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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
ESTELLE KAFER

\* NEW BOARD MEMBER  
\*\* DECEASED

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

*Breaking  
the Glass*

THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH  
WEDDING

An Exhibition of the Jewish Historical  
Society of Greater Hartford

Featuring vintage wedding gowns from the UConn Historical Costume and  
Textile Collection, ancient ketubot reproductions from the Judaica Collection,  
Beinecke Library, Yale University and JHSGH archival photographs.

*June 26 - September 30, 2015*

Chase Family Gallery  
Mandell Jewish Community Center

*Thursday, June 25*

Patron Cocktail Reception | 6:30 pm

Watch for your invitation coming soon!  
[www.jhsg.org](http://www.jhsg.org)

# President's Message

Dear Friends:

Spring is almost here (I sincerely hope!!) and I am quite certain that we are all looking forward to seeing the last of the snow, welcoming warmer weather, having longer days, and the opportunity to engage in new adventures.

Our Jewish Historical Society invites you and your friends to join us as we.....

**\*\*LEARN** more about two of the most "Remarkable Women" of The Hartford community.....Sophie Tucker and Beatrice Fox Auerbach. Join Book Talk author, Cindy Wolfe Boynton on March 25th.

**\*\*JOIN US** on a docent-led tour of The Austin House (Scarborough Street) and a tour of "Coney Island Visions of an American Dreamland" at the Wadsworth Atheneum on April 15th.

**\*\*EXPERIENCE** "A Life of the Land".....a guided bus tour of Jewish farming communities in Eastern CT.....April 19th.

**\*\*MEET** "The Jews of India" with Rahel Musleah.....a continuation of our Jews Around the World series.....June 4th.

**\*\*ENGAGE** with author, Dr. Risa Sodi, whose fascinating talk about Holocaust Art Restitution will be the special program of our Annual Meeting, June 16th.

**\*\*CELEBRATE** with us at the gala opening of our Jewish Wedding Exhibit on June 25th.

**\*\*SUPPORT** the Society with a donation, Aim Chai bequest or named fund. THANK YOU!!

As our archival collection continues to grow, please consider allowing the JHS to become the permanent repository for the memories and histories of your family. We welcome photos, letters, documents, and recordings detailing the lives of our Jewish community. On a personal note, I recently created two family archives (one for each side of my family) and it is a very satisfying feeling to know that the Novarr/Hershman history will be secure for future generations.

Thank you! We are so very appreciative to those in the Greater Hartford community and beyond who have made the commitment to remember our JHS through the Aim Chai Campaign. Your support preserves the legacy of our wonderful heritage.

Wishing you a very Happy Passover.

*Sandra H. Rulnick*  
President

## SPRING 2015 CALENDAR

**Friday, March 13, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.**

"Talking Tucker"  
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 – 2:00 p.m.**

"Remarkable Women of Hartford" book talk by  
Cindy Wolfe Boynton  
Co-sponsored by the Women's Division, Jewish  
Federation of Greater Hartford  
Board Room, Community Services Building

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

**Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

**Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.**

Docent led tours of the Austin House and Coney  
Island Exhibit at the Wadsworth Atheneum  
Meet at 9:30 at Community Services Building to  
carpool

**Sunday, April 19, 2015 – 9:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

*A Life of the Land* bus tour to Eastern Connecticut Jewish farming communities. Bus leaves from commuter lot on Route 30 in Vernon.

See enclosed flyer

**Wednesday, May 6, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

**Sunday, May 10, 2015 – Friday, May 22, 2015**

Tour of Jewish Spain led by Prof. Jonathan Ray  
**SOLD OUT!**

**Thursday, June 4, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

*Jewish Calcutta Through Music and Memory*,  
with Rahel Musleah  
The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., WH

**Thursday, June 16, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Thursday, June 25, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.**

Opening reception for "Breaking the Glass: The  
American Jewish Wedding"  
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

**Wednesday, September 9, 2015**

**BRIDAL FASHION SHOW AND VENDOR  
FAIR**

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., WH  
**MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!**

### GO ONLINE FOR THE LATEST SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

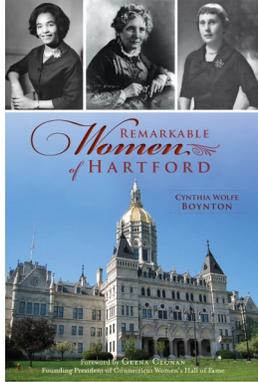


The Society's website, [www.jhsg.org](http://www.jhsg.org) is the best source for the most up-to-date information about programs, exhibits and other events sponsored by the Society. It's also an easy way to register for programs through PayPal or make donations. Contact [bbrodie@jewishhartford.org](mailto:bbrodie@jewishhartford.org) if you would like to be added to our email list, and receive information about new programs and events throughout the year.

