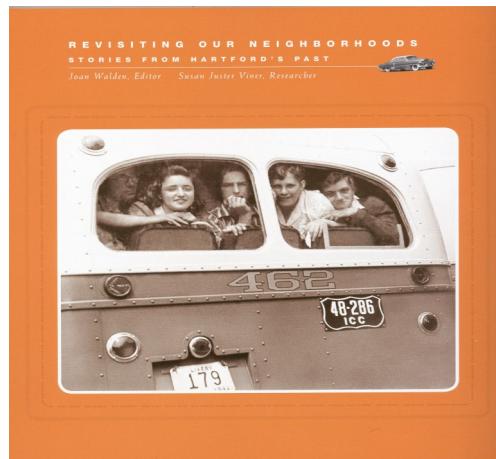
The Society has scheduled new fall dates for its popular bus tour which travels through 200 years of Jewish history in three hours. Previous tours have been sold out, so book early for best availability. This year we are also offering the tours to synagogues and other organizations. Several congregations have already signed on to give their members this very special experience and we offer a discounted rate for groups of 30 or more. The next tours will take place on: **Sunday, October 20, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday, November 3, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.**

For more information,

please call 860-727-6171 or go to our website at: www.jhsgh.org The cost is \$24/per person for members and \$28/per person for non-members. You may also register at our website using your credit card.

REVISITING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS: STORIES FROM HARTFORD'S PAST

An excited crowd came together on Wednesday, June 26th to welcome our newest book about Hartford, *Revisiting our Neighborhoods: Stories From Hartford's Past*. Unlike the previous book which focused exclusively on the North End, this volume contains essays and oral histories from those who lived in all of Hartford's neighborhoods, so that along with more North End stories, there are reminiscences from those who grew up in other areas throughout the city. A number of archival photos used throughout wonderfully evoke that very special time period. Reading this is sure to bring back many wonderful memories. If you loved “Remembering the Old Neighborhood”, we know that you'll enjoy this book as well. You can order “Revisiting our Neighborhoods” from our website at www.jhsgh.org, or stop by the office and pick up a copy.



Highlighting Hartford Businesses: Pierce Pharmacy by Richard Bromberg



Exterior of Pierce Pharmacy, located on corner of Ashley & Sigourney Street

I forgot how old I was, maybe 8 or 9 years old, and my grandmother took me to Pennsylvania where my Uncle Al had a music shop, and he had a brother-in-law who was a pharmacist. My grandmother would say, "He makes a very nice living as a pharmacist." I went out there and I looked and he had a soda fountain in his store and they had a very nice apartment and they lived in a lovely area. So, being from the North End of Hartford, I was very impressed at an early age that pharmacy wasn't such a bad thing to do. Then, in 7th or 8th grade, we had to choose the type of college course that we wanted to take in high school and I said, "Maybe pharmacy would be pretty good." So, back then, I decided that I was going to be a pharmacist.

I worked through college at G. Fox and Co., more or less in merchandising, but in 1962, I went to work for A.D. Pierce and Son as a pharmacist, although I also did that at G. Fox for six months, as well. But G. Fox taught me a lot about how to buy drugs and other facets of business, like buying merchandise at the right prices and the right amounts and how to budget. I was able to apply all of that to my business.

I bought the pharmacy because Morris Feldman wanted to be out of the business after ten years. I wasn't ready financially, or sure that I really wanted to own a small business. But I didn't want anyone else to buy it, so I approached a relative and he gave me a loan on the condition that I take in one of his relatives as a partner. The building was probably a hundred years old with gas chandeliers and archaic shelves that weren't adequate. As soon as I bought the business I had to remodel it.

We were a complete service pharmacy. We treated

everybody equally and with very good service. We delivered for those who needed it. We had a very good customer base, and were so busy that in two years we had to put on an addition, which doubled our size. We started cashing checks for our customers and had money orders and 'Moneygrams' and wire transfers. It was like a meeting place because there were bus stops on the corners nearby.

