

Spring 2013

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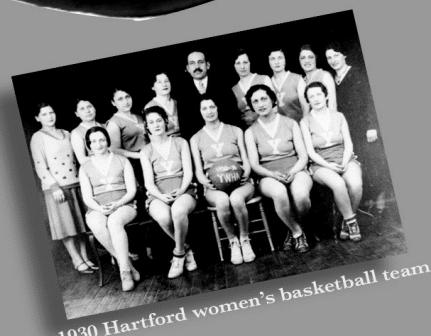
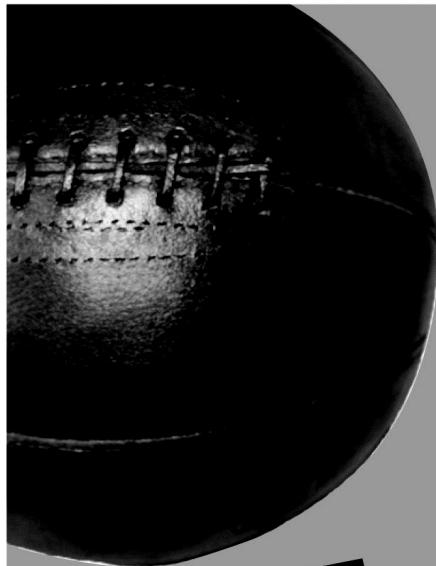
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\* NEW BOARD MEMBER  
\*\* DECEASED



1930 Hartford women's basketball team

Free and  
open to the  
public



1920 Hartford women's basketball team

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford presents:

**Jewish Women in American Sport:  
Settlement Houses to the Olympics**

Film Screening/Discussion  
led by Dr. Linda J. Borish, Ph.D.  
*Western Michigan University Executive Director and Historian*

Film Directed/Produced by Shuli Eshel

Tuesday, April 30 &  
Wednesday, May 1, 2013  
Times and locations listed inside

For more information, please visit our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org)

# President's Message

Dear Members,

I write this message in the middle of a deep freeze—temperatures in the teens with a wind chill factor well below zero. Yet I know that the warmth of spring will be here before we know it. Passover is very early this year—making winter pass even more quickly.

The coming of spring will bring many exciting JHSGH events. We will be launching our eagerly anticipated second volume of Hartford stories, including additional neighborhoods, and this spring there will be four more bus tours of the old neighborhoods—so well received this past fall.

The richness of our past, so proudly preserved by the Jewish Historical Society—let us enjoy every opportunity to experience it. Watch for our calendar of events and join us for many journeys into the past.

You don't have to be a Hartford native to take advantage of the many programming opportunities that the Society offers throughout the year. The architectural beauty and religious significance of the former synagogues that we enter on the Old Neighborhoods bus tour—stand on their own as historical sites. In past years, we have run a very successful series on “Jews Around the World” highlighting the Jews of China, Cuba and Greece. We regularly bring in speakers to share their own interests, such as Jewish participation in the Golden Age of boxing, or researchers who have written books on fascinating subjects, like Dr. David Vogel who published “Mark Twain and the Jews.”

My own involvement with the Society has immeasurably enriched my life as I have been given opportunities to recall and refresh my memories of the wonderful years of growing up in Hartford. I have also learned much about my own community, while broadening my horizons to include the whole Jewish world. We invite your participation and involvement. You will certainly gain from the experience.

Wishing you a joyous, meaningful Passover holiday.

