The Enduring Legacy of the Jews of New Britain
A Panel Discussion moderated by Roz Rachlin
Thursday, October 11, 2018
7:00 pm
Innovation Center, Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford
President’s Message

Dear Fellow Members and Friends,

It was a true highlight of my career that the Board of Directors approved my nomination for President and I am extremely excited to begin my term with great enthusiasm and determination. As a lifelong resident of Greater Hartford, I am dedicated to the Society’s mission to document the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford through archival materials, and share this history with the public through exhibits, books, presentations, and film. We are a tiny organization that does great work and during the next few years, we will be expanding with diverse programming for new and existing members.

It is my belief that it is the mission of the Society to not only preserve and tell the stories of the past but to also MAKE HISTORY NOW. As part of our new strategic plan, I am looking forward to implementing a new direction forward that builds on the successes of the past and is in place to grow with our next generation, including that of my nine year old. There are significant events, milestones and celebrations almost every day in our community and I believe we should be preserving it now so it systematically becomes part of our history now.

With so much to celebrate about our collective Jewish Hartford experience, we are very excited about our upcoming programming which include new kinds of events that invite participation from a younger generation. In September, we will holding our first Slow Roll Bike Ride of Jewish Hartford, an adaptation of our outstanding and popular bus tour into an sensational bike ride. In the spring, we anticipate having a series of programming involving Jews and Baseball, including a memorable event focused on Hartford Jews. In addition we have wonderful traditional Society programming, including an unforgettable evening celebrating the history of Jewish New Britain and an unprecedented and rare opportunity to tour the home of the late artist Sol LeWitt.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new members and also thank the Board of Directors for their commitment of time, energy and financial support. Crucially, I would also like to thank our excellent staff led by Executive Director Estelle Kafer.

I wish everyone a Happy New Year, Shana Tova.

Lance Goldberg

Welcome New Board Members!
Robin Landau, Rachel Leventhal-Weiner, Jill Pollack Lewis

F A L L  2 0 1 8  C A L E N D A R

Thursday, September 6, 2018 – 6:15 pm
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Sunday, September 23, 2018 - 9:00 am to 12:30 pm
Back to the Old Neighborhoods Slow Roll Bike Tour of old Jewish Hartford
Tours leave from the Community Services Building

Wednesday, October 3, 2018 – 10:00 am
Husbands and Other Sharp Objects: Book Talk with Marilyn Simon Rothstein
Community Services Building

Thursday, October 11, 2018 – 7:00 pm
The Enduring Legacy of the Jews of New Britain: A panel discussion of the history of the Jewish community in New Britain
Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 – 7:00 pm
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 – 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
The Art of Sol LeWitt: Exclusive tour of the private LeWitt residence and Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester, CT

Thursday, November 1, 2018 – 7:00 pm
In the Grand Tradition: Book Talk with Nancy Finlay
Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

Thursday, November 8, 2018 – 7:00 pm
JHSGH Board Meeting
Community Services Building

Tuesday November 27, 2018 – 7:00 pm
The Weight of Ink: Book Talk by Rachel Kadish
The Emanuel Synagogue 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 12:15 pm
Jewish Voices for Economic Justice: Brunch and Learn with Steve Thornton
Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

Sunday, March 3, 2019 – March 14, 2019
Israel Arts Journey, Co-sponsored by the Mandell JCC
This 10 day Five Star Journey to Israel promises to show you Israel in a whole new way! The trip’s itinerary includes a wide array of unique experiences, allowing travelers to explore Israel through the lens of her beautiful and diverse arts and culture. For more information, visit: jhsgh.org/israel-arts-journey-2019/
The Art of Sol LeWitt

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Join us as we visit Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester, CT. This special day will include:

- Transportation by chartered coach (departing at 9:30am from the JHSGH office and returning at approximately 4:30pm)
- A special presentation by Ellen Nodelman, author of *House of Peace and Justice*, an engrossing history of the synagogue and the Chester community
- An opportunity to view the magnificent synagogue ark, designed by world-renowned artist Sol LeWitt
- Catered luncheon
- Exclusive tour of the private LeWitt residence and grounds hosted by Carol LeWitt

Space is extremely limited, payment by check or credit card must accompany registration. Visit our website at [http://jhsgh.org/lewitt/](http://jhsgh.org/lewitt/) to register online or download the form to pay by check. Reservations are non-refundable and must be received by October 10th.