All my kids worked in the store. When my mother and father came back from Florida or wherever, they would enjoy working a few hours in the store. My father used to like to lend money. People would come to him and say, "Pop, I need a dollar. Pop, I need two dollars." He would take out his little book and write down their name and give them a dollar or two. We all did that.

For the complete version of this story, please go to our website homepage and click on the link to read more stories and poems under the 'Publications' section.



Snow globes on display at Pierce Pharmacy, c. 1960's.

SUMMER 2014 JHSGH TRAVELS TO EUROPE AND TO ISRAEL

BOTH TRIPS WILL INCLUDE – A TOUR OF THE NEW MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS IN WARSAW LED BY PROFESSOR SAM KASSOW

DATES FOR WARSAW, KRAKOW, BUDAPEST, PRAGUE, **JULY 13-25**

OR WARSAW, ISRAEL, **JULY 20-AUGUST 1**

INFORMATION SESSION AT SOCIETY OFFICE : **NOVEMBER 5, 2013 7:00PM**

From the Director

Dear Friends,

As we approach the High Holiday season, I reflect back to the past year filled with activity and educational opportunities. Last Spring, the Society offered two outstanding programs, a documentary about Jewish Women in Sport presented by Professor Linda J. Borish and a lecture about the newly discovered Chesterfield *mikveh* by Professor Stuart Miller. We also began work on three very significant projects. One is the renovation of the outdated Holocaust exhibit located at the Mandell JCC. We received a planning grant from CT Humanities to develop a multi-media, interactive display of local survivors, and a professional team is now collecting and editing testimonies. The second project is a scholarly journal tracing the 100 year history of Jewish lawyers in Greater Hartford. The publication will culminate with a spring symposium and fundraiser. The third is an ongoing project, The Community Collections Outreach Initiative, which will reach out to community synagogues and institutions to promote awareness of the importance of collecting and preserving their individual contributions and history. By providing archival support and specialized workshops, we hope to encourage the community to be collectively responsible for preserving our heritage. This long term project has received initial funding from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach/Koopman Share at the Jewish Community Foundation.

In July, Professor Samuel Kassow led the Society trip to Russia and Lithuania. We listened to the tragic history, struggles and sacrifices the Jewish people endured in these countries and viewed the contrasting opulence and architecture under czarist dynasties. We visited synagogues, memorials, museums and ghettos. For many of the participants, the experience was a personal and emotional one. My father lived in Kaunas (Kovno), Lithuania as a young man before the war, and most likely attended the synagogue we visited, remarkably not destroyed by the Nazis. As in Eastern European countries, Jewish life is slowly reawakening in the cities we visited, descendants discovering their hidden identity and hungering for a glimpse into their heritage.

You must check out the Society's updated website and new on-line *Historic Hartford Synagogues* exhibit, designed by our talented archivist, Greg Farr. Greg has spent many months selecting extraordinary images and we welcome your feedback. We are also very proud of our new publication "Revisiting Our Neighborhoods", and an achievement award presented by the Jewish Federation at their Annual Meeting for our highly successful Jewish Hartford Bus Tours.

However, as a result of the steady decline in grants and contributions, your generosity and support is needed now more than ever to sustain our programming. Please consider the new additional levels of giving as well as the contribution opportunities for any occasion.

Wishing you all a joyous and healthy New Year!

Estelle



From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

The past few months at the JHSGH archive have been filled with much interesting work related to processing our extensive oral history collection, developing our new online web exhibit "Historic Hartford Synagogues", researching materials for an upcoming exhibit on Jewish legal professionals in Hartford, and preparing a new Holocaust space. We have also been responding to a variety of archival information requests, that, as a result of our online outreach, are in some cases coming from places as far away as Los Angeles! Such inquiries, just to note a few, include questions about local historic businesses in the Hartford area, the origins of the Hartford *mikveh*, the cultural and artistic contributions of Jewish farmers in Connecticut, and the involvement of early synagogue founders in local lodge organizations.