*Barbara*

## SPRING 2013 CALENDAR

### Monday, April 8, 2013 – 1:30 p.m.

Welcome to Kutshers: *The Last Catskills Resort*

Jewish Film Fest, Mandell JCC

### Tuesday, April 23, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting, CSB

### Sunday, April 28, 2013 – 9:30 & 1:30

“Back to the Old Neighborhoods” bus tour

Community Services Building

### Tuesday, April 30 & Wednesday, May 1, 2013

*Jewish Women in American Sport: Settlement Houses to the Olympics*  
Lecture and Film (various times & locations... *see article*)

### Sunday, May 5, 2013 – 9:30 & 1:30

“Back to the Old Neighborhoods” bus tour

Community Services Building

### Tuesday, May 21, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

JHSGH Board Meeting, CSB

### Tuesday, May 28, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Leon Chameides' book talk  
The Emanuel Synagogue

### Thursday, June 13, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting with Dr. Stuart Miller

Chase Gallery, Mandell JCC

### Wednesday, June 26, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Hartford Stories Book Launch  
The Emanuel Synagogue



Please remember  
to visit us on  
Facebook &  
Twitter!

Strangers  
in Many Lands



*The Story of a Jewish Family  
in Turbulent Times*

LEON CHAMEIDES, M.D.

**DR. LEON CHAMEIDES  
AUTHOR OF TWO NEW BOOKS**

**Tuesday, May 28, 2013**

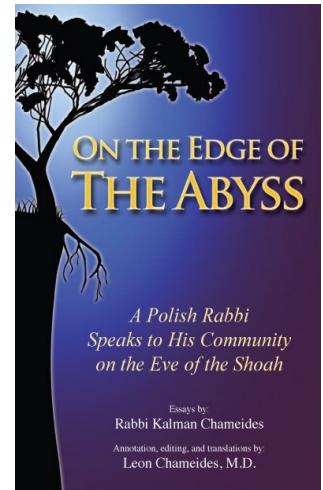
**7:30 p.m.**

**The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford**

Dr. Leon Chameides has taken on a new role in his retirement — author. He has recently published two books and will be discussing them at a special program on Tuesday, May 28, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. at The Emanuel Synagogue. *Strangers in Many Lands* traces his family back to 1790 and discusses the experiences of each generation, including his own experiences during World War II. Using genealogic tables, photographs, maps and copies of documents, it denotes the trials of modern Jewish history by following the trials of one Jewish family.

The second book, *On the Edge of the Abyss*, is a collection of essays written by his father, who was Rabbi of the Katowice Jewish community between 1932 and 1936. He found these essays in a community newspaper, 118 issues of which have been preserved in a library in Poland. Dr. Chameides translated the essays from the original Polish and German, annotated them and grouped them by topic. They consist of discussions of biblical texts, Jewish historical events and current events.

Dr. Leon Chameides was born in Poland, and, as a child, was hidden in a Ukrainian Greek Catholic Monastery. He came to the United States in 1949 and received his high school, college and post-graduate education at Yeshiva University, and his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In 1967, he and his wife, Jean, arrived in Hartford. Dr. Chameides was the founding Chair of Pediatric Cardiology at Hartford Hospital and then Connecticut Children's Hospital and was Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.



**“JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICAN SPORT:  
SETTLEMENT HOUSES TO THE OLYMPICS”**

A FILM BY DR. LINDA BORISH AND SHULI ESHE

**THIS PROGRAM IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Dr. Linda Borish joined with Israeli filmmaker Shuli Eshe to create a documentary on the history of American Jewish women in sports. Dr. Borish is co-producer, and it is based on her extensive historical research. They used archival research, news footage, photographs and interviews with athletes and historians to follow a chronological timetable, beginning with the settlement houses. Many of these institutions contained gyms and were created to help new immigrants become Americanized.

A number of Jewish women were early pioneers in their sport. For example, Senda Berenson is considered the founder of women's basketball. She not only learned the sport from Naismith himself, but she modified the rules and held the first women's collegiate basketball game in 1893. She was also the first woman inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. The story includes the passage of Title IX, which was designed to eliminate discrimination in college athletics, enabling women to further pursue their interest in sports and often move on to professional careers. Interviews with current athletes, such as ice skater Sarah Hughes, are also included. **Dr. Borish will lead a discussion at each showing of the film.**

Dr. Borish is a professor of history and gender/women's studies at Western Michigan University and has done extensive research on American women's sport history.

