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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
ESTELLE KAUFER

\* NEW BOARD MEMBER  
\*\* DECEASED

An Exhibit Sponsored by the  
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

**POWER  
OF  
THE MOVEMENT TO  
FREE SOVIET JEWS  
PROTEST**

Moscow  
ДНО ДД  
Допороче нам  
Ом всег дуге  
с прасгннкоме  
Свемя, кагену  
Кагену, в  
прасгннкоме все  
важнго встр  
опрасннкоме  
Пас всег нм  
как все, рго  
коморое все  
ееленнкоме т  
будеи ввемт  
Вас и нмем



SSSI activists heading to a rally at the Statue of Liberty, September 29, 1968  
Photo by Yona Zaloscer. Yeshiva University Archives, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry Records

**June 26 - July 29,  
2018**

**Chase Family Gallery  
Mandell JCC  
335 Bloomfield Ave.,  
West Hartford, CT**

**Opening Program:  
June 26<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm**

**More information about the  
exhibit program to follow**

# President's Message

To our JHS members and to all of our community,

Estelle Kafer and our board have been strengthening our marketing outreach, board operation and structure, while developing new programs. We recognize the vital need to reach out to existing members who seasonally leave our state and to younger generations working and living outside of Connecticut. We need a professional effort to develop and implement a social media and marketing plan to reach all of them no matter where they live. Denise Brodey has generously given her time to create more impactful and engaging marketing, both promoting events and sharing their successes.

We have formed committees that can work year-round on a wide range of issues producing concrete solutions and creative ideas. I have been thrilled to see how so many JHS board members have engaged their skills, while sharing their experiences to move JHS forward. The new Governance Committee, led by David Harris is updating bylaws, our structure and policies.

The new Program Committee, led by Lance Goldberg, experimented with a new program called "All in the Family". Thanks to David Diamond's hard work, JHS co-sponsored and collaborated with the Beth El Men's Club to plan this event. The program featured local business owners sharing the stories of how their businesses were started by their parents, the challenges they faced, their values, the importance of customer service and supporting our local Jewish organizations. I was so proud that JHS could provide them the opportunity to share those stories with our community. Howard Weiner of Woodland Auto Body, Michael Wolf of the Bloomfield Bicycle and Repair Shop and Harry Davidson of Pyne-Davidson Printers were eloquent and added humor and insights about their successes. Howard Weiner shared the story of how David Rosenthal's father at Blum Shapiro, encouraged one of their clients to pre-pay an entire year's painting services to Howard's father, therefore providing him with the needed cash flow to keep Woodland Auto Body running. It was heartwarming to hear the pride in their voices. That to me is what our community is about, people helping people directly and through the support of our Jewish organizations.

A new, second program is coming that focuses on gathering and preserving Jewish recipes, photos of cooking together, teaching videos, blogs and stories intended to connect generations to each other and to JHS, as we all love our food.

We want to thank you for your support, which allows us to preserve your most treasured memories, photos and the history of our community for YOUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Wishing everyone a happy Passover,

*Gary R. Schwartz*

## S P R I N G 2 0 1 8 C A L E N D A R

### Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – 7:00 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building, 333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

### Monday, March 12, 2018 – 6:00 pm

*Raise the Roof* film screening and dinner  
Co-sponsored by HJFF and JHS.

6:00pm - Dinner with filmmakers

7:30pm - Film

Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

### Sunday, March 25, 2018 – 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

Family History/Genealogy Day Workshop  
multi-session workshops to discover and share your family's stories.

