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GREATER HARTFORD HERITAGE

Spring/ Summer 2012

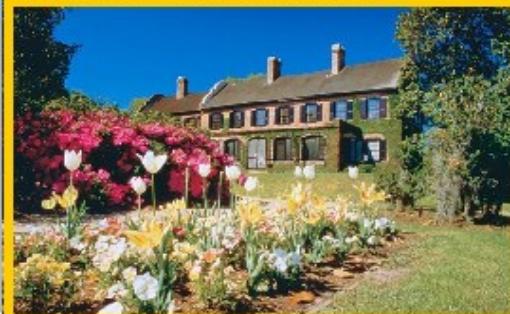
The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford is sponsoring a trip to:

Charleston and Savannah

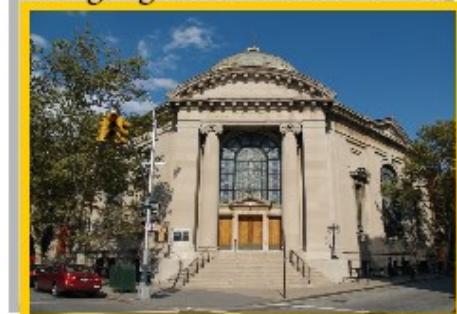
Visit one of the oldest Jewish communities in America and experience Southern hospitality

October 25 – 29, 2012

Middleton Plantation



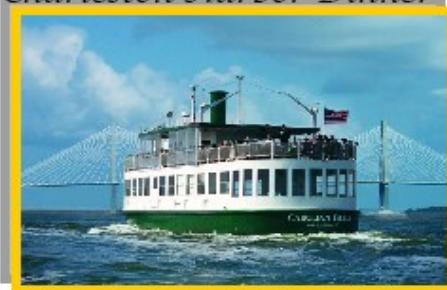
Congregation Beth Elohim-



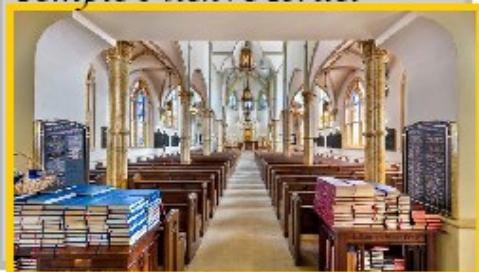
Trip includes:

- 3 Nights In Charleston
- 1 Night In Savannah
- Hotel accommodations, taxes and fees
- Touring with local licensed tour guides
- All transfers, gratuities, and entrance fees
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- Walking Tours and Delicious Southern Cuisine

Charleston Harbor Dinner



Temple Mickve Israel



- Middleton Plantation
- Congregation Beth Elohim
- Jewish Heritage Collection At The College Of Charleston
- Dinner Cruise Of Charleston Harbor
- Savannah's Shalom Y' All Jewish Food Festival
- Temple Mickve Israel
- Telfair And Jepson Art Museums
- Museum Houses, Shopping And Galleries

Trip cost \$1,199.00* per person

*This price is based on double occupancy and does not include estimated airfare - \$325 - \$400 per person. Join us for an information session on May 14, 2012 at 7:00pm at the Society office. A \$100.00 deposit will be required by May 30 as space is limited. Questions? Please call 860-727-6171 or email jhsgh@jewishhartford.org *All prices and itinerary subject to change.

JHSGH, 333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford, CT 06117

40th Anniversary Gala May 6th, 2012

Don't forget to send in your reconfirmation card or make a new reservation. We look forward to seeing you on May 6 !

President's Message

Dear Members

From Hartford to Greece; from G. Fox to the boxing ring – JHSGH provides a nostalgic look back at the memories we all cherish.

Under the guidance of our talented and hard-working executive director, Estelle Kafer, and her dedicated assistant, Bea Brodie, the JHSGH has become well-known and well-respected in our community, as the go-to source for a wealth of information about Hartford's Jewish community. The Society office often receives requests from filmmakers, museums, authors and students. Our archives, publications, website, programs and projects have had a far reaching impact across the country.

The next few months promise to bring very exciting events. You will not want to miss the upcoming program on Greek Jews, a bus tour of Jewish Hartford - visiting the old neighborhoods, businesses, and synagogues, and a program on the Jewish community in Manchester.