Archival donations of manuscripts, photographs, artifacts, and electronic records have been trickling in over the summer as well. We have received materials including books and film information related to the American poet and Trinity College graduate, Hyam Plutzik (1911-1962), turn-of-the-century photographs of Hartford residents (the Itzovitch Family) donated by Leonie Goodfriend, and two substantial donations of synagogue records (newsletters and scrapbook materials) from Hartford's Beth Sholom and Bloomfield's B'Nai Tikvoh Sholom. These last two items serve as a good start to our upcoming Community Collection Outreach Initiative which we will launch this Fall, as we plan to offer workshops for archival collecting in synagogue settings and directly seek to acquire archival materials from area synagogues to continue to properly document the history of the Jewish community in the greater Hartford area.

Please consider contributing your historical artifacts, manuscripts, and photographs to the JHSGH archival collection and many thanks again to all those who are participating in the life of the archives!

Wishing everyone many blessings for the upcoming holidays,

Greg

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 memory of :

Leon Zeeberg (father of Estelle Kafser)

Bea and Gordon Brodie

Eleanor Caplan

Linda and Henry Cohn

Barbara and Mark Gordon

Barbara and David Klau

Debbie and Steve Kleinman

Ona and Tom Mastronarde

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

Michelle Souza

Susan and Allan Viner

Helen Sodafsky Mehlman

Hollis Schneider

Bernice Birnbaum

Nanette Levin

Margaret Klau

Naomi and Michael Cohen

Janet Poitras

Bea Brodie

Janice Cohen & Byron Fisher

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Carol Gershenson

Victoria Stuart

Sally Wagner

Elene R. Needelman

Harold Rosker

Linda and Henry Cohn

Carole S. DeVoe (mother of Greg Farr)

Bea Brodie

Barbara Gordon

Susan Viner

Zena Littman

Barbara and Mark Gordon

Charles Weiner

Barbara and Mark Gordon

Etta W. Sussman

Eileen and Elliott B. Pollack

Irving Bein

Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Shapiro

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Shuli Berger & Jai Zion

Errol Berman

Trudy and Louis Brown

Gary Cohen

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Dworsky

Sharon & Robert Efron

Linda Friedman

Gerald Glassman

Ruth Ann & Harley Graime

Merle Kurtzman

Erroll Berman

Heather Landerman
Sheree Landerman
Michele Pilver
Gary Schwartz
Judy Seder
Shirley & Henry Seltzer
Meher Shulman
Barbara and Sydney Siskin
Howard Steinberg
Gayle & Dr. Barry Trabitz
Mark S. Cohen
Iris Rosenberg
Laurie Mandell &
Richard Weinstein
Barbara and David Brown
Gail L. Freedman

Gertrude "Trudy" Brodie

Susan and Allan Viner

In memory of those who have gone before

Lillian Hillman

In honor of :

Barbara Gordon's presidency:

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

Louise K. Kaufman's presidency:

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

The wedding of Steven and Deborah Kleinman's daughter

David Klau

Al Kadden's birthday

Helene and Felix Springer

Louise Kaufman

Joan Kemler

Marsha and Ed Lotstein's new home

Paulette and James Lotstein

Get Well Wishes to :

Dan Blume

Susan and Allan Viner

General donations :

Michael Cohen

Linda Cohn

Allan Geetter

David Klau

John O. Tannenbaum

Howard Steinberg

Susan and Allan Viner

Henry Zachs

Jessica and Eric Zachs

Judy Zachs

Edith & Bob Whitman

Joel M. and Naomi Baline Kleinman

IN MEMORIAM: JANET POITRAS

The Society suffered a great loss this spring with the death of longtime volunteer, Janet Poitras. Janet came to the Society after her retirement, looking for interesting and meaningful work. She found it in transcribing oral histories from our archives and came in to the JHSGH every Monday for five years. Janet transcribed many of the Holocaust tapes in our collection, and found herself very moved by the stories she heard. She also helped out at our many programs and events. We offer our condolences to her family and many friends. Janet will be sorely missed.

IN MEMORIAM



Barbara Finkle
Wilbert Kaufman
Florence Perlstein

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 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, call 860-727-6171, or visit our website at www.jhsgh.org.

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