Co-sponsored with Emanuel Synagogue Adult education

Community Services Building

### Monday, April 23, 2018 – 7:00 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

### Sunday April 22, 2018 – 9:00 am - 6:30 pm

*Back to Brooklyn* bus tour includes exploring Brooklyn's Jewish neighborhoods

Co-sponsored with Emanuel Synagogue  
Meet at Community Services Building

### Wednesday May 9, 2018 – 7:00 pm

"Monuments Men: A Daughter's Discovery" speaker program with Susan Fisher Sullam  
Co-sponsored by Emanuel, Voices of Hope, Beth El, Beth Israel, and FVJC  
Mandell JCC

### Tuesday May 22, 2018 – 5:30 pm

"Back to the Old Country: the Jewish Food Renaissance" author presentation and food tasting with Jeffrey Yoskowitz

Co-sponsored with the Jewish Hartford European Roots Project

Location TBA

### Wednesday, May 23, 2018 – 7:00 pm

JHSGH Board Meeting  
Community Services Building

### June 26 to July 29, 2018

*Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews* traveling exhibit

Sponsored by NMAJH Museum

Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC

### **Exhibit Opening Program:**

**June 26, 2018 – 5:30 pm**

**Read our bulletin and view the full color pictures online at [www.jhsggh.org](http://www.jhsggh.org)**

Coming in 2019

## An Arts Tour to Israel

March 3-14

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society and the Mandell JCC.

For more information, contact Estelle Kafer at 860-727-6171.

## Find us on



[www.facebook.com/jhsgghct/](http://www.facebook.com/jhsgghct/)

The Society needs your help! How? It's easy! Like, share, and comment on our social media posts. The more people interact with our pages, the more people will see our history!



# Raise the Roof Film Screening

Monday, March 12, 2018, Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford, CT

6:00 pm - Pre-screening Dinner Program with Filmmakers, 7:30 pm - Film



Join us for the Greater Hartford premier of the documentary *Raise the Roof*, directed by Yari Wolinsky, shown as part of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival. Artists Rick and Laura Brown are not Jewish and not Polish, and yet they set out to rebuild Gwoździec, one of the magnificent 18th-century wooden synagogues of Poland, the last of which were destroyed by Nazis during World War II. Their vision inspires hundreds of people to join them. Using their hands, old tools and techniques, they rediscover Gwoździec's history, culture, and art. *Raise the Roof* follows the Browns and the Handhouse Studio team to Sanok, Poland, as they begin building the new Gwoździec roof. The crew has six weeks to hew, saw, and carve 200 freshly logged trees and assemble the structure. Working against this deadline and despite torrential downpours and exhaustion, the team must create the structure, and disassemble it again for shipping and eventual installation in Warsaw's Polin Museum.

**Cost: Pre-screening Dinner Program with filmmakers: \$30 per person; Film Only: \$12 per person.**

RSVP to [lnewman@jewishhartford.org](mailto:lnewman@jewishhartford.org) or pay online at [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) by March 5th, 2018.

Co-sponsored by the Jewish Hartford European Roots Project at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, UCONN

For more information on any of our programs, please contact Lynn Newman at 860-727-6170 or [lnewman@jewishhartford.org](mailto:lnewman@jewishhartford.org).

The Jewish Historical Society &  
Emanuel Synagogue Adult Education  
co-sponsor

## Celebrating Family History Day

multi-session workshops  
to discover and share your  
family's stories

**Sunday, March 25, 2018  
9:30am – 4:00pm**

**At the Jewish Historical  
Society of Greater Hartford  
333 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117**

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

## Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews



Mira Merrick, age 15, of Silver Spring, Maryland, and friend David Helzner, age 12, at a rally on the National Mall, with a "Let my People Go," banner that Mira made out of a bed sheet and paint Washington, D.C., August 1973. National Museum of American Jewish History, 2013.18.1

**June 26 - July 29, 2018  
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC**

A traveling exhibit from the National Museum of American Jewish History, *Power of Protest: The Movement to Free Soviet Jews*, will document one of the most successful human rights campaigns of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The panel exhibition showcases Americans' efforts in the late 1960s through 1990 to free *refuseniks*—Jews who lived in the Soviet Union and were denied the rights to live freely, practice Judaism, or leave the country due to their religion. Through text, imagery and media, the exhibit will blend compelling personal stories of American Jewish activists and the Soviet Jews who immigrated to America and impacted our society in countless ways.





On August 8, 2017, author Elizabeth Poliner spoke about her book *As Close to Us As Breathing*, set at Bagel Beach, Woodmont, CT. Afterwards, we enjoyed some memories from the audience and ice cream sundaes! Listen to the podcast here: <http://bit.ly/2wgNzZe>.



