TRAILBLAZER
Connecticut Jewish Women Making History

SEPTEMBER 3 - OCTOBER 2, 2019

Exhibit hours
Monday - Thursday • 9:00am - 9:00pm
Friday - Sunday • 9:00am - 6:00pm

Tuesday September 3, 2019
Exhibit Opening Reception - 5:30pm

Chase Family Gallery
Mandell Jewish Community Center
555 Bloomfield Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06117
SHALOM

I hope everyone had a tremendous summer, it is very exciting getting ready for another sensational year at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford, albeit one that will involve one big change.

With deep appreciation and gratitude, it is bittersweet to announce the impending retirement of our outstanding Executive Director Estelle Kafer at the end of the year. After fifteen years leading the Jewish Historical Society through considerable and impressive growth and expansion, Estelle will be retiring at the end of the year. I know she is looking forward to spending more time with her growing mishpacha of grandchildren including two new arrivals this summer! Just a few of the seemingly infinite initiatives she has been responsible for include our popular books and bus tours on Growing Up in Jewish Hartford and the Jewish Farmers of Connecticut, guiding our dedicated staff and volunteers through the addition of hundreds of new oral history recordings and artifacts to our growing archive and planning and organizing our tremendous slate of programming which have included the Jewish Lawyers of Connecticut, the Jews of New Britain, Mt Sinai Hospital retrospective and countless others that have highlighted the Jewish community in Central Connecticut. We were able to sponsor and offer dozens of powerful and informative exhibits that Estelle borrowed from institutions or curated herself in-house. There is also a good chance that you are a member because you first came to a program that Estelle planned and carried out, enjoyed it and wanted to go to more, I know because that is how I first became involved with JSHGH!

On a personal note, the guiding hand that Estelle has given me in helping move JHSGH forward has been extremely invaluable and I have deeply treasured my wonderful working relationship with Estelle. She will be greatly missed and I am also grateful for the generous time she has given us to fill her shoes and hopefully she will be able to work together in a transition with her successor before her final days in December.

So please join me and the Board of Directors in thanking Estelle for everything she has done for us for the past fifteen years and wishing her good luck in retirement! More information on an opportunity to do so coming soon.

I do want to inform you that we have already assembled a search committee comprised of members of the Board of Directors to identify a candidate. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the email below.

Meanwhile we have a full slate of programs in the coming year that you will read about in this journal including our Trailblazer exhibit on Jewish Women of Connecticut, our exclusive Slow Roll Bike Tour of Jewish Hartford, a triumphant return to Sol LeWitt’s home and studio, Jewish Roots of Rock and Roll Concert among many others! I look forward to seeing you there and remember to generously support the Jewish Historical Society.

Thank you!
Lance Goldberg
goldbergl@fpsct.org
This exhibition was partially funded by a grant from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund/ Koopman Share at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford and the generosity of the following individual donors:

Eleanor Caplan  
Rona Gollob  
Barbara and David Klau  
Debbie and Steve Kleinman  
Konover Coppa Family Fund  
Sharon Kowal Freilich and Martin Freilich  
Abbey Miller Kreinik  
Carol LeWitt and Family

Harold L. Rothstein Family  
Eliane F. Sandler  
Beth Schiro and Stephen Bayer  
Cyral and Richard Sheldon  
Gail and Ray Weinstein  
Leslie and Richard Weinstein  
Dr. Elliott C. Zweig and Doreen Fundiller-Zweig

Slow Roll Bike Tour

JHSGH and Mandell JCC  
Slow Roll Bike Tour  
Sunday, September 15, 2019

Check-in/Orientation, 9:00 am  
Community Services Building, 333 Bloomfield Avenue, West Hartford

Bike Tour 9:30 to 12:30 pm returns to the  
Community Services Building

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

This is a slow roll ride covering about 15 miles in 1.5 hours of moving time at approximately 10mph.  
We encourage using a hybrid bike. Helmets must be worn. Bloomfield Bikes will be available prior to the tour to check out our bikes and provide assistance during the ride.