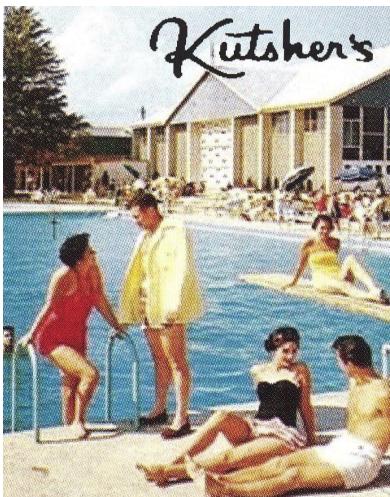


**Because of its importance, this film will be shown at several different times and locations. You are welcome to join us at any of these sites.**

**Tuesday, April 30, 2013 — 7:00 p.m. — University of Hartford, Dana Hall, Mali 2 Auditorium**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2013 — 12:30 p.m. — Manchester Community College, Great Path Academy Building,  
GPA Community Commons 2nd Floor**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2013 — 7:30 p.m. — The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford**



Connecticut Premieres

## Welcome to Kutshers - The Last Catskills Resort

USA, 2012, 73 minutes, English, Directors: Ian Rosenberg and Caroline Laskow

Monday, April 8, 1:30 PM

Herbert Gilman Theater, Mandell JCC

Free for Seniors

Kutsher's Country Club is the last surviving Jewish resort in the Catskill mountains of New York State, and in its heyday was one of the legendary "Borscht Belt" hotels. The resorts were not only a Jewish vacation paradise, they also launched many show biz and sports careers. This portrait of the iconic hotel which welcomed masses of Jewish families in the 1950's and 1960's is a hearty kosher feast flavored with tasty Jewish nostalgia.

Free Tickets: Box Office: 860-231-6316; Member Services Center, 860-236-4571

*Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford*

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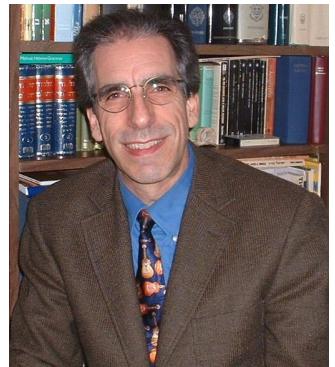
## ANNUAL MEETING

**SPEAKER: DR. STUART MILLER**

**JUNE 13, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

The Chase Family Gallery, Mandell Jewish Community Center

"RITUAL BATHING PRACTICES AND JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE—FROM ANCIENT SEPPHORIS (TSIPPORI) TO NINETEENTH CENTURY CHESTERFIELD, CT"



Dr. Stuart Miller, who has been involved in excavations at Sepphoris in the Galilee and recently co-directed an excavation in Chesterfield, CT will discuss the history of ritual purity practices and their importance to Jewish communal life, from antiquity until the modern period. Dr. Miller specializes in the history and literature of Talmudic Israel, in particular the history of ancient Sepphoris, which was once the capital of the Galilee and an early center of rabbinic life. His new book which includes a section on the ritual baths discovered at Sepphoris, led to his involvement with the New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emmanuel Society, who are responsible for maintaining the historic remains of the Jewish community in Chesterfield, Ct.

Dr. Stuart Miller is a Professor of Hebrew, History and Judaic Studies, as well as the Academic Director at the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

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## *Revisiting Our Neighborhoods: Stories from Hartford's Past*



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013

7:00 p.m.

The Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Dr., West Hartford

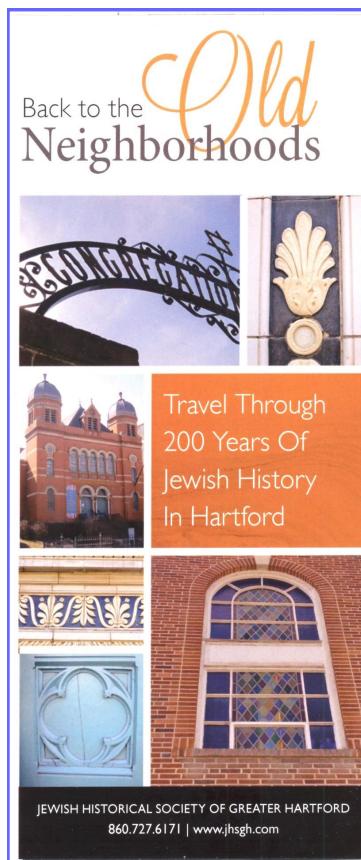
You loved *Remembering the Old Neighborhood: Stories from Hartford's North End*, and we were excited and overwhelmed when over 500 people attended its book launch several years ago. We know that you'll enjoy this new volume, *Revisiting Our Neighborhoods: Stories from Hartford's Past* just as much. The scope has been expanded, so that it now includes not only North End stories, but also the memories of those who lived in other Hartford neighborhoods. For example, although the South End had a smaller Jewish population, it did have its own Talmud Torah, and there were many Jewish-owned businesses there. In this book, those who grew up in that area, or whose families worked there, share their own fascinating reminiscences and experiences.

Join us on for an opportunity to schmooze, reconnect with old friends, and purchase the new book.

*There will be a special discount available for that evening only. More information will be coming to you soon.*

## BACK TO THE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS

— April 28th and May 5th —



Back to the *Old Neighborhoods*

Travel Through 200 Years Of Jewish History In Hartford

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD  
860.727.6171 | [www.jhsgh.com](http://www.jhsgh.com)

*“Perfect companion to the ‘Remembering the Old Neighborhood’ book”*

*“I didn’t grow up in Connecticut and I still loved the tour”*

*“I loved having the leaders of the new occupants of our old synagogues speak to us”*

Following the success of the Society's book, *Back to the Old Neighborhoods: Stories from Hartford's North End*, it was decided to develop a guided tour that would follow the path taken by immigrants from their arrival in Hartford and follow them as they "moved up" in the world. The tour includes stops at three sites, the former Congregation Beth Israel, which is now the Charter Oak Cultural Center, the former Agudas Achim and the former Emanuel Synagogue, both of which are now churches. A professional guide provides an historical narrative as the bus drives through the city. Participants receive a booklet

which provides photos of buildings and properties that no longer exist. In addition, a CD was created to be played on the bus that contains short anecdotes told in the words of people who grew up in the North End.

As the comfortable coach bus drives through the once familiar streets, there is an opportunity for participants to share their own stories and memories. Even those who did not grow up in Hartford, will enjoy seeing and learning about a community that was unique to Hartford, but that also resembled so many others throughout the country in its ethnic and religious mix and its small-town feel.

Although the synagogues that are visited have now been repurposed, many of the original architectural and religious details remain, and are respected and beautifully preserved by their new owners. The clergy and lay leaders of both the Glory Chapel and the Faith Seventh Day Adventist Church have been very warm and welcoming — proud to show off their facilities and talk about the work that they do in their community.

The tour is sponsored by the JHSGH and funded in part by the Beatrice Fox Auderbach/Koopman Share of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, the Connecticut Humanities Council, the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the State Historic Preservation Office.



For further information, go to our website at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) or call 860-727-6170.



*Exhibit Now Showing*

## “THE DOWNTOWN HARTFORD EXPERIENCE, 1930s – 1960s”

Did you know that FDR spoke in Bushnell Park in 1936? Did you ever watch the Back to School Parade sponsored by the downtown merchants? Do you remember any of the small family-owned businesses that dotted Main Street and the surrounding streets?

