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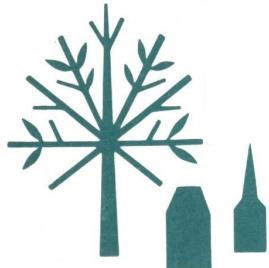
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
ESTELLE KAFER

\* NEW BOARD MEMBER  
\*\* DECEASED

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

# HERITAGE

Spring 2016



**JOHN MEYER. OF NORWICH**

**AN AMERICAN  
ORIGINAL**

**JUNE 24 - AUGUST 23, 2016**  
**CHASE FAMILY GALLERY**  
**MANDELL JCC**

**OPENING RECEPTION**  
**JUNE 23 AT 5:30 P.M.**

**AN EXHIBITION ON LOAN FROM**  
**THE SLATER MEMORIAL**  
**MUSEUM, NORWICH, CT**



Please visit our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org)  
Society Hours Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm  
(860) 727-6171

# President's Message

Dear Friends:

The old adage, "time flies when you are having fun" most certainly applies as my term as President of the JHS comes to an end. Exciting, fulfilling, challenging, and gratifying barely begin to describe the past two years.

I am so indebted to so many for their support, interest, dedication, and commitment: Executive Director, Estelle Kafer whose guidance and friendship were so crucial in every endeavor the JHS undertook; Project Manager, Bea Brodie, Archivist, Sara Hawran, and Intern, Jeanne Lowrey for their diligence and expertise in seeing that each project the JHS presented was completed in exacting detail; our Board of Trustees for their dedication and participation; community organizations for their collaborative efforts and continued support; Gary Schwartz, our incoming President...for his encouragement and willingness to say "yes" when I gave him no choice; my parents Gil and Ruth Hershman for their interest and stewardship of hundreds of family photos; my husband, Marshall, who has always supported my dreams; David Harris...I will never again answer the phone if he calls!!

There are so many "hidden treasures" still out there in our community...in albums, manila envelopes and file folders, attics, and basements. These photos, documents, and memorabilia from your families can safely be entrusted to the archives of the JHS where they will provide valuable links to the past for future generations. Please consider entrusting these treasures to us.

Best Regards,

*Sandra H. Rulnick*

## SPRING 2016 CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 13, 2016 - 10:00 a.m.

*Pride, Honor and Courage: Jewish Women Remember World War II* (Society film). Beth El Men's Club and Chai Society Brunch Program. \$10 (\$5 for Men's Club members). Contact Joe Springut at dr.EyesJoe@gmail.com or 860-676-9878. Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Ave, WH

### Tuesday, March 15, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting.  
Board Room, Community Services Building

### Sunday, April 10, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.

Revisit the Past: Tour Synagogue and Summer Retreats of Connecticut's Jewish Farming Communities.  
Tour leaves from JHSGH Office, Community Services Building

### Thursday, April 14, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

*Dirty Blvd: The Life and Music of Lou Reed* book talk with author Aidan Levy.  
Chase Gallery, Mandell JCC, WH

### Monday, April 18, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting.  
Board Room, Community Services Building

### Monday, May 16, 2016 - 9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

"Back to the Old Neighborhoods" Jewish Hartford Bus Tour.  
Tours leave from Community Services Building.

### Monday, May 16, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting.  
Board Room, Community Services Building

### Tuesday, May 24, 2016 - 7:00 p.m.

Book talk with Irene Levin Berman.  
Avon Public Library

### Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Annual Meeting. "Exhibiting the American Dream: The Lower East Side Tenement Museum Past and Present."

Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

### Thursday, June 23, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

John Meyer of Norwich exhibit opening.  
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

### July 10-22, 2016

Trip to Eastern Europe with Professor Samuel Kassow, Trinity College.

*And coming this fall...*

### Sunday, October 30, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.

*From Mobster to Mensch: 45th Anniversary Gala* with Louis Ferrante and Rabbi Arthur Rulnick.  
Emanuel Synagogue, WH

## TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPE

JULY 10-22, 2016

TRAVEL TO WARSAW, KRAKOW, PRAGUE, AND BUDAPEST WITH THE SOCIETY AND PROFESSOR SAMUEL KASSOW

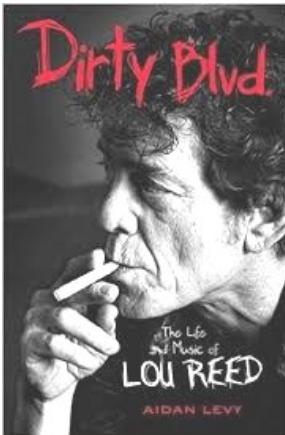


A FEW SPACES ARE STILL AVAILABLE

PLEASE CONTACT FAY DEHAAS  
AT 860 206-8244 OR  
[FDHAAS@CRUISEPLANNERS.COM](mailto:FDHAAS@CRUISEPLANNERS.COM)  
OR GO TO OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.JHSGH.ORG](http://WWW.JHSGH.ORG)