**Cost:** Members: $100, Non-Members: $118, Patron: $150

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Meet Local Author

Marilyn Simon Rothstein

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

10:00 am

Community Services Building

333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

*Husbands and Other Sharp Objects* is an uproarious novel that is full of heart, even as it tackles thorny subjects and sticky situations. With this second book, Rothstein once again does what she did so well in her debut novel, *Lift and Separate*. She makes us take a look at what it means to get older and why each of us needs to periodically reevaluate our lives and redirect our steps if necessary. She does all of this with laugh-out-loud hilarity about the absurdity of family drama. Before writing her first book, Marilyn owned an advertising agency in Avon, Connecticut for more than 25 years.

$5 at the door. Please RSVP to Lynn at lnewman@jewishhartford.org.

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Slow Roll Bike Tour!

Sunday

September 23, 2018

9:00am

We will travel a similar route as our previous bus tour and visit three former synagogues. Register early, space is limited.

For registration and more information visit [www.jhsgh.org/hartford-bike-tour](http://www.jhsgh.org/hartford-bike-tour)
On March 12, 2018, we were joined by the filmmakers for the Greater Hartford premier of the documentary *Raise The Roof*, held in conjunction with the 22nd Mandell JCC Hartford Jewish Film Festival.

Our Family History Day Workshop was held on March 25, 2018. Participants learned about a variety of topics, ranging from conducting genealogical research to the ins and outs of DNA testing.

On April 22, 2018, we went Back to Brooklyn, spending a day visiting the Brooklyn Bridge, Borough Park, and Coney Island.

On May 9, 2018, Susan Fisher Sullam shared her father’s fascinating story leading the Monuments Men in rescuing valuables looted by the Nazis.

On May 22, 2018, we partnered with the Jewish Hartford European Roots Project of UCONN’s Dodd Center to present a fun night of food, music, and a talk by Jeffrey Yoskowitz, author of the cookbook *The Gefilte Manifesto*, at Infinity Hall.

Our Annual Meeting was held on June 26, 2018 in conjunction to the opening of our visiting summer exhibit, *Power of Protest*. Dr. Sheldon Benjamin shared his story of Soviet Jewry Activism. He even shared some of the phone calls that the activists placed to Russia as they worked to communicate with Soviet Jews, highlighting the barriers they encountered.

On July 18, 2018, we partnered with The Emanuel Adult Education committee to host a panel discussion highlighting the experiences of Soviet Jews who settled in the Hartford area and the local people who welcomed them into the community.

On July 24, 2018, we held a recipe collection day to help collect materials for our new Delicious Memories food story blog. We got to sample some tasty food and hear some really fascinating stories which we will be posting soon! See the back page for more information about this ongoing project.
The Enduring Legacy of the Jews of New Britain

Thursday, October 11, 2018, 7:00 pm
Mandell JCC
335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford

As early as 1896, there was an established Jewish community in this neighboring city. A select panel will lead a discussion about the history, contributions, and stories of New Britain Jews.

$10 Advance Registration, $12 at the door

For more information or to register, please visit us online at www.jhsgh.org/jews-of-new-britain/.

A Book Talk with Rachel Kadish
Author of The Weight of Ink

Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 7:30 pm
The Emanuel Synagogue
160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford

Join award winning author Rachel Kadish for a program about her new historical fiction novel, The Weight of Ink, winner of a 2017 National Jewish Book Award.

Set in London of both the 1660s and the early 21st century, the novel is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing modern historian with a love of Jewish history. As the novel opens, Helen has been summoned by a former student to view a cache of seventeenth-century Jewish documents newly discovered in his home during a renovation. Enlisting the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student, Helen embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents’ scribe.

Cost: $10 In Advance at jhsgh.org, $12 at the door

A Book Talk with author Nancy Finlay
In the Grand Tradition

Thursday, November 1, 2018, 7:00pm
Mandell JCC, Chase Family Gallery

Elbert Weinberg’s life may be considered a Hartford story, but he was widely regarded, nationally, as one of the most promising young sculptors of the 1950s and 1960s. His sculptures can be found in public and private collections across the United States and Europe. Weinberg is best known for the Holocaust memorial located in front of the Mandell JCC. In the Grand Tradition takes a fresh look at the original work of this gifted artist, reevaluating his contribution to modern art. Join author Nancy Finlay, project curator at the Hartford History Center, as she talks about the book and this fascinating local figure.