Highlighting the year will be our 40th anniversary gala on May 6th. Postponed from October due to the unexpected and destructive snowstorm, the dinner promises to be very special. If you have not yet made a reservation, it is not too late to join us. We should all support and celebrate the Society, we have much to be proud of!

I am so honored to be part of this organization – a vital link to our past, keeping our memories alive and a valuable resource for our community, preserving our history for the future!

Wishing you a Happy Passover

Barbara Gordon

S P R I N G / S U M M E R 2 0 1 2 C A L E N D A R

MARCH 11, 2012—7:00 p.m.

Greek Jews on the Lower East Side
The Emanuel Synagogue

MARCH 13, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting, CSB

MARCH 18, 2012 – 12:00 p.m.

Jewish Film Festival — “Ahead of Time”
Bloomfield 8 Digiplex

APRIL 23, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting, CSB

MAY 6, 2012 — 5:00 p.m.

40th Anniversary Gala
Beth El Temple

May 14, 2012 — 7:00 p.m.

Charleston/Savannah Trip Info Session

May 17, 2012 — 2 p.m.

“Manchester’s Jewish Community”
Mandell JCC — Adult Lounge

May 22, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting, CSB

JUNE 24, 2012 – 9:00 a.m.

Jewish Hartford Bus Tour Test Run

JUNE 27, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting

Save the date for a fascinating speaker:

SEPT. 12, 2012 5:00 p.m.

“Mark Twain and the Jews”

Co-sponsored with the Mark Twain House

GREEK JEWS ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE

Lecture and Dessert

7:00 p.m., Sunday, March 11, 2012

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford
co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford and
The Emanuel Synagogue

\$15/member (of either organization) \$18/non-member

Among the millions of immigrants who came to the shores of the United States from 1881-1924, was a small group of Greek-speaking Jews, a true minority within a minority. Learn about this fascinating community, what life was like for them on the Lower East Side and why, while hundreds of early synagogues closed their doors, Kehila Kedosha Janina, the synagogue they founded in 1927, is still open and functioning as a Jewish house of worship.

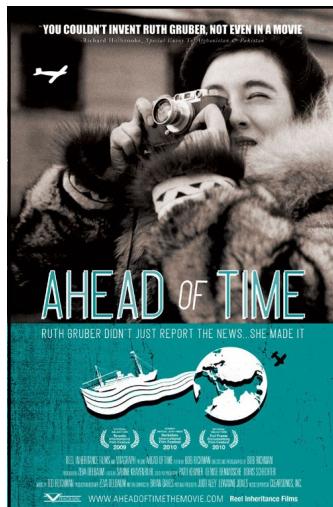
Our speaker will be Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos. She is the Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina and President of the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry. Ms. Ikonomopoulos is the former Director of Special Projects for Sephardic House, is a translator of Greek Jewish Holocaust Memoirs and a teacher of Judaic studies. She is also an author and editor.

For further information, please contact Bea at 860 727-6171 or bbrodie@jewishhartford.org You may also make a reservation on our website at www.jhsgh.org and use your credit card on our PayPal account.



