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

HERITAGE

Spring 2014

"A Brief Look Back"

CELEBRATING OVER 100 YEARS OF JEWISH LEGAL PRESENCE IN GREATER HARTFORD

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER HARTFORD

INVITES YOU TO A BOOK LAUNCH AND RECEPTION FOR THE NEWLY PUBLISHED JOURNAL
HIGHLIGHTING THE HISTORY OF GREATER HARTFORD JEWISH LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS



COCKTAILS, LIGHT BUFFET DINNER, BRIEF REMARKS

WEDNESDAY MAY 14 6:30 PM TUMBLEBROOK COUNTRY CLUB
376 SIMSBURY ROAD | BLOOMFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06002

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO VIEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
PLEASE GO TO WWW.JHSGH.ORG/SPONSORSHIP.HTML
JHSGH 333 BLOOMFIELD AVENUE WEST HARTFORD, CT 860-727-6170

Image: Architectural Rendering, Connecticut State Library Picture Group 220, Connecticut State Library Collection, 1906-1976, Box 1, Folder 9, Connecticut State Library, State Archives.

INVITATION COMING SOON!

Please visit our website at www.jhsgh.org
Society Hours, Monday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(860) 727-6171

President's Message

Dear Fellow Members and Friends,

This has been such an exciting year and I am truly enjoying my increased involvement in the Society. Please take a few moments to stop over at the JCC and see our Society window in the hallway leading to the health club. There are a number of wonderful events coming this spring. Please support our lawyer's program in May, which launches our newest historical journal and honors the Hartford area legal profession, and is also a major fundraiser for the Society. Don't miss the Bat Mitzvah exhibit and the programs that are being held in conjunction with it. Also, this June, we are co-sponsoring (with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford) a Jewish Heritage trip to Philadelphia which should be both educational and inspirational.

There are also ongoing projects which are very exciting, such as the Community Outreach Initiative. Our long term goal is to assist every community institution and organization in maintaining and preserving their own historical materials, while they share their materials for our archives. We've always known how important this is, but it was further highlighted recently when both The Emanuel Synagogue and the Mandell JCC did research in the archive to find photos and documents for their upcoming anniversary celebrations.

I was amazed to learn how much work goes on behind the scenes. Trips, programs and exhibits must be planned months, sometimes years in advance, and we work hard to collaborate as much as possible with other organizations so that we reach the widest possible audience. We respond to numerous research requests from students, scholars, and filmmakers but we never lose sight of our most vital mission — collecting, preserving and disseminating the history of Hartford's Jewish community. Make sure you check out our website which has received rave reviews!

I am delighted to welcome our newest members and invite all of you to participate in the many activities that the Society offers. Please share this newsletter with family and friends who may not yet be members, and let them know what they are missing!

With best wishes for a wonderful Pesach.

Louise

S P R I N G 2 0 1 4 C A L E N D A R

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
JHSGH Community Collections Outreach Seminar — Community Services Building

Sunday, March 30, 2014 - 4:00 p.m.
Film: The Prime Ministers
Digiplex Destinations, Bloomfield

Thursday, April 17, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.
"Revisiting Our Neighborhoods" Book Discussion
Avon Public Library

Wednesday, April 23, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Monday, April 7, 2014
"Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age" Exhibit Opens
Mandell JCC Chase Family Gallery

Thursday, April 24, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
Bat Mitzvah Event—"Today I Am a Woman"
Mandell JCC Chase Family Gallery

**Sunday, April 27, 2014 - 9:30 a.m.
and 1:30 p.m.**
Jewish Hartford Bus Tour
Leaves from Community Service Building

Wednesday, May 7, 2014 - 1:30 p.m.
University of Hartford President's College Series: History of Jewish Hartford
See bulletin article for more details

Wednesday, May 14, 2014 - 6:30 p.m.
"A Brief Look Back; A Hundred Years of Jewish Legal History in Hartford"
Tumblebrook Country Club, Bloomfield

Thursday, May 22, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Service Building

Thursday, May 29, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
Multi-Cultural Coming of Age Program
Mandell JCC Adult Senior Lounge

Friday, June 6 - Sunday, June 8, 2014
Jewish Heritage Trip to Philadelphia, including visit to National Museum of Jewish History

Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 7:00 p.m.
JHSGH Annual Meeting at the Mandell Jewish Community Center



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



Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age is a traveling exhibit from the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, which shows how "bat mitzvah evolved from a radical innovation into a nearly universal American tradition." It is a fascinating example of Judaism's dynamism and ability to adapt to changing times and attitudes, while also exemplifying the continually evolving roles and responsibilities of women in cultural and religious life.*



This exhibit is co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford and the Mandell Jewish Community Center. For additional programming info: www.jhsgh.org or 860-727-6170.