## REMARKABLE WOMEN OF HARTFORD

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 2:00 p.m.  
Community Services Building

Join author Cindy Wolfe Boynton as she discusses her latest book, *Remarkable Women of Hartford* and learn about some famous, and not-as-famous women who lived in Hartford. Ms. Boynton is an award-winning writer and editor who was a correspondent for The New York Times and editor of Better Health magazine. She is now an English and communications instructor at the Yale School of Medicine and Housatonic Community College. Co-sponsored by the Society and Women's Philanthropy, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Free and open to the public.



JHSGH INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR TWO SPECIAL  
DOCENT LED TOURS TO:



## THE AUSTIN HOUSE AND THE NEW EXHIBIT AT THE WADSWORTH ATHENEUM: CONEY ISLAND: VISIONS OF AN AMERICAN DREAMLAND

10:00 A.M. - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 2014

\$40/pp - members, \$45/pp - non-members

(includes: both admissions and a light lunch at the Museum café)

The Austin House is a National Historic Landmark. Built by A. Everett ("Chick") Austin, Jr and his wife in the Palladian Style, it is only 1 room wide, running 86 feet long and 18 feet deep. *Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland* uses visual art to explore Coney Island in the context of American culture. It features more than 140 paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, posters, architectural artifacts and carousel animals—supplemented by ephemera and film clips.

For more information and to register, visit [www.jhsg.org/calendar.html#austinhouse](http://www.jhsg.org/calendar.html#austinhouse) or contact the Society at 860 727-6170.

## TALKING TUCKER

10:00 a.m. Friday, March 13, 2015

Chase Family Gallery, Mandell Jewish Community Center  
335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford

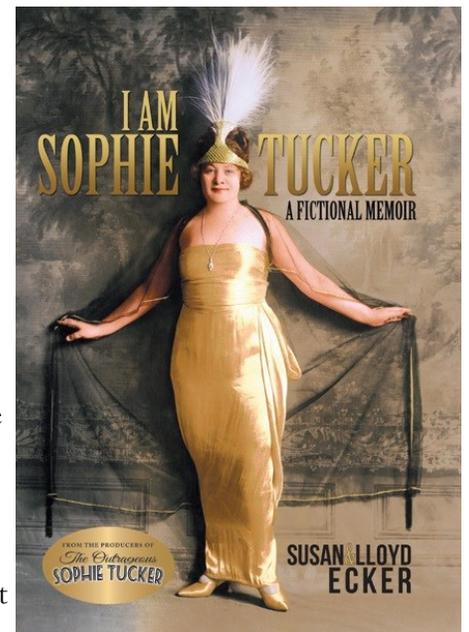
\$20 in advance--\$25 at the door

(includes breakfast, book talk and one ticket to an encore screening of *The Outrageous Sophie Tucker* on Sunday, March 22, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.)

Do you think you know a little, a lot, or nothing at all about Hartford's own Sophie Tucker? Learn more about the "The Last of the Red Hot Mamas" at a breakfast and book talk with authors and filmmakers, Susan and Lloyd Ecker, her official biographers. Although Sophie left the city for stardom around the world, she never forgot her local roots and remained committed to this community. In fact, she is buried in The Emanuel Synagogue cemetery, and there is still a great deal of interest in her life and career. The Eckers will discuss their book, *I am Sophie Tucker: A Fictional Memoir* and the film based on it.

Sophie was a larger-than-life persona who influenced performers like Bette Midler and many others. Friend of kings, queens, presidents, actors and gangsters, she told so many versions of her life story, that often she couldn't tell truth from fiction. This book, the authors say, is "about 85% fact, and the other 15% . . . who knows?"

For more information or to pre-register, go to our website: [www.jhsg.org/talkingtucker.html](http://www.jhsg.org/talkingtucker.html), or send a check made out to JHSGH to the Society office, 333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford.





Carol Marks, c. 1950. JHSGH archives.