Greek coffee house, Allen Street c.1910

SOCIETY SPONSORS FILM AT MANDELL JCC FILM FESTIVAL



Ahead of Time

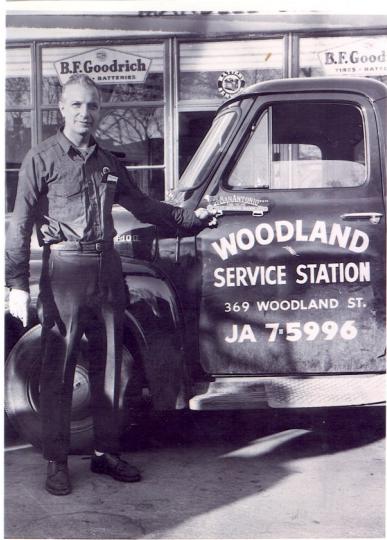
Sunday, March 18, 2012

Time: 12:30 p.m. Place: Bloomfield 8 Digiplex

The Society is proud to be a sponsor of the film, *Ahead of Time*, at the upcoming Jewish Film Festival. It is a documentary on the life of international foreign correspondent and photojournalist, Ruth Gruber. Born in 1911, Gruber's work chronicles much of the history of the 20th century. She was the first journalist to enter the Soviet arctic in 1935, and she also traveled to Alaska as a member of the Roosevelt administration. She escorted Holocaust refugees to Oswego, New York, covered the Nuremberg trials and reported the British attack on the ship *Exodus 1947* in Haifa. Her storied career includes many firsts and she was on the scene for many of the modern era's most important events. She has been called a "witness and participant in the making of history". Ruth Gruber has also written 19 books, including *Haven: The Unknown Story of 1,000 World War II Refugees*, *Exodus 1947: The Ship that Launched a Nation*, and *Raquela: A Woman of Israel*, one of her best known works.

This film weaves actual footage with interviews and never before seen archival material. It premiered at the 2009 Toronto International Film Festival and won Best Documentary at the Berkshires International Film Festival. *Ahead of Time* is the story of a remarkable woman, told through her photos, her writing, and her own words.

LAST CHANCE TO BE PART OF OUR FINAL BOOK ON HARTFORD'S NEIGHBORHOODS



Nosh Mandell, c. 1950's

If you enjoyed reading *Remembering the Old Neighborhood: Stories from Hartford's North End*, but wondered why your story wasn't in there, now is the time to change that. If you grew up in any of Hartford's neighborhoods, we want to hear from you. Write a few paragraphs and share some anecdotes and reminiscences. Let us know what it was like in your home, on your block, your school or your family's business. The book won't be complete if you're not in it!!! For further information or for help getting started -- contact Susan Juster Viner at 860 688-6642 or pharmate@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for submissions is June 1, 2012.

Back to the Old Neighborhoods

A Bus Tour through 200 Years of Jewish History in Hartford
Gale Shapiro, Coordinator

You will soon have the opportunity to travel back in time, see the sites, and hear the stories about Hartford's illustrious Jewish community. Anthropologist and author, Betty Hoffman, has done in-depth research for us. A professional tour guide, with much enthusiasm, from the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy will lead our tour.

We will be offering a "test run" of the tour on June 24 which will be offered to Society members only. The community, history buffs, and visitors will have an opportunity to reserve their spot in the fall. What a unique experience we have planned! The following are just a few of the many historical details you will learn on the tour!

- From the 1920s through the 1960s three rabbis, with national prominence, led three Hartford congregations. On our tour we will step inside each of their synagogues. Do you know who they were and where their synagogues were?
- Many Jewish immigrants were peddlers when they arrived in Hartford. Which peddler from the 1840s created a store that eventually became the largest privately owned department store in the country?
- Back in the early 1940s The Crown Market in Hartford did not sell chicken. Why not?
- Before the days of our current safety nets of Medicare and Medicaid, how did the Jewish community take care of the infirm?

For answers to these questions and many more, join us on a tour this fall. We look forward to seeing you!



Keney Park, 2010



Binnie Klein with President, Barbara Gordon

“FROM ELLIS ISLAND TO MADISON SQUARE GARDEN: MY DISCOVERY OF THE HERITAGE OF JEWISH BOXERS”

Binnie Klein's talk on Jewish boxers was supposed to coincide with the opening of our newest exhibit on Louis “Kid” Kaplan. Unfortunately, our surprise snowstorm changed those plans, but there was still an enthusiastic group on hand, eager to learn more about the history of

Jews in boxing. Ms. Klein became fascinated with this story after she donned gloves to begin her own boxing “career”. The early part of the 20th century was considered the “Golden Age” of boxing, and many of the top contenders were Jewish, often immigrants like Kaplan, who first learned to fight in the streets and then brought their talent to the ring. Many in the audience were amazed at the number of Jewish fighters who not only competed, but went on to win championships.



Audience listens to speaker, Mandell JCC

FROM HULA HOOPS TO HIGH FASHION: G. FOX IN THE 1950s

It felt like a family reunion—a family that all shopped or worked at G. Fox & Company. Elizabeth Abbe, Director of Public Outreach at the Connecticut

Historical Society presented a nostalgic trip back to time to the heyday of Connecticut's favorite department store. She also had many photos to accompany her talk. Members of the audience also participated by sharing their own memories. Some even brought vintage clothing and other items that had been purchased there. One collector displayed several of his G. Fox items, including a miniature delivery truck, that is now a valuable collectible.