Brunch and Learn Program
Jewish Voices for Economic Justice:
Hartford Labor Activists and Organizers that Made a Difference

December 5, 2018 at 12:15 pm
Mandell JCC, Innovation Center

Steve Thornton is a retired organizer with the largest healthcare workers union in Connecticut as well as with the Greater Hartford Labor Council. He has spent his adult life as an activist and organizer. He is author of A Shoeleather History of the Wobblies: Stories of the Industrial Workers of the World and Wicked Hartford. Steven maintains the website, The Shoeleather History Project (https://shoeleatherhistoryproject.com/), which documents and explores progressive organizing from Hartford’s grassroots.

Co-sponsored by JHSGH & the JCC Senior Adults

Set in London of both the 1660s and the early 21st century, the novel is the interwoven tale of two women of remarkable intellect: Ester Velasquez, an emigrant from Amsterdam who is permitted to scribe for a blind rabbi, just before the plague hits the city; and Helen Watt, an ailing modern historian with a love of Jewish history. As the novel opens, Helen has been summoned by a former student to view a cache of seventeenth-century Jewish documents newly discovered in his home during a renovation. Enlisting the help of Aaron Levy, an American graduate student, Helen embarks on one last project: to determine the identity of the documents’ scribe.

Cost: $10 In Advance at jhsgh.org, $12 at the door
Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you had a pleasant summer. The highlight of mine was a precious little boy joined our family on August 7th when my older daughter’s third child was born! Shai Felix is named after his paternal great grandmother and maternal great grandfather.

Summertime in the Society office is always filled with activity and planning; fall and spring programs, membership outreach and renewals, strategic assessment. In addition, we were delighted to be selected as one of the recipients of a Trinity College grant funded project, the Public Humanities Collaborative, which is designed to bring together students, faculty, and Hartford-area humanities partners to explore themes in the humanities and creatively engage both scholarly and public audiences. Through this program, two undergrad students spent part of the summer working with the JHS archives on an assignment to research, develop and document a comprehensive listing of the “Ten ArtiFACTS that tell the story of the Hartford Jewish community”. The compelling material they discovered will be shared on our website, social media, and during outreach presentations.

We are very excited for the great fall line-up of programs. Thanks to Lance Goldberg and David Diamond, we are initiating a Slow Roll Bike Tour of Jewish Hartford History in September and anticipate this to be an ongoing offering. Sandy Rulnick and Abbey Kreinin have planned a unique opportunity to enjoy and remember the art of Sol LeWitt on October 23rd, and on November 1st, we invite you to hear about another local artist from the past, Elbert Weinberg, at a book launch at the Mandell JCC.

Jeannie Lowrey, Society archivist, who has done an outstanding job for four years, has accepted a full time position at Yale as archivist in the President’s office! We will greatly miss Jeanne but wish her well in this wonderful next step in her career.

Our organization was founded by a group of dedicated community members who realized the value of preserving the past for future generations. We were saddened to hear of the passing of Gloria Bein and Frances Waltman. Gloria had organized and conducted dozens of oral history interviews and Frances collected and wrote about early institutional and synagogue history. May their memories be for a blessing.

I look forward to working with our new President, Lance, our new Board members, and embarking on a Strategic Planning process with the Board to sustain us into the future from strength to strength.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year,

Estelle Kafer

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The month preceding Rosh Hashanah is traditionally a time for reflection as we prepare for the new year. This year has particular significance for me as I reflect on my four years working at the Jewish Historical Society as I prepare to start my new job. I have grown so much in this time and I will miss working with our collections and with you, our community. The foundation I built here will serve me well as I progress in my career. I am eternally grateful for the support and encouragement of everyone I have worked with over the years, and I’d like to particularly thank Estelle for believing in me and my work.

Change can be challenging, but it can also be exciting. We recently migrated our database to the ArchivesSpace platform, which is essentially the modern version of our old database. This ensures that our collection information will be accessible as technology changes over time and helps us better serve the needs of our researchers and staff. We are constantly updating this resource and are always in need of volunteers who are comfortable working with a computer system to help with this process.