## **DIRTY BOULEVARD: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF LOU REED**

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
CHASE FAMILY GALLERY, MANDELL JCC



Join us to hear Aidan Levy, author of *Dirty Boulevard: The Life and Music of Lou Reed*, speak about this rock and roll legend, in the first biography published since Reed's death in 2013. Musician Lou Reed was a Jewish boy from Long Island who became known as the "Godfather of Punk" for his work with the Velvet Underground and Metallica. Learn how he rose to become a star, and also about the many dark and tender sides of his personal life. This program is free and open to the public.

Aidan Levy has written for the *New York Times*, the *Village Voice*, *Jazz Times*, and the *Daily Forward*. He grew up in West Hartford and graduated from Hall High School. He earned a B.A. from Brown University and is currently a doctoral student at Columbia University.

# **JHSGH Annual Meeting**

## **Exhibiting the American Dream: The Lower East Side Tenement Museum Past and Present**

Guest Speaker: Rachel Feinmark

Tuesday June 14, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.  
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

The Tenement Museum of New York preserves and interprets the history of immigration through the personal experiences of the generations of newcomers who built lives on the Lower East, America's iconic immigrant neighborhood. Come hear how this museum began and the fascinating programs they offer.

Rachel Feinmark is Manager of Strategic Communications and an American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellow at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.



To RSVP for either of the above programs, please contact Bea Brodie at 860-727-6170 or [bbrodie@jewishhartford.org](mailto:bbrodie@jewishhartford.org).



## **JOHN MEYER<sup>®</sup> OF NORWICH** AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

June 24 – August 23, 2016

Chase Family Gallery

Mandell Jewish Community Center

Opening Reception June 23 at 5:30 P.M.

Sponsored by the Society, this exhibit is on loan from the Slater Memorial Museum of Norwich Free Academy.

DOCENTS NEEDED/TRAINING PROVIDED



A leader in style and marketing, John Meyer reached out to a burgeoning middle class and created fashions that spoke to the exuberance and excitement of the 1960s. This exhibit features the clothing he designed and had manufactured, along with the history of his company and the innovative practices he used to create his special brand. His fashions resonated because they were new, classic and timeless. They were also color coordinated, making it easy for women to create an entire wardrobe based on several individual pieces. Many women who grew up in the 60s still have fond memories of their "special" outfits, but few know the real story behind the John Meyer of Norwich brand, one of the first designer labels.

# The Society's Recent Trip to Cuba



Jacob Berezniak is the leader of the Orthodox community of Adath Israel. He also serves as the shohet. The group of mostly seniors are provided with Kosher meat once a month.



Walking down to the chapel of the Orthodox synagogue. An adjacent community room serves daily meals to this elderly community.



We ate in Paladares - privately owned residences converted to tastefully decorated restaurants.



One of the two Jewish cemeteries in Havana. Tombstones are above the ground and date back to the early 1900s.



At Santa Clara, a tiny Jewish community, leader David Tacher explains how his dream to erect a Holocaust memorial in their Jewish cemetery became a reality.



The brightly painted vintage cars from the 50s and 60s can be seen all over. Some are privately owned and others are reconditioned for use as taxis or rentals.



Entrance to the Centro Hebreo Sefaradi - the Sephardic Synagogue and Center. The space included a permanent exhibit about the history of the Jews in Cuba.



We joined the small group of Santa Clara families in their converted synagogue house for Friday night service. Their prayer books were in Spanish and Hebrew and were published in Mexico.



Conservative Beth Shalom Synagogue, known as El Patronato, Havana's largest synagogue and community center.

# The 45th Anniversary Gala Celebration of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

Sunday, October 30 at 5:30 pm  
Emanuel Synagogue, West Hartford

“From Mobster to Mensch”  
Special Guests: Louis Ferrante  
and Rabbi Arthur D. Rulnick



Born in the Bronx, New York, Louis Ferrante spent his teen years hijacking delivery trucks, driving them to drop-offs all over New York, and reselling the merchandise. His activities earned him the attention of Mob Boss John Gotti, head



of the Gambino crime family, but he eventually got caught. While spending eight plus years in federal penitentiaries for armed robbery, Mr. Ferrante became an avid reader and author. Among the voluminous amount of reading materials that Ferrante consumed were works on the religions of the world. After his release from prison, he “...became friends with a rabbi and asked him to convert me.” That Rabbi was Arthur Rulnick.