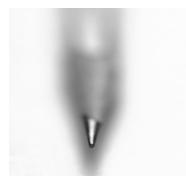
Elizabeth Abbe, November 2011



G. Fox, photos and memorabilia from the Society archives

G. FOX & CO.

From the Director



Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the mild winter in CT or sunny skies in Florida!

In a few months we will be celebrating our 40th plus anniversary at the rescheduled gala. For those of you who could not make the original October date, you now have a second chance to join the festivities and take part in a very memorable evening!

The office is busy with a number of exciting future activities. Our new archivist, Gregory Farr, has already begun to research options to digitize a portion of our oral history tapes. He also is working on developing a new finding aid computer program that will document, organize and classify our archival database, which will immensely increase our capability to assist researchers and individuals.

Gregory Farr comes to us with an excellent background in technology, library science and archival management. We are also delighted to have an intern from Saint Joseph's College, Victoria Stuart, in the office this semester. She is compiling an updated listing for the oral history cassette tape collection, listening to every interview and preparing information that will help us determine the selection of the tapes we will digitize, an urgent priority due to deterioration.

Gale Shapiro and I have been making substantial progress on our Jewish bus tour plans. Timing and logistics of the route, research on scheduled and drive by sites, a brochure and publicity are some of the many details we are working on.

If you have never visited Charleston and Savannah, don't miss the fabulous trip we are planning for October. Working with well-connected professional local Jewish guides will provide us with many extras and unusual opportunities.

The summer of 2013 will bring another extraordinary journey with Professor Sam Kassow, this time to Russia and Warsaw. More information will be coming soon!

Wishing you a joyous Passover!

Estelle

FROM RAGS TO THE RING
The Story of
LOUIS "KID" KAPLAN
WORLD FEATHERWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION

EXHIBIT NOW ON DISPLAY AT
JHSGH OFFICE
through MAY 2012

COMING IN SUMMER 2013

A JEWISH JOURNEY TO RUSSIA AND POLAND

JULY 21 – AUGUST 1, 2013

Once again the Society is sponsoring a lifetime experience led by Professor Samuel Kassow of Trinity College.

We will tour Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vilnius, and Warsaw (the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews)

More information coming soon!

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:

Sara Rulnick

Barbara and Mark Gordon

Sara Greenberg

Susan Viner

Arthur Epstein

Barbara and Mark Gordon

Lewis Sheketoff

Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman

Marsha and Ed Lotstein

All 40th anniversary donations will be listed in the commemorative journal, available at the Gala and Society Office.

In honor of:

Linda and Henry Cohn's 40th Anniversary

Peggy and Alan Mendelson

Shereen Edelson and Arnold, Robert, and
Eric Menchel

David Klan

Fay Merkin Clymer

Ruth and Daniel Sachs

Rita and Arnold Miller

*Naomi Cohen on her appointment to the CT Board of
Regents for Higher Education*

Susan and Allan Viner

Abe Zubrow

Fern Greenberg Blood

Preservation Society

Eleanor Caplan

Rochelle and David Fierston

Tobey Gitelle

Deborah and Steven Kleinman

Lillian Elizabeth Epstein Lewis

Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman

Rochelle and David Fierston's 50th Anniversary

Marty and Ilona Levitz

Susan and Allan Viner's 50th Anniversary

Susan and Allan Viner

Anonymous

General donations:

Jeffrey Adler

Allan Geetter

Loel Goldblatt

Jeffrey Renert

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

Jessica Slater

Jason Wolfe

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Brian and Laura Becker

Jessica Borden

Eugene N. Hackel

Ed and Leslie Jacobson

Douglas and Lucretia Lavine

Arlen and Audrey Lichter

Arlan Lieback

Elizabeth Zelek

IN MEMORIAM



Dr. George Glassman

Shirley Kaplan

Muriel Kovalsky

Rhoda Rosenthal

Lewis Sheketoff

Irwin Singer

Rosalie Smith

Bernice Waldman

Gloria Goldman

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.*

Check one: Annual \$36 Patron \$72 Sponsor \$125

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JHSGH, 333 Bloomfield Avenue,

West Hartford, CT 06117

Or go online to www.jhsgh.org to join!

Zachs Campus

JHSGH

333 Bloomfield Avenue

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