*The exhibit will move to the Gilman Theater lobby from April 29-May 25, 2014

Today I Am a Woman



STORIES OF BAT MITZVAH AROUND THE WORLD

Join us **Thursday, April 24** at **7:00 pm** in the Chase Family Gallery for a presentation with Barbara Vinick, author of *Today I Am a Woman: Stories of Bat Mitzvah Around the World*.

Followed by an open discussion to share your own story.

Free and Open to the community



860-236-4571 • www.mandelljcc.org

Zachs Campus • 335 Bloomfield Ave • West Hartford, CT 06117



HISTORIC SYNAGOGUES OF HARTFORD



If you haven't already taken a look at our new on-line exhibit, *Historic Synagogues of Hartford*, go to our website,

www.jhsgh.org and click on the title, which will link you to the exhibit. There, you'll find photos and information about historic synagogues, religious leaders and communal life, as well as a timeline. There is also a listing of additional resources and present day synagogues. Developed by the Society's archivist, Greg Farr, it is a fascinating journey into Hartford's past.

PROGRAM: STORIES FROM BAT MITZVAHS AROUND THE WORLD

Thursday, April 24 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Mandell Jewish Community Center

335 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford

Barbara Vinick, co-author of *Today I am A Woman: Stories of Bat Mitzvah Around the World* will be our guest speaker on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mandell JCC. She will speak about the history of the bat mitzvah, as well as the ways in which this rite of passage are celebrated in different countries. Her talk will be followed by an open discussion where you will have an opportunity to share your own bat mitzvah memories.

Ms. Vinick has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Boston University and has conducted post-doctoral research at Harvard. She edited *Esther's Legacy: Celebrating Purim Around the World* at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. She is also secretary of *Kulanu* ("All of Us" in Hebrew) an organization that helps isolated and emerging Jewish communities around the world.

New exhibit now on display at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

TIKKUN OLAM IN OUR COMMUNITY



Rabbi Silverman pictured here at a promotional event for the United Negro College Fund organization in the mid-1960's.

Come visit the Society office, Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Tikkun Olam is a Hebrew phrase that translates to "repairing (or healing) the world". It connotes the shared responsibility of every individual to make the world a better place through acts of social action or social justice. This exhibit, now on display at the Society, highlights many of the people and organizations from our past that have translated these words into deeds — creating the special Greater Hartford community that exists today.

Please note these upcoming educational opportunities ...