Many people experienced our visiting summer exhibit, *From Haven to Home*, which chronicled the history of American Jews. On September 13, 2017, Professor Avinoam Patt gave a lecture on the Revolution, the Constitution, and the American Jews (*right*), which was followed by a guided tour of the exhibit (*left*).



On November 9, 2017, we took a trip down memory lane to the Catskills of Connecticut. Speaker Ken Simon talked about his childhood in Moodus near Banner Lodge, and many audience members shared their own recollections of the Jewish resorts of Connecticut.

On November 2, 2017 we cohosted a panel discussion with The Emanuel Synagogue on the challenges of fair housing in Jewish West Hartford. Panelists Mary Donohue, Dr. Jack Dougherty, and Tracey Wilson explained how practices such as redlining determined where people could live. Listen to a podcast of the event at: [bit.ly/2BhvZ5x](http://bit.ly/2BhvZ5x).

In January 2018, teens from the FVJC–Emek Shalom JTConnect program interviewed residents of Hoffman SummerWood, asking questions about their family food stories.



It was “All in the Family” on January 23, 2018 when Howard Weiner of Woodland Auto Body, Michael Wolf of Bloomfield Bike Shop, and Harry Davidson of Pyne-Davidson Printers shared stories about their families and their family businesses at Beth El Temple.





*A bus trip co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society  
and The Emanuel Synagogue*

## Back to Brooklyn

**Sunday, April 22, 2018**

Join us for a visit to some of Brooklyn's Jewish neighborhoods, learn about the history and revival of New York's most interesting and desirable borough. Visit & explore sites, shopping, eateries, and more!

**Cost:** \$65 for Society and Emanuel Members, \$70 for non-members

**THIS COST IS FOR TRANSPORTATION ONLY**

Bus leaves from JHSGH office promptly at 8:45 am (please arrive by 8:30 am) and returns approximately 6:30 pm.

Register online at [www.jhsggh.org](http://www.jhsggh.org). You may also download the registration form from our website and mail it along with a check made out to: JHSGH, 333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford, CT 06117.

For more information, contact Lynn Newman at [lnewman@jewishhartford.org](mailto:lnewman@jewishhartford.org) or 860-727-6170.

## Monuments Men:

**A Daughter's Discovery of her Father's Role in  
the Search for Nazi Plunder**



**Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 7:00 pm**

**Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford**

*Co-sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society, Voices of Hope, The Emanuel Synagogue, Beth El Temple, Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation and Congregation Beth Israel*

Baltimore journalist Susan Fisher Sullam will tell the fascinating story of her discovery of her father's role in "Task Force Fisher". As a member of General Dwight Eisenhower's staff during WWII, Lt. Commander Joel Fisher kept records detailing one of the greatest treasure hunts in history. His documents, found by his daughter after his death, chronicled how Fisher led a task force during the closing months of the war that located and recovered billions of dollars' worth of gold, silver, currency and artwork looted by the Nazis.

**Cost: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.**

**Register online at [www.jhsggh.org](http://www.jhsggh.org).**

## Back to the Old Country: The Jewish Food Renaissance



**Tuesday, May 22, 2018 5:30pm**

**Featuring Jeffrey Yoskowitz**

A food lecture and delicious tastings! Location TBA.

*Sponsored by Jewish Hartford European Roots Project,  
UConn Dodd Center*

# From the Director

Dear Members and Friends,

We are often directed to evaluate the work we do, our accomplishments and challenges. How do we measure the impact of the work we are committed to and the activities we offer? How do we know if a program or project is successful or making a difference? Obviously, we strive for increased awareness, membership and revenue. A room filled to capacity, numerous inquiries, and scholarly and community collaboration are accurate indicators.

But more rewarding is witnessing an engaged audience and the effect our programs have produced. The family that hears for the first time about a grandparent's childhood school years during a Family History project interview. Two women who connect with special memories after a presentation about Connecticut resorts in Moodus. Attendees listening to a panel's research about beloved neighborhoods that were once restricted to Jews. Learning about the struggles and accomplishments of local and familiar Jewish business owners and their generational family history.