Our newest exhibit reminds us that at one time, downtown Hartford was "the" place to shop. People dressed up and often took the bus to buy clothing, go to restaurants or movies, or attend civic and cultural events.. The Society has assembled a collection of photos from its own archives, as well as from the Hartford History Center at the Hartford Public Library, along with short anecdotes from people who shared their personal memories.

The exhibit is now up in the Society's office and is free and open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. For further information, call (860) 727 - 6170. The exhibit will be on display through May 2013.

### EQUIPMENT WISH LIST

Below is a Wish List of equipment that the office needs. We would appreciate donations in any amount towards the purchase of these items.	
PowerPoint Projector for programs	\$800
Portable audio and video digital recorders	\$200
Multi-document scanner	\$350
Thermohygrometer (device to measure humidity levels)	\$160
New Desktop Computers	\$2000

# From the Director



Dear Friends,

It was almost a year ago at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration that we proudly shared and acknowledged the Society's significant accomplishments and successes due to the hard work of many dedicated individuals.

Forty years of collecting the history of the Greater Hartford community has proven our archives as an important and respected resource for our local community as well as across the country. As we continue the digitization process to strengthen sustainability as well as improve accessibility through the Internet, we are forging exciting collaborations and links with institutions, research centers and scholars. In the coming months, we will be working on developing a new website, creating an on-line synagogue exhibit, upgrading social media platforms and providing opportunities to share photos, stories and commentary.

We have much to look forward to – educational programs, an eagerly awaited Hartford Stories book launch, bus tours, fascinating lectures by Dr. Leon Chameides, Dr. Stuart Miller, and Dr. Linda Borish, and an amazing summer journey to Russia and Vilnius with Professor Kassow that was sold out in three weeks!

We are very grateful to our members and donors for their support and generosity BUT we must continue to ask for your help – for today and tomorrow.

Please consider a donation toward our wish list, a donor advised fund for a program, project or need, a named fund toward our endowment or a legacy gift to ensure the survival of preserving our community history. I would be delighted to hear from you to discuss these options further.

Wishing everyone a very joyous Passover!

*Estelle*



## From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

Since my last progress report outlining our efforts at the JHSGH to maintain and preserve our archival collection, we have been fortunate to have new acquisitions arrive to expand our collection holdings and new projects to keep our staff and our interns very busy throughout the winter months. With our new database management system, Archivists' Toolkit, we are processing our archival collections and have searchable access to a large number of records pertaining to individuals, subjects, and digital object records. We have also made a good portion of this material available for researchers on our website with more to follow in the near future.

The JHSGH Oral History digitization project is moving along smoothly, with 425 out of 1150 oral history interviews already recorded in digital format. A major effort has been undertaken here by our intern Victoria Stuart to assure the proper cataloguing of our oral history collection and provide access to the content of this collection. Along with transferring recorded interviews from soon-to-be obsolete cassette tapes to digital files, we are also in the process of both creating and digitizing the written transcripts of such interviews in order to be able to share the rich experience and information about the Jewish community in Hartford that these oral history interviews convey. Also, we have received several new oral history interviews related to both our involvement with the Jewish Veterans Oral History project and our upcoming book publication, *Revisiting Our Neighborhoods: Stories from Hartford's Past*.

In addition to the growth of our oral history collection, we have received significant archival donations this winter to help build the Synagogue and Religious Education collections. Currently, we are working with Hebrew Health Care to receive a large deposit of mixed historical materials related to the establishment of this important institution. We are also responding to research requests related to the Jewish Children's Service Organization (JCSO) and the Hebrew Women's Home for Children concerning its early history. Other archival inquiries have also come in over the past weeks, including undergraduate and graduate students seeking information pertaining to the performance of the play "Brundibar" in Hartford over the past forty years, the 1943 Polish Warsaw ghetto uprising, and the ongoing tradition of the Moat Chittim Passover Fund.