Presidents' College

education for a lifetime

University of Hartford



A History of Jewish Hartford

with

Estelle Kafer, Betty Hoffman, Mary Donohue,
Avi Patt, moderator

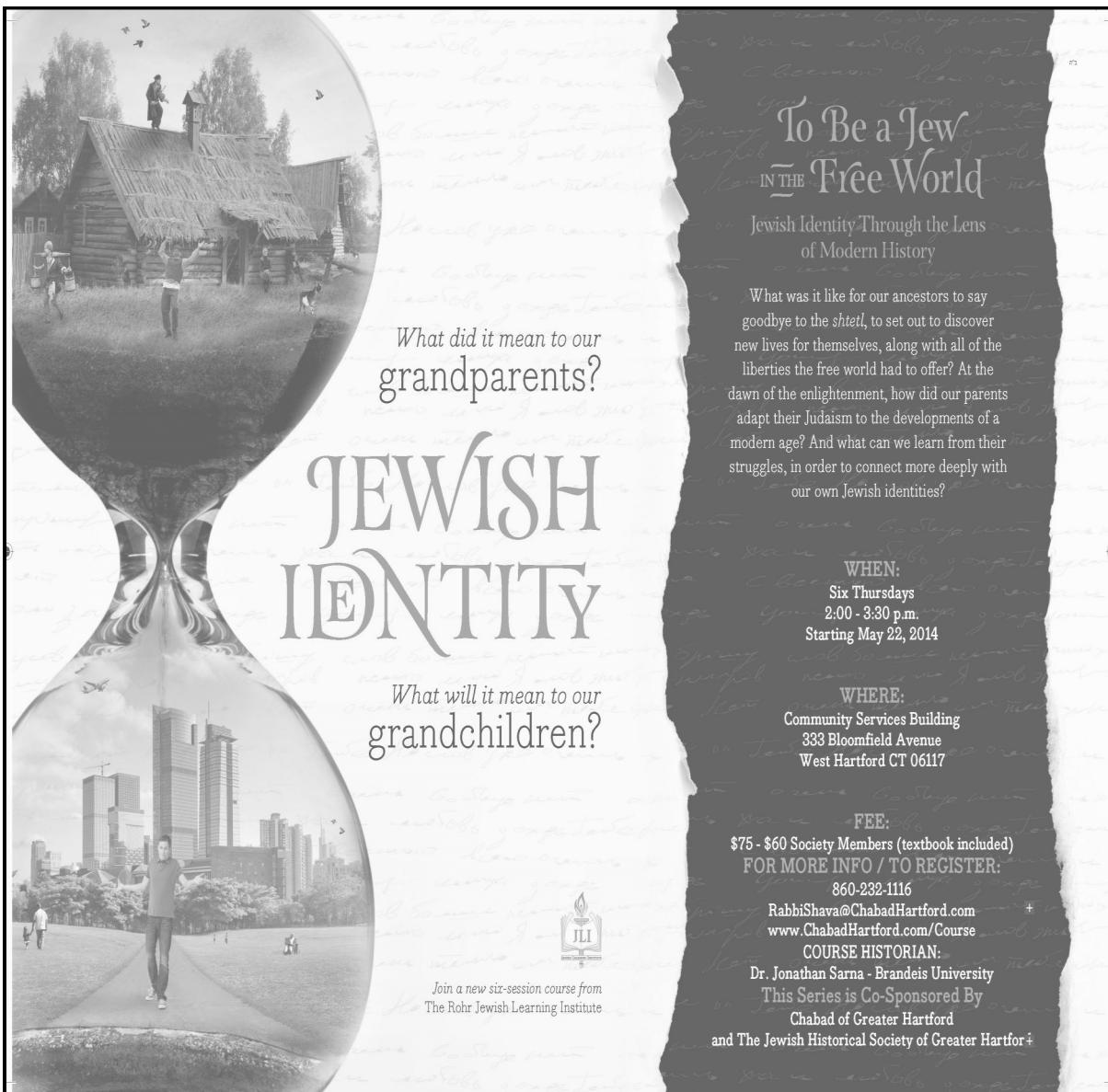
Register for this course online at www.hartford.edu/presidentscollege

While the history of the Jewish presence in Hartford is as old as Hartford itself, it was in the mid-19th century that immigrant Jews began to arrive in significant numbers from Europe. Their influence on the industrial and retail history of the city grew as the city expanded. Synagogues were built, a sense of community was created, and small businesses flourished. A century later, many of Hartford's Jewish residents moved out of the city and into the suburbs, leaving behind them places that they had once lived in, the schools they had once attended, the places where they had once worshipped. This course will look back at that rich history. It will include a bus visit to the historic synagogues of Hartford, a visit to the archives of the Jewish Historical Society led by Estelle Kafer, and lectures on Jewish history by Betty Hoffman and Mary Donahue. This course will be moderated by Avi Patt.

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21, 28,

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

(bus tour on May 21, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.)



JHSGH ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday
June 24th,
7:00 p.m. at
the Mandell
JCC

*More information
coming soon ...*

Starting
June 2014

We want your
Crown stories,
photographs, and
memorabilia !!!

Please mail or
e-mail photos to
the Society
Attn: Bea Brodje

bbrodie@jewishhartford.org

Back to the *Old* Neighborhoods



Travel Through
200 Years Of
Jewish History
In Hartford



“BACK TO THE OLD NEIGHBORHOODS” BUS TOUR

The Society has scheduled a new spring date 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 for 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 tour will take place on:

Sunday, April 27, 2013 at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you have some time to share, we have many interesting volunteer positions to be filled. These are just a few of the ways in which you can help the Society:

- ◆ Work on the wedding exhibit committee
- ◆ Transcribe oral histories
- ◆ Interview members of the community*
- ◆ Oral history database processing
- ◆ Acquisitions processing

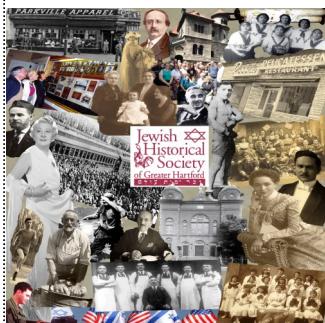
*We are looking to increase our core group of interviewers so that we can continue to add to our oral history collection. Training will be provided by the Society. It's a wonderful chance to become acquainted with fascinating people and add their story to those already in the archives.