In conjunction with the JHSGH exhibition  
*“Breaking the Glass: The American Jewish Wedding”*  
We invite you to a unique Bridal Fashion Show and  
Celebrations Vendor Showcase

## “SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW”

***Featuring contemporary and vintage bridal gowns  
Refreshments, raffles, and resources to make  
your event special!***

***Wednesday, September 9, 2015 6:00pm  
Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford***

Do you still have your bridal gown or your mother’s in your closet? We are looking for gowns from 1930-2000 and models to wear them! Please visit [www.jhsg.org](http://www.jhsg.org) for more information and vendor and sponsorship forms.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gail and Jeff Adler  
Morris Banks  
Sandra Blackman  
Amy Charney and Lewis Wise  
Jan Draymore  
Barbara and Paul Fleischer  
Rhoda and Todd Gladstone  
Herbert G. Isaacson  
David L. Jacobs  
Edith and Melvin Katzman  
Sheryl and Stuart Kopel  
Abbey and Stephen Kreinik  
Judy Kulick  
Laurie Mandell  
Deborah Mehlman  
Charlotte L. Meyer  
Judith Moses  
Leigh Newman  
Linda Rigono  
Julia Rosenblum and Leonard Felson  
Linda and Michael Saffer  
Ronald and Susan Silverberg  
Robert H. Smith, Jr.  
Lois and Jason Tanzer  
Edee Tenser  
Michael Wilder

### Aim Chai Endowment Campaign

[WWW.AIMCHAI.ORG](http://WWW.AIMCHAI.ORG)

The Jewish Community Foundation, the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and 27 community partner institutions are collaborating to strengthen and sustain the future of Jewish Hartford for generations to come.

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, we are very grateful to the following individuals who have made a commitment to the campaign for the benefit of the Society.

Sandy and Arnold Chase  
Naomi and Michael Cohen  
Barbara and David Klau  
Debbie and Steve Kleinman  
Lauri and David Miller  
Gerald Roisman  
Lea and Richard Rubenstein  
Sandra and Marshall Rulnick  
The Zachs Family Foundation



Rahel Musleah

## **JEWISH CALCUTTA THROUGH MUSIC AND MEMORY**

Featuring Rahel Musleah

Thursday, June 4, 2015

6:00 p.m.– kosher Indian dinner (by prior reservation)

7:30 - program

The Emanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

In the newest installment of the Society’s “Jews Around the World Series”, join us on Thursday, June 4, 2015 when our speaker will be Rahel Musleah. Ms. Musleah was born in Calcutta and is the seventh generation of a Calcutta Jewish family that traces its root to seventeenth-century Baghdad. She will present a multi-media song, story and slide program as she shares her intimate knowledge of this ancient community’s past, along with its customs and melodies. Her program weaves a rich tapestry of heritage and culture little-known to most, and offers a compelling legacy for the Indian Jewish communities whose population has dwindled to 5,000 today. She is an award-winning journalist whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Hadassah Magazine, Publisher’s Weekly and others. For more information go to our website at: [www.jhsg.org](http://www.jhsg.org) or call 860 727-6171.

## **JHSGH ANNUAL MEETING**

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015  
7:00 P.M. – MANDELL JCC

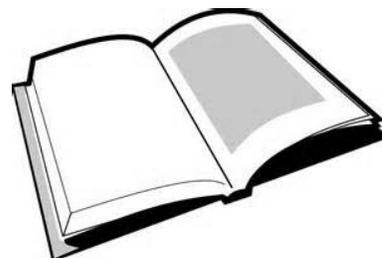
Speaker: Dr. Risa Sodi

“A Painting Sues For Its Freedom:  
The Holocaust in Italy and a  
Renaissance Masterwork”

Risa Sodi holds a B.A. in History and Italian from Smith College, an M.A. in French and Italian from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. in Italian language and literature from Yale University. From 1995-2013, she served in the Yale Italian Department as the Senior Lecturer II and Language Program Director. Dr. Sodi has lectured in Canada, England, France, Italy, and the U.S. on the Holocaust in Italy, Italian Jewish authors, and the restitution of Holocaust looted art objects. She has published many articles and monographs on the subject including *A Dante of Our Time: Primo Levi and Auschwitz*. Her most recent publication is a chapter in the Modern Language Association volume, *Approaches to Teaching Primo Levi* (2015).