Please visit JHSGH website http://jhsgh.org/hartford-bike-tour/ to register.  
For more information, please call 860 727-6170 or email lnewman@jewishhartford.org

Cost: $28.00 JHSGH/JCC members, $30.00 Non-members
**FALL 2019 CALENDAR**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 3, 2019</td>
<td>5:30pm</td>
<td>Exhibit Opening Reception Trailblazer: Connecticut Jewish Women Making History</td>
<td>Chase Family Gallery, Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 10, 2019</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
<td>JHSGH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Community Services Building</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 12, 2019</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Special Luncheon Program with guest speaker</td>
<td>Innovation Center, Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford</td>
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<td>Sunday, September 15, 2019</td>
<td>9:00am-12:30pm</td>
<td>Back to the Old Neighborhoods Slow Roll Bike Tour. Co-Sponsored with the Mandell JCC</td>
<td>Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 10-Sunday, November 10, 2019</td>
<td>9:30am-4:30pm</td>
<td>The Art of Sol LeWitt: Exclusive tour of the private LeWitt residence and Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester, CT. Tour leaves from the Community Services Building</td>
<td>Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 16, 2019</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>JHSGH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Community Services Building</td>
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<td>Sunday, November 3, 2019</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>The Roots of Rock ‘N’ Roll with Brian Gillie – a presentation of music from the 50’s and 60’s.</td>
<td>Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Road, West Hartford</td>
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<td>Monday, November 11, 2019</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Pride, Honor, Courage Women in World War II JHS documentary showing</td>
<td>Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford</td>
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<td>Monday, November 18, 2019</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>JHSGH Board Meeting</td>
<td>Community Services Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 24, 2019</td>
<td>7:30am-8:00pm</td>
<td>Auschwitz Exhibition at the Museum of Jewish Heritage Bus Trip - Join Professor Avinoam Patt for a tour of the special exhibit</td>
<td>Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 15, 2019</td>
<td>1:30-2:30 or 2:45-3:45</td>
<td>Pickle making workshop with cookbook author Jeffrey Yoskowitz</td>
<td>Mandell JCC, 335 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford</td>
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**STAY CONNECTED!**

Like, share and comment on our social media posts!
https://www.facebook.com/jhsghct/

**Executive Director**
Estelle Kafer
ekafer@jewishhartford.org

**Archivist**
Leah Early
learly@jewishhartford.org

**Program Administrator**
Lynn Newman
lnewman@jewishhartford.org

To register for our programs, go to: [www.jhsgh.org](http://www.jhsgh.org) and click on the EVENTS
JHSGH
is delighted to repeat the exclusive tour of
The Art of Sol LeWitt
Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Join the JHSGH as we return to 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 renown 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. Reservations are non-refundable.

Please respond by October 9th
To pay by credit card, visit our website at http://jhsgh.org/lewitt/
For more information, contact Lynn Newman at 860-727-6170 or lnewman@jewishhartford.org.

Re-generation. Jewish Life in Poland
Exhibition of Photographs by Chuck Fishman at Trinity Hillel
Co-sponsored by the JHS, Jewish Hartford European Roots and Trinity Hillel
Thursday, October 10, 2019 through Sunday, November 10, 2019

More details at https://jhsgh.org/

Project is co-financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland as a part of the "Public Diplomacy 2019" program.
RECENT EVENTS

Over 120 people were treated to a lecture and demonstration of klezmer music with Professor Walter Zev Feldman and accordionist Christina Crowder co-sponsored with The Emanuel Synagogue.

Many people enjoyed sampling delicious Iraqi Jewish cuisine and attending a screening of the documentary “Remember Baghdad,” part of the Hartford Jewish Film Festival.

West Hartford Town Historian Dr. Tracy Wilson was the featured speaker at the JHS Annual Meeting discussing the diary of the trip that Beatrice Fox Auerbach and former Congresswoman Chase Going Woodhouse took to Europe right after World War II.

A book talk with author Deborah Levison captivated the audience with a retelling of the events surrounding the discovery of a crate at their cottage and the impact it had on her family.

The JHS was fortunate to be selected again to receive two interns this summer, Tanuja Budraj and Federico Cedolini, as part of the Trinity College grant funded project, the Public Humanities Collaborative. The students worked for 10 weeks on researching the 12 women highlighted in the new Trailblazer exhibit, as well as creating a companion online timeline.
Pride, Honor and Courage: Jewish Women Remember World War II

Monday, November 11th, 7:00pm at The Emanuel Synagogue

This professionally produced documentary film created by the JHSGH utilizes oral history interviews and the Society’s archival material. Although the men of the “Greatest Generation” have been chronicled many times, little has been written about the experiences of women in the military and on the home front. This film focuses on the compelling stories of many local Hartford women, representing the thousands who did their duty during this turbulent time in our country’s history.