If you would like to assist in any way, please contact Bea at 860 727-6170.

THE COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS OUTREACH INITIATIVE

An ongoing mission of JHSGH, along with the preservation of its current collections, is to acquire materials to strengthen our holdings that illuminate the history of Jews in Greater Hartford. The Community Collections Outreach Initiative has emerged from that commitment, and a pilot version is now ready for implementation.

I am privileged to serve as coordinator for this project, and after two postponements due to snow, we look forward to meeting with synagogue representatives at our first Open House workshop on March 19, 2014. At this time, Estelle and archivist Greg Farr



will introduce participants to the archives and discuss the vital part that synagogues play in collaborating with JHSGH to document and manage their own historical collection. To that end, a substantive packet of material will be offered to each participant that clearly addresses the framework for the involvement of JHSGH and the participating synagogues. In addition, a most helpful webpage of resource information has been created by our

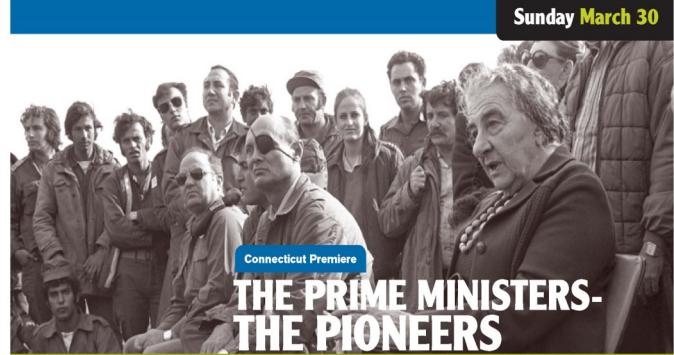
archivist to further guide participants in the collection process.

As the liaison, I will assist synagogue representatives in identifying material to be preserved and in developing a structured approach to storing documents that tell their synagogue's story. We are happy to note that the initial feedback has been positive, especially from synagogues that do not have a procedure in place for organizing important records.

As the initiative proceeds, the pilot phase will be refined and expanded. This is a most absorbing project on many levels and I am happy for my role in its implementation.

Ruth Ann Graime

Sunday March 30



USA, 2013, 115 minutes, English and Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Richard Trank

Sunday March 30 • 4:00 PM
Dixiplex Destinations, Bloomfield

Based on the best-selling memoir by Ambassador Yehuda Avner, who served as chief aide and speechwriter to many Israeli prime ministers, this sweeping docudrama is an insider's account of six decades of Israel's history. The film brings to life behind-the-scenes stories after Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Menachem Begin, and Shimon Peres, plus US Presidents Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, Henry Kissinger, Margaret Thatcher, Moshe Dayan, Harry Truman, Anwar Sadat and Princess Diana also appear.

The film reveals new details about the Six-Day War; Israel's strategic relationship with the U.S., the fight against terrorism, the Yom Kippur War and its aftermath. The first film in a two-part series, it stars the voices of major Hollywood actors Sandra Bullock (Meir), Michael Douglas (Rabin), Leonard Nimoy (Eshkol) and Christoph Waltz (Begin).

This film is sponsored by BNY Mellon Wealth Management; Jewish Community Relations Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford; and Dixiplex Destinations.



YEHUDA AVNER
AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

THE PRIME
MINISTERS
THE PIONEERS

YEHUDA AVNER

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From the Director

Dear Friends,

By this time of the year , as we are all hoping warmer weather will arrive soon, the Society has been busy planning a number of exciting programs to enjoy this spring. An exhibit on loan from the Museum of American Jewish History, *Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age* , a historical narrative on this evolving Jewish American tradition, will be on view from April 7 through May 29. Our fifth scholarly journal entitled *A Century of Jewish Law in Hartford* will be presented at a important fundraising event at Tumblebrook Country Club on May 14. Please consider making a donation to honor a firm or lawyer and join us for this very special evening. In June our co-sponsored trip to Philadelphia will tour a number of impressive sites that I have visited - the amazing MAJH museum and three historic synagogues – sit back, relax and enjoy a weekend of Jewish culture and history!

You may be starting to hear about the community's collaborative *Aim Chai Endowment Campaign*. Community leaders and twenty-eight institutions have partnered to work together to raise the funds to ensure the future of Jewish Hartford. You will all have an opportunity to be part of supporting the Society's and community's long-term needs and collective vision for the future. Please contact me or Hollis Dorman at the Jewish Community Foundation for more details on making a personalized gift that is meaningful for you.