Rabbi Rulnick (left) was born and raised in Hartford and West Hartford. He is the son of the late Morris and Sara Rulnick and the brother and brother-in-law of Marshall and Sandra Rulnick. A graduate of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbi Rulnick has been the spiritual leader of pulpits in Columbus, Georgia, Pittsfield, MA, and Woodbury, NY.

Louis Ferrante is a best selling author, motivational speaker, television producer, and host as well as a guest on numerous network television news programs. He has been honored by the United Kingdom for his efforts on behalf of youths at risk. Check our website, [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org), for more information coming soon.

## Back to the *Old Neighborhoods* BUS TOUR



Travel Through  
200 Years Of  
Jewish History  
In Hartford



Monday, May 16, 2016  
at 9:30 am and 1:30 p.m.

Travel through 200 years of Hartford's Jewish history! Our professional guide will share information about the earliest Jewish settlers and new immigrants who came to the area and made it a thriving and growing center of Jewish life. The tour includes stops at the sites of three former synagogues: Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Agudas Achim, and The Emanuel Synagogue.

To register, or for more information, visit our website: [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org). Please fill out both of the required forms (the PayPal form and the registration form), or call 860 727-6170.

## Book Talk with Irene Levin Berman

Norway Wasn't Too Small: A Story about the Holocaust  
in Norway: Darkness and Survival

Tuesday May 24, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.  
Avon Public Library



Norway Wasn't Too Small

A Story about the Holocaust in Norway:  
Darkness and Survival

by Irene Levin Berman

Celebrating Jewish History Month

# From the Director



Dear Friends,

Traveling to Cuba a few weeks ago was truly a remarkable experience! The Society-sponsored trip with 24 participants focused on meeting and learning about the Jewish community, which once boasted over 15,000 members and today numbers less than 1,500. We visited active synagogues, Conservative, Orthodox and Sephardic, two cemeteries and a hand sculpted Holocaust memorial. We visited the Santa Clara Jewish community of less than 20 people and joined them for Shabbat services and dinner in their converted synagogue/house. We contributed art, school and medical supplies we had brought with us. We enjoyed the beauty, fascinating history and vibrant culture of this diversified country and observed transformative change and an optimism for the future. Please see photos inside and watch for a photo exhibit coming soon to our office.

As you read the pages of this Bulletin, I think you will agree we have a fabulous line up of programs planned for this spring and fall. I know you will find each and every one of them worthy of your time. Many of the programs are free and open to the community but we need your help in promoting these activities to your friends, families, and on social media. Please forward the Society program e-blasts to your email lists or let us know of someone we can add to our mailing list. We spend many hours of research, arranging, planning and publicizing our events. We often subsidize our offerings in order to increase attendance. We appreciate your continuing support and interest.

A little early but wishing everyone a Happy Pesach!



*Estelle*

## From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

Our archival materials have been used for some exciting projects this winter. For the past several months, the Society has been working on a photo book of Hartford's Jewish history. The book, called *The Jewish Community of Hartford*, will include more than 200 photos, most of which come from the Society's archives. It will be published later this year by Arcadia as part of their *Images of America* series. In other exciting news, one of our oral histories was recently used in an NPR podcast called The Radius Project. In the oral history, Herman Holtz recounts his efforts to save Ados Israel's Torah scrolls during the 1936 flood. You can listen to it at <http://radiusproject.org/radius/connecticut-river/>

We have been fortunate to acquire a number of interesting items recently. One of these items was a book created by Beatrice Fox Auerbach for her good friend and attorney, Judge Solomon Elsner. Donated by Elsner's son Jim, the book contains illustrations depicting her plans for a Solomon Elsner chapel to be built at the Hebrew Home on Tower Ave. We also received a number of photos of Rabbi Isaac Avigdor, donated by Rabbi Avigdor's son Morton. Other donations include a collection of newsletters and photos relating to B'nai Sholom, Newington, that have been organized and labeled by volunteer Serene Hackel.

The Society's collections are available for research by appointment. If you are interested in donating materials of your own, let us know! We would be glad to preserve your family's history.

Best regards,

*Sara*

## INTERVIEWS BEING CONDUCTED WITH LOCAL HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The Society, in collaboration with JFACT (The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut) is collecting the names of all Holocaust survivors that have not yet been interviewed by the Society, even if they have been interviewed by other organizations. Nan Lamm, a local social worker, is volunteering her time and professional skills to conduct the interviews, and they are being videotaped by Nild Sansone, a local film maker, through a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation. More than twenty survivors have already been interviewed which will now be archived in the Society's collection. In addition, each narrator will receive a personal copy of the interview. If you are a survivor and interested in being interviewed, please contact the Society at 860-727-6170.