Finally, we have been privileged to sponsor two graduate interns from Simmons College to help us develop the Society's online presence and help process collections. First year graduate student, Leah Early, contributed significantly in our ongoing project to publish archival finding aids online. Nicole Kingsbury, our current advanced graduate intern, is continuing to do a great job developing our first online web exhibition on synagogues in the Hartford area which will be debuted on our soon-to-be published new JHSGH website!

Please consider contributing your historical artifacts, manuscripts, and documents to the JHSGH collection and many thanks again to all those who are participating in the life of the archives! Wishing everyone many blessings for the upcoming holiday,

*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.

## **General donations:**

Paul Basch

Dr. and Mrs. Jerry Cohen, and Adam Cohen – a donation to the Society's Endowment Fund

Joe Fox

Allan Geetter

Loel Goldblatt

Rabbi and Mrs. Jeffrey Glickman

Judith and Allen Kronick – a yahrzeit donation in memory of Marie Shor

Debra and Steven Luger

Lillian Marlow

Leo Novarr

Jason Wolfe

## ***In memory of:***

*Dr. Seymour Saltzman*

Maddy and Phil Handler

*Monroe Sherow*

Naomi and Michael Cohen

Louise and Todd Kaufman

*David Sheketoff*

Dr. Irving and Fran Waltman

*Samuel B. and Mollie G. Pollack*

Elliott B. and Eileen Pollack

## **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Joanne and Jerome Blum

Adam Cohen

Nancy Gordon

Carole and Richard Guttman

Judith and Abraham Homar

Wilma Hoffman

Michael Palmer

Lorna and Paul Pincus

Robert Rosenthal

Lynne and Hal Schoen

Phyllis and Sid Ulreich

Jennifer Sharp

## ***Your Story-Take One Celebrates Five Year Anniversary***

It was Passover, 2008 when 85-year old Freddy Hagouel agreed to speak on camera about his life before and after the Holocaust. Freddy, who was born and raised in Greece, was a concentration camp survivor. His daughter, Elise, had been trying for years to get her father to share his story. Now, the family would have a moving legacy for future generations.

The Civil Rights movement in Birmingham, Alabama. Life in the coal mines of Western Pennsylvania. A harrowing escape from the Nazis in Oslo, Norway. These are just some of the stories we have been privileged to document in the five years since we started *Your Story-Take One*. People who want to leave behind more than their financial assets are also hiring us to help them express their beliefs, values and life lessons. A so-called ethical will is a way to do that. Video is the medium we use.

We also work with organizations that want to commemorate an important anniversary. Two years ago we interviewed more than a dozen people and used archival photos to create a moving portrait of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

We are experienced journalists and filmmakers who will create a visual family history, personal memoir or tribute that you, your children and grandchildren will treasure for years. *Your Story-Take One*, [www.yourstorytakeone.com](http://www.yourstorytakeone.com), 860.673.0066.



Bob Kagan and Marcy Cain

## **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 dedicated individuals for their generous support.

Eleanor Caplan

Reba and Arthur Nassau

Rochelle and David Fierston

Tobey Gitelle

Louise and Todd Kaufman

Muriel and Martin Kesten<sup>ZL</sup>

Deborah and Steven Kleinman

Dr. Stacy Nerenstone and Morton Weinstein

Eileen and Elliott Pollack

Marilyn and Harold Rothstein

Frances and Dr. Irving Waltman

Zachs Family Fund

## **IN MEMORIAM**



Martin Kesten  
David Schwartz  
Dr. Norton Seltzer  
David Sheketoff  
Alfred Rosenthal  
Sally Wagner

# 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](mailto:jhsgh@jewishhartford.org)

Website: [www.jhsgh.org](http://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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to **JHSGH** and mail to:

JHSGH, 333 Bloomfield Avenue,

West Hartford, CT 06117

Or go online to [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) to join!

Zachs Campus

JHSGH

333 Bloomfield Avenue

West Hartford, CT 06117