Susan Viner has purchased a historical book filled with stories written by students of Hartford, Weaver and Bulkeley High Schools from 1925 – 1930. There are some recognizable last names that may be related to descendants of these people. If you know anyone who is a descendant or relative of any of the those listed below, please contact Susan Juster Viner in Windsor at 860 – 688-6642 or at [pharmate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pharmate@sbcglobal.net):

William Baron	Lena Cravzow
Ruth Fine	Victor Zimmerman
Louis D. Harris	Louis Salzberg
Cornelia Gross	Robert Burstein
Elodie Salmon	Norma Goldschmidt



# From the Director

Dear Friends,

This past January, I was delighted to have the opportunity to be interviewed for the Public Access TV Show, *CT Valley Views*, an independently produced program by Susan Patricell-Regan. The taping was then distributed to many local community public access networks, making it available to hundreds of viewers. Susan formulated a conversation that would achieve my goals of promoting and raising awareness of the Society and the important work we do. If you are interested in taking a look at the program and edited versions of two of our films, here is a link: <http://youtu.be/nTRiiUey66g>

This month we will begin the second phase of our Community Collections project with the help of trained volunteer interviewers. We will set up interviews with professionals and lay leadership documenting their years of service and significant contributions to Hartford, capturing a snapshot of our community's historical legacy.

We are very grateful to those individuals that have included the Society in their estate plans. Their generosity of a gift through the Jewish Community Foundation's Aim Chai Campaign will help sustain our organization into the future. Additionally, we appreciate and welcome your necessary support and contributions toward our daily operating expenses, special projects and exhibits.

We have many interesting, informative and inspiring events happening this spring and summer and look forward to your participation. Please remember to invite your friends and family to join you, visit our website and stop by the office for a tour of the archives!

Wishing you and your family a joyous Passover!

*Estelle*



## From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

I have been the Society's archivist for almost six months now, and it has been a very busy six months. Since the fall we have had a number of research inquiries and new acquisitions. Our new acquisitions include a bris outfit from the 1920s, several Emanuel Synagogue scrapbooks, and a fascinating collection of World War II-era letters donated by Susan Schenker. These letters were written by Dora Greenbaum to her brothers in the U.S. military and provide an interesting look at Hartford life in the 1940s. Please consider contributing your own family documents and photographs to our archives—we would be happy to have them!

We have been involved in some exciting projects recently. We are currently preparing a Jewish wedding exhibit for the upcoming summer, which will use photos and wedding gowns from our archives. We are also proud to announce that over 40 of our finding aids are now accessible through the Portal to American Jewish History, a project of the American Jewish Historical Society and the Center for Jewish History. The portal compiles the finding aids of Jewish archives and historical societies around the country. These finding aids are also available on our website—take a look and see what resources our archives have to offer!

I am happy to be part of the important work being done at the Jewish Historical Society. Please let me know how I can assist you, and consider donating your own materials to the Society's archives.

Best regards,

*Sara*

### MEET OUR NEW ARCHIVIST — SARA HAWRAN

Sara Hawran joined the Society staff last August. Sara's always had an interest in history, which led her mother to bring her to the Windsor Historical Society, where she began volunteering while in high school and remained for seven years. She majored in history at Mt Holyoke College and received her MS degree in Library Science from Simmons College. During her undergraduate and graduate years, she held a number of jobs and internships, which allowed her to pursue this passion. She has worked in the collections department of the Eric Carle Museum, held a summer job as a curatorial intern at Sturbridge Village, and interned at the Transportation Library of the Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C. In addition, Sara worked in the research room of the JFK Library in Boston and spent a semester at the American Jewish Historical Society, also in Boston.

She enjoys doing the various responsibilities of a historical society archivist, but she particularly likes answering questions from members and others who want information about various items in the collection or who need help with genealogical or research projects.

Sara is also helping out on the technology end by maintaining our website and sending out many of our e-blasts. You can reach Sara at 860 727-6173, and she would be delighted to assist you.