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE
BUS TRIP | SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Joining us for a morning bus talk and an afternoon debriefing is Dr. Avinoam Patt, Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut (as of August 2019). The former Phillip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History and co-director of the Maurice Greenberg Center for Judaic Studies, Avi also served as director of the Museum of Jewish Civilization at the University of Hartford.

TICKETS
$69 PER PERSON/$85 ADULTS 65+
Limited spaces available
REGISTER
www.mandelljcco.org, call 860-236-4571, or in person at the Member Services Center.
Dear Society Friends,

It is hard for me to believe fifteen years have passed since I walked into the former Society space in the JCC on my first day as the new director. The shelves were overflowing with boxes, documents, photographs and artifacts. Thankfully, plans were in place to relocate to a new building next door. My very first project was to organize the packing and transport of the archive and office contents.

Along with the assistance of our archivist at the time, Margaret Mair, we developed a coding system to label and identify the dozens of archival boxes in each collection.

After a successful capital campaign, our founding families and community friends came through with the necessary funding for a compact storage system that was custom designed and installed in the new location within the Community Services Building.

Gradually I became familiar with our impressive array of valuable and distinctive historic materials, and concluded that preservation, accessibility and visibility would be a top priority. I also realized the importance of disseminating our communal history- for research purposes, families and individuals. We worked hard to create an updated collection database and website that provided the necessary components for researchers and internet accessibility.

My vision was to raise awareness of the unique and remarkable contributions and stories of Hartford's Jews, with a plan for outreach and collaboration through programming, oral history projects, publications, exhibits and tours.

I feel very fortunate I was able to accomplish these goals in the last fifteen years with the support of the dedicated JHS lay leaders, members, donors, community friends and staff. I am very grateful to Bea Brodie and Lynn Newman, who worked alongside me with the numerous, and at times, challenging daily operations of a small nonprofit.

Although I am saddened to leave the Society, which has been my second home these past years, I feel pleased and honored to have been a part of creating the exciting and viable organization it has become. I am looking forward to the next phase of my journey, enjoying my six grandchildren, my continued involvement with the Jewish Hartford European Roots project, new community endeavors, and pursuing personal interests.

I wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year and hope we will stay connected!

Best Regards,
Estelle

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**ORAL HISTORIES ONLINE**

We have just launched an exciting, ongoing project to make our JHS Oral History Collection available online. The Oral History Collection was started in 1968 by JHS founders Emma Cohen and Sadie Klau and continues through today.

Please find the link on our website to listen to the earliest recordings in the collection!

Alex Perlstein interviewed by Dr. Morris Cohen
July 15, 1968
FROM OUR ARCHIVIST

We’ve had a busy spring and summer as we prepare for the opening of TRAILBLAZER: Connecticut Jewish Women Making History. Two interns from Trinity College, Federico Cedolini and Tanuja Budraj, helped us compile information and learned about research using the collection. In addition to research for the traveling exhibit, the interns produced two digital humanities projects: a timeline with expanded information on the featured trailblazers, and an interactive map of synagogues in the Greater Hartford region. Look for both of these projects on our website this fall.

In the last bulletin, I wrote about the JHS’s foray into scrapbook digitization. We digitized a scrapbook created by Emma Cohen, JHS founder, on her 1951 trip to Israel with her husband, Dr. Morris Cohen. In addition to the snapshots in the scrapbook, Emma documented this trip with over a hundred full-color, glass Autochrome slides, a fascinating color photography process that predates Kodak’s plastic color slide films. Digitization serves a dual purpose, supporting preservation of deteriorating and fragile originals by creating digital surrogates for research use, while also enabling us to exhibit the reproductions where the original is too fragile to display. Please stop by the Society office to see our exhibit of these unique photographs, Scrapbook of an Israel Journey: 1951.