Last month, when news of our beloved Crown possibly closing shocked our community , the office received a number of phone calls and emails . We heard a communal concern to save the memorabilia and photographs and capture the memories of this 74 year old family business before it was too late. We are so fortunate that a dedicated group of community members saved the Crown, but we realize that the next generation's shopping experiences will be different than ours and our parents. The Society's commitment to preserve the past as an integral link to the future dictates us to once again collect and document the memories of this last prevailing landmark of the Old Neighborhood while we still have the storytellers amongst us. This summer, we will begin to collect stories, memorabilia and photographs of the Crown for a future project .We hope you will share your recollections with us! Please go to www.jhsgh.org for more information.

Wishing everyone a joyous and delicious Passover holiday,

Estelle



From the Archivist

Dear Friends,

We are now preparing to work with synagogues throughout the Hartford area in an effort both to collect current archival materials and to assist these synagogues in preserving their own institutional archives. I am also pleased to report that over the past few months the JHSGH has also made great strides in providing public access to its oral history collection and has created a new in-house exhibit. This new and original exhibit, entitled *Tikkun Olam in Our Community*, highlights the achievements of individuals and organizations that have contributed to the Greater Hartford community through acts of social justice or philanthropy. It was created from documentation and original photographs found in our archive and also utilizes information available in our oral history collection. At present, over 500 oral histories in this collection of over 1400 cassette-taped interviews have been digitized for purposes of preservation, and a searchable finding aid of our oral history collection is now available online on the JHSGH website. Audio samples, and, in some instances, full transcripts of interviews are also available in these online finding aids.

We have had a number of genealogical inquiries over the past winter months and worked to verify historical facts for a national publishing company (Scholastic Books) and an up-coming photography exhibit developed by Trinity Professor, Pablo Delano, set to display at the CT Historical Society in October 2014. We have also received some interesting archival donations, including two scrapbooks from area synagogues, new publications from local authors pertaining to Jewish cemeteries in Hartford, and some fascinating historic photographs that have made a fine addition to our repository holdings on Jewish education. The JHSGH also received a significant donation of manuscript and related materials from a Chicago author who recently published a biographical work on the songwriter, composer, and artist Harold Rome. Mr. Rome, a Hartford native, became a well-known lyricist and writer for musical theater, finding success on Broadway and working with such professionals as Barbra Streisand, Alfred Hitchcock, and Hartford's own songstress and entertainer, Sophie Tucker. 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 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.

In memory of :

Leon Zeeberg (father of Estelle Kafer)

Gloria Bein

Stanley Wiesen

Naomi and Michael Cohen

Linda and Henry Cohn

Barbara and David Klau

Bess and Sidney Koppell

Martin Koppell

Rabbi and Mrs. Hans Bodenheimer

Dr. and Mrs. Louis Brown

Johanna Tobias Bramson and Joseph Levi Bramson

Margaret Lesser

Natalie Lebovitz

Sandra and Michael Myers

Robert Cherlin

Nancy Savin, Erica Willheim and Yohanna Willheim

Miriam and Sydney Rudy

Nancy and David Savin

Joan Hoberman

Harvey Hoberman

Raelea S. Bobrow, (mother of Nancy Gitlin)

Louise and Todd Kaufman

Gertrude "Trudy" Brodie

Susan and Allan Viner

In memory of those who have gone before

Lillian Hillman

In honor of :

Alan Lazowski, Brian Newman and Henry Zachs

Thank you for saving the Crown Market and helping to renew, preserve and inspire the Hartford Jewish community

Deborah and Lance Goldberg

Estelle Kafer

Shira Berger

Michael Weinreich

Gregory Farr - with thanks for his help with research

Judith Singer

IN MEMORIAM



Stanley Wiesen

Get Well Wishes to :

Dan Blume

Susan and Allan Viner

General donations :

Dorothy and Norman Cohen

Nancy Gordon

Denise and Richard Order

Judith Singer

Jennifer Sharp

Thelma Sures – in appreciation for the bus tour

Ann R. Wolf

Jason Wolf

Doreen Fundiller-Zweig and Dr. Elliott Zweig

Gift to JHSGH Endowment:

Deborah and Steven Kleinman

Lauri and David Miller

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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Cynthia Blayer

Ruth Tulin Cion

Andrea deHaas

Kathy Fishman

Nan L. Glass

Nancy Gordon

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Michael Levine

Lawrence Levy

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Carol Lewis and Saul Nesselroth

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Selma M. Schwartz

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Elaine and Howard Smith

Zhanna Virkerman

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 _____

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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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