We are starting a conversation, triggering a forgotten memory and documenting community history. We are connecting the generations and providing opportunity for thoughtful reflection and an understanding of our past and present. We should be proud our Society is committed to this unique and important responsibility!

Please join us for some wonderful programming this Spring – we have worked hard on developing very special events and look forward to your support. In addition, I am grateful to our hard working staff, Lynn and Jeanne, our Board Members who continue to donate their time and expertise, and a very dedicated group of volunteers and interns that come in weekly. Thank you to Leland and Paula Bradbard, Jeremy Schmitt and Sara Karz Reid for their work processing archival materials and cataloging our artifacts, and to Nancy Gordon for transcribing oral history interviews.

Join us for Family History Day on March 25 – Learn how to start YOUR family history conversations around the Passover table! Wishing you all a memorable Pesach,

*Estelle Kafer*

## Does Your Company Have a Matching Gifts Program?



Many large corporations offer programs where they will match an employee's donation to an eligible nonprofit, effectively doubling or even tripling the gift. Companies such as Apple and IBM use a company called Benevity (benevity.com) as a clearinghouse for those donations, because they will transfer the donation directly to the beneficiary from both the donor and the corporation that matches the donation.

The Society is registered with benevity.com to receive donations from eligible employees. Please check with your company to see if they offer matching donations.



## From the Archivist

Digitization is the latest buzzword. It's easy to understand why; technology has changed the way we interact with information. Our first urge may be to digitize everything. However, this comes with invisible costs. Digitization takes time and resources, and the process can be slow and laborious. It's not feasible to digitize every item we hold. On top of that, digital files aren't foolproof! Did you know that paper, if properly stored and cared for, has a much longer shelf life than digital files? Formats change, programs become obsolete, and flash drives get damaged. So what can we do?

First, we prioritize the types of objects to digitize. Oral histories on cassette tapes are good candidates, since audio-visual material has a limited shelf life. We digitize using standard and widely used formats and back up our files so that they will be accessible over time. Yet digitization can go beyond a scanned image or document. Many of our collections have finding aids (similar to a catalog record on your local library's website) posted online at [www.jhsg.org](http://www.jhsg.org). These documents summarize the collections and allow researchers to locate the information with a simple Google search. I have received a variety of reference requests from people who have found our Society because of these guides. A few months ago, I was contacted by a researcher in Italy researching a family displaced by the Holocaust. The daughter settled in Hartford and had left us numerous documents regarding her unfortunately unsuccessful attempts to bring her parents to America. Another researcher sought information on an award named after Althea Silverman given to musically gifted Hartford students. She found articles and an oral history in the archive that answered all her questions! If we use digitization strategically to connect people to our collections, we can increase our visibility and ensure that our materials continue to draw interest from a wide range of researchers.

We can't, of course, forget the physical items we have received recently. One item of note is a Hebrew School certificate granted by Temple Beth Israel in 1879 to Minnie (Stern) Lyon, given to us by Marjorie DiGalbo, along with a picture of her parents with President Truman. Elliott Donn continues to add to our collection of the local Jewish War Veterans post. Bob Fishman gave us a scarf from the 1987 Rally for Soviet Jews in Washington, DC. Judith Kronick brought us an assortment of items from the community, including a brochure from Fressers Restaurant. Mary Donohue helped us locate material on the Connecticut Jewish resorts, as well as other materials documenting S. Vogel Sons and Sophie Tucker.

If you have questions about research or donating material, e-mail me at [jlowrey@jewishhartford.org](mailto:jlowrey@jewishhartford.org). See you in the archives!