We’ve also received some interesting additions to our collections in the past few months. When Gloria Weiss was interviewed for our oral history collection, she loaned us photos and memorabilia to scan that focused on her time as a child in Yiddish theater in the 1930s. Amy Breakstone donated copies from a book which documented the early days of the Bristol Jewish community and the Beth Israel synagogue that once thrived there. Rabbi Philip Lazowski gave us notes on the early Hartford Jewish Community and Sophie Tucker. Elliot Donn continues to add to our Jewish War Veterans collection. Tobie Katz gave us a file with information from the Beth Hillel Sisterhood. Hyla Sklar donated us a photo and newspaper clipping about her father, Syd Conn’s benefit game for Camp Courant in the 1960s. Arnold Aronson contributed us a photo of students from Weaver High in 1944. Finally, Susan Viner helped organize the records of Congregation Beth Ahm and delivered them to our archives so that they can be preserved. If you have questions about research or donating material, e-mail Estelle at ekafer@jewishhartford.org.

Wishing the Society and our members health and happiness as we enter into the New Year.

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 MEMORIAM

Gloria M. Bein
Gloria Bein
Caron Daniels, wife of Les Daniels
Max and Anna Glassman
Dr. Herman H. Glassman
Mark Gordon, an all-around good mensch. May his memory always be for a blessing for all his family and friends.
Helga Allweiss
Mark Gordon
Sidney Gornish, husband of Carole and father of Michelle and Alanna
Sally and Isadore Levitz
Mickey Mazur
Harold L. Rothstein
Clara Scholnick, mother of Phyllis Ulreich
Clara Scholnick, mother of Phyllis Ulreich
May Soll

In memory of:
My loving mother, Gloria Bein
Tara Shapiro
Gloria Bein
Susan and Allan Viner
Caron Daniels, wife of Les Daniels
Marshall and Sandra Rulnick
Max and Anna Glassman
Dr. Herman H. Glassman
Abraham Glassman
Mark Gordon, an all-around good mensch. May his memory always be for a blessing for all his family and friends.
Helga Allweiss
Mark Gordon
Eileen and Elliott Pollack
Sidney Gornish, husband of Carole and father of Michelle and Alanna
Sally and Isadore Levitz
Elaine L. Charendoff
Mickey Mazur
Gerald Roisman
Harold L. Rothstein
Marilyn Rothstein
Clara Scholnick, mother of Phyllis Ulreich
Marshall and Sandra Rulnick
May Soll
Susan and Allan Viner

Fran Waltman
Eleanor Caplan
Joseph Cohen
Palmer and Mary Davis
Claire M. Friedman
Anita and Elliott Seitzman
Dr. Abraham Weinberg
Bobbe Basch

In honor of:
Our 60th wedding anniversary (all great years)
Hon. Arnold W. Aronson and Hermina S. Aronson
Daniel Klau becoming a judge in Superior Court of Conn, just like his grandfather, Judge Joseph Klau
Michael and Naomi Cohen
Ruth Solomon, our friend
Joan Walden and Jake Mendelssohn
Eliane Sandler
Alan Berkowitz, on his completion of a master’s degree in Holocaust and Genocide Studies

We are very grateful for the generous donations and bequests from Leo J. Novarr, Frances Waltman, Brookside Koopman, Trice Koopman, and Rena Koopman

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

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

Louis and Trudy Brown
Steven and Deborah Kleinman
Arlene and Daniel Neiditz
Morton L. Weinstein and Stacy R. Nerenstone, MD
Zachs Family Fund

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

Eleanor Caplan
Elaine L. Charendoff
Arthur and Reba Nassau

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Walter and Edee Borden
Harriet Deeton
Susan Namerow
Richard and Denise Order
Rosalind Rachlin
Shirley Stengel

IN MEMORIAM

Gloria M. Bein
Alan H. Kaufman
Stephen S. Kreinin
Leo Pinsky
Frances Waltman
Helen Weisel

UCONN Jewish Hartford European Roots Project
Mini-course with Professor Samuel Kassow: “Discover the Legacy of Jewish Life in Eastern Europe”
November 5, 12, 26, December 10, 2018
For more information and registration, visit www.jewishhartford.uconn.edu
and
A Trip to Lithuania and Poland with Professor Samuel Kassow
July 14-26, 2019

Find us on www.facebook.com/jhsghct/
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!

Please visit our website at www.jhsgh.org ~ Society Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:30pm ~ (860) 727-6170
Delicious Memories

A Food Blog of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

Do you have a treasured recipe that has been passed down through generations? A story about your family’s holiday or special occasion traditions? Memories of favorite foods or eateries you remember growing up? Fabulous cooks in your clan? Amusing cooking accidents? Share them with us on our newly launched food blog.

For more information about this project, visit http://jhsgh.org/delicious-memories/.

Zachs Campus
JHSGH
333 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117