# 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:***

*Bess & Sidney Koppell*

Martin Koppell

*Joseph Hurwitz*

Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman

Fran S. Friedman

Marsha and Ed Lotstein

*Judge Jerry Wagner*

Helga Allweiss

Dr. and Mrs. Irving Waltman

Adam Cohen

Marsha and Ed Lotstein

Michael Wagner

The Needelman Family

*Dr. R. Leonard Kemler*

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

*Carolinn Hillman, Nathan Hillman and Henry M. Hillman*

Lillian Hillman

*Ellen Banks*

Morris Banks

*Seymour Benson*

Marilyn Benson

*Larry Malitz*

Barbara and Ira Levin

*Mr. and Mrs. Sam Yazmer*

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

*Mr. and Mrs. Fred Brown*

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

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

*Barry Gordon's birthday*

Evelyn and Bob Harris

*The marriage of Ilana Kafer and Michael Weinreich*

Susan and Allan Viner

*Louise Kemler Kaufman*

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

*Bob Fishman and Elliott Tertes receiving inaugural Henry M.*

*Zachs Spirit of Judaism Award*

Susan and Allan Viner

*Sandra Rulnick becoming President of the Jewish Historical Society*

Marsha and Ed Lotstein

*Lil Marlow's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday*

Irma Menschell and family

*Tammy Kagan Levine*

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

*Elissa and Elliott Donn*

Shirley Morrison

## ***With best wishes for a speedy recovery:***

*Marsha Lotstein*

Paulette and James Lotstein

## ***General Donations:***

Peter Doherty

Bette D. Glickman

Loel Goldblatt

Mindelle Seltzer

Lillian Marlow

Gail and Jeff Adler

Annette and Seymour Gavens

## **PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

The Preservation Society is composed of members who have chosen to give at the \$1000 level of membership. We are immensely grateful to these individuals for their generous support.

Trudy and Louis Brown

Eleanor Caplan

Naomi and Michael Cohen

Rochelle and David Fierston

Joan Kemler

Muriel Kesten

Reba and Arthur Nassau

Henry Zachs

Jessica and Erich Zachs

Judith Zachs

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Jack Dolinsky

Abe Homar

Joseph Hurwitz

Harold Rothstein

Hon. Jerry Wagner

## **HERITAGE SOCIETY**

The Heritage Society is composed of members who have chosen to give at the \$1800 level of membership. We are immensely grateful to these individuals for their generous support.

Sandra and Arnold Chase

Tobey Gitelle

Louise and Todd Kaufman

Deborah and Steve Kleinman

Gerald Roisman

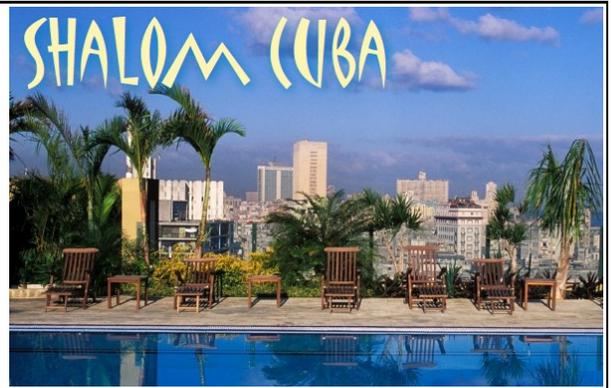
**Please join the Jewish Historical Society of  
Greater Hartford on a community wide trip to  
JEWISH CUBA**

February 14-22, 2016

**\$4700 per person**

(pricing based on double  
occupancy for JHSGH members)

**\$4800** for non-members  
**\$399** Single supplement



**Trip includes:**

- Round trip transportation from Miami
- 1 night in Miami
- 5 nights in Havana
- 2 nights in Santa Clara
- Breakfast daily, 7 lunches, 5 dinners including:
  - Welcome and farewell dinner
  - Shabbat dinner with community members
- Gratuities
- All transfers & entrance fees per itinerary
- All touring with a local licensed English speaking guide in an air-conditioned motor coach

(Not included: passport, travel insurance,  
flight to Miami)

**Information session:**

April 27th, 2015 at 7:00 PM  
Jewish Historical Society of Greater  
Hartford  
Community Services Building  
333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford

View the full flyer at [www.jhsg.org/pdf/flyers/Cuba2016.pdf](http://www.jhsg.org/pdf/flyers/Cuba2016.pdf)

**For more info contact:**

**Fay DeHaas** 860-206-8244 • [fdehass@cruiseplanners.com](mailto:fdehass@cruiseplanners.com)  
**Estelle Kafer** 860-727-6171 • [ekafer@jewishhartford.org](mailto:ekafer@jewishhartford.org)

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West Hartford, CT 06117