# 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:***

*Sally and Isadore Levitz*

Elaine Charendoff

*Rabbi Hans and Mrs. Alma Bodenheimer*

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

*Frances Gittleman*

Paulette and James Lotstein

*Max Friedman*

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

*Frank Kafer*

Joan and Daniel Fine

Claudia and Stacey Lieberman

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

Susan and Allan Viner

*Lillian Leah Hochman*

Howard R. Hoffman

*Lila and Malcolm Snyder*

Elizabeth Zelek

*Ellen W. Banks*

Morris Banks

*Dr. Irving (Chick) Waltman*

Eileen and Elliott Pollack

Dr. David L. Weil

Bobbe Basch

Maddy and Philip Handler

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Leiman

Gloria and Henry Levine

Cynthia Blayer

Cookie and Bill Sloat

Naomi Larman

Lorraine and Leo Pinsky

Myra Kaye

Eleanor Caplan

Helga Allweiss

Joseph and Nilly Doron

Selma A. Moffie

Claire M. Friedman

*Florence Druckman*

Maddy & Philip Handler

*Sarah R. Brody*

Carolyn and Michael Levine

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

*Sandra and Marshall Rulnick's 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary*

Fran and Ed Friedman

*Bess & Sidney Koppell*

Martin Koppell

## ***Hon. Henry S. Cohn's special birthday***

Ruth and Sheldon Radin

Esther Rothenberg

## ***With best wishes for:***

*Sheldon Kafer's good health*

Sandra and Marshall Rulnick

## ***General donations:***

Dr. Ellen Eisenberg

Sybille Millard

Jeffrey Rennert

Charles S. Rotenberg

Laura Soll

Michael Wagner

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Drs. Paula and Leland Bradbard

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Cohen

Linda and David Fishman

Judith and Barry Kramer

Nancy Kramer

Claudia and Stacey Lieberman

Joanne G. Rome

Lois S. Siegal

Diane and Dr. Jeffrey Wasser

Harriet Winograd

## **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 or the Heritage Society, please contact Estelle at 860 727-6171 or [ekafer@jewishhartford.org](mailto:ekafer@jewishhartford.org).

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Myron Cohen  
Simon Konover  
Dr. Irving Waltman

## **IN MEMORIAM**

We note the passing of Dr. Irving "Chick" Waltman, a founding member of the Society, a former Board member and an Honorary Board member. We also remember Simon Konover, a philanthropist and strong supporter of the Society. Both created endowment funds to help sustain the Society for the future and we are grateful for their thoughtfulness and foresight. Their legacies will enable us to move strongly into the future.

## Help Us Preserve Memories

Complete this form for membership and return with check made payable to JHSGH or visit [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) to use our PayPal account.

*Please check the category you wish to support.*

- Heritage Society \$1800
- Preservation Society \$1000
- Scholar \$500
- Archivist \$250
- Historian \$125
- Friend \$50
- Senior\*/Student \$36

\*62 and over

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

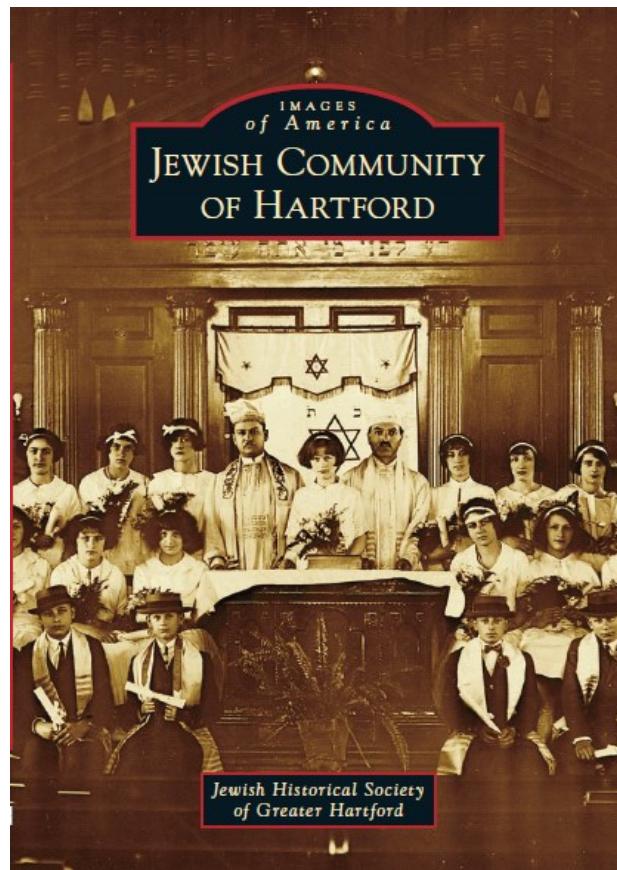
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*For donations please fill out information below:*

Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- in honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement sent to: \_\_\_\_\_



**COMING IN SEPTEMBER 2016**

Zachs Campus  
JHSGH  
333 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