*Jeanne Lowrey*

## 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:***

*Israel Bachar*  
Ronit Shoham

*Ellen W. Banks*  
Morris Banks

*Howard H. Belkin*  
Louise Belkin

*Al Cohen*  
Burt and Linda Miller

*Doris Golinsky*  
Bobbe Basch

*Herbert Golinsky*  
Bobbe Basch

*Joan Hoberman*  
Harvey Hoberman

*Rose and Wilbur Levin*  
Nanette Levin

*Roz W. Levy*  
Bobbe Basch

*Lillian Marlow*  
Rabbi Richard and Lisa Plavin

*Milton Schwartz*  
*Rebecca Schwartz*  
Nancy Lee Schwartz

*Our mother and Bubbie, Edna Shainfarber*  
The Nadler Family

*Edna Shainfarber*  
Gloria Bein  
Phil and Toby Berman  
Debra Chillock  
Charlotte and Marvin Gottlieb  
Hylton Joffe  
Renana & Ron Kadden  
Richard Leapman  
Lisa Rosen  
Eugene and Anja Rosenberg  
Elizabeth Rosenfeld

*Rabbi Israel Stein, a Hartford boy, a Rabbi's Rabbi, and our close friend.*  
Barbara and David Klau

*Steven R. Weber*  
Elizabeth Weber

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

*The 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of Lance Goldberg*  
Jeremy Arcus-Goldberg  
Naomi, Seth, Hannah and Sari Cohen  
Laura Levy  
Merryl and Douglas Nay  
Karen and Alan Tuvin

*The 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary of Margaret and Robert Lesser*  
Margaret and Robert Lesser

*The Jewish Historical Society's efforts to preserve Jewish history in the area*  
Joyce Peck and Sally Bergad,  
Beth El Synagogue

*The Jewish Historical Society for the good work that you do*  
Ed Fishman

*The Jewish Historical Society in helping to go through the JCSO archives*  
Jewish Children's Service  
Organization Board

*The help and friendship of Brad Hoffman and Howard & Helen Falk*  
Arthur Nassau

*David Klau's second Bar Mitzvah*  
Lois and David Hager

*Gary Schwartz, Lisa Schwartz and Jacob Schwartz*  
Nancy Lee Schwartz

*Ruth S. Solomkin*  
Harvey Hoberman

### ***General Contributions:***

Ann and David Brandwein  
David Jacobs  
Rabbi Richard and Lisa Plavin  
John O. Tannenbaum  
Susan and Allan Viner

### ***Giving Tuesday:***

Phyllis and Robert Berman  
Paula and Leland Bradbard  
Lance and Deborah Goldberg  
David and Barbara Klau  
Gerald Roisman  
Susan and Allan Viner

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jeanne and Marshall Elman  
Mickey & Joyce Libbin  
Stanley Peck  
Ellen K. Roth  
Barbara Rowson  
Elaine Sandler

Will Schoen  
Ellen Spiro  
Edie and Irv Shiffman  
Karen and Alan Tuvin  
Elizabeth Weber  
Arnold Zackin

## 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 of the Heritage Society, please contact Estelle at 860.727.6171 or [ekafer@jewishhartford.org](mailto:ekafer@jewishhartford.org)

### HERITAGE SOCIETY

We are immensely grateful to the following individuals for their generous support at the \$1800 level.

*The Zachs Family Foundation, Inc.*

### PRESERVATION SOCIETY

We are immensely grateful to the following individuals for their generous support at the \$1000 level.

*Elaine Charendoff*

*Michael and Naomi Cohen*

*Muriel R. Kesten*

*Coleman and Judie Levy*

## IN MEMORIAM



Charlotte Brick  
James Cohen  
Bernice Ellis  
Bette Glickman  
Doris and Herbert Golinsky  
Leslie Jacobson  
Leo Novarr  
Teddy Grody Paul  
Susan Renert  
Edna Shainfarber  
Robert Whitman

Please visit our website at [www.jhsg.org](http://www.jhsg.org)

Society Hours:  
Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm  
(860) 727-6170



# Coming in June!

## Delicious Memories



**A Food Blog of the  
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford**

**Our new website plus our new  
food/recipes/stories blog!**

**Don't forget to e-mail your  
photos, recipes, and memories to  
Lynn Newman at  
[lnewman@jewishhartford.org](mailto:lnewman@jewishhartford.org).**

**For more information, go to  
[www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org).**

Zachs Campus  
JHSGH  
333 Bloomfield Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06117