We accessioned a final deposit of materials from the Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary of Hartford/Laurel Post #45. While it’s sad to see this organization shut its doors, we’re pleased to make the records of its service to local veterans and troops abroad accessible to researchers. The materials will fill gaps in the existing JWA collection and round out its coverage of Post #45’s important activities over the years.

Other acquisitions include a book of songs, c. 1917, from The 15 Club, an early Jewish women’s group in Hartford, donated by Brooksie Koopman; photographs by Norman Chayes of Israel pre-1948, donated by Lea Chayes; early yearbooks and family photographs donated by Michael C. Altschuler; and historical memorabilia from Temple Beth Tefilah in East Hartford, donated by Helene Shapiro.

As always, we are seeking volunteers for routine work with the collection, including data entry in our archival catalog database and assisting with collections care. Please email me at learly@jewishhartford.org if you’re interested in contributing your time. Projects may also be available for prospective interns; please inquire.

Archivist, Leah Early
THOUGHTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS

Heritage Society
Steven and Debbie Kleinman
Morton L. Weinstein and Dr. Stacy R. Nerenstone

Preservation Society
Eleanor Caplan
Elaine Charendoff
Patricia K. and Arnold Goldstein
Arthur and Reba Nassau

Generous Donations, Bequests and Grants
Tobey Gitelle,
Laurence H. Waltman
Marjorie Feldman
Robert H. Kennedy

General Donations
Louise Belkin
Deborah Hyman

In honor of:
Arnold Aronson’s birthday!
   By Judge Arnold and Hermia Aronson
   By Dr. Jeffrey and Diane Wasser

In memory of:
Sidney Druckman
   By Susan and Allan Viner

In memory of:
Jean Sosin
   By Susan Viner

In memory of:
My son Richard Daniel Palten
   By Joy Palten

In memory of:
Jonathan Kronick
   By Judith and Allen Kronick

In memory of:
Howard Siegal
   By Lois Siegal

In memory of:
Sally and Isadore Levitz
   By Elaine Charendoff

In memory of:
Linda Fossier (nee Sach) on her special birthday.
   By Arnold and Patricia Goldstein

In honor of:
Roberta Shuler Margolis (a Hartford native) on her special birthday.
   By Arnold and Patricia Goldstein

In honor of:
The recent birth of our first grandchild, Saul Jonathan Langer!
   By David and Hilary Silver

In honor of:
The 60th wedding anniversary of Karl and Muriel Fleischmann.
   By Bobby and David Klau

In memory of:
Libbiam Cohen
   By Arthur and Reba Nassau

In honor of:
Estelle Kafer and her leadership of the Jewish Hartford European Roots Trip 2019
   By Harriet Cutler
   Professor Kassow, Lisa Kassow, and Miri
   By Harriet Cutler

In memory of:
Bess and Sid Koppell
   By Martin Koppell

Contributions 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 acknowledged and printed in our bulletin. To make a donation to the JHSGH, please visit our website.

IN MEMORIAM

Libbiam Cohen  Dr. Alan Schwartz  Howard R. Hoffman
Donald Rome  Marvin Weil

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS

Arnold & Cheryl Altman  Val and Raisa Virkerman  Honey Sue Springut
Beth Hillson  Tracey Wilson
SAVE THE DATE

The JCC on Asylum Ave • Mayron’s Bakery • Pippi’s BBG • Keeney Park on the High Holidays • “Meet Me at Maxwell’s” • Conn’s Kings • Howard Johnson’s on Farmington Ave • WPOP • Record Hops • Iota Phi • G. Fox • Phi Delta • Scoler’s • WDRC • The Stroll • Poodle Skirts • The Twist • AZA

Remember When?

The Roots of Rock-n-Roll
Featuring Brian Gillie
Followed by A. C. Petersen’s Ice Cream Sundae Nightcap

Sunday, November 3, 2019, 7pm - 9pm
Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Road, West Hartford, CT

Join the fun. Relive the memories.
$36 per person. $50 per patron.

Register online at www.jhsgh.org, by phone at 860-727-6171 or mail the form below with your check to: Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
333 Bloomfield Ave, West Hartford, CT 06117.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
Best Contact Info [phone / email / text] ________________________________

Number of Tickets ___ @ $36 _______ Number of Patron Tickets ___ @ $50 _______

Please Make Checks Payable To: Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
Jewish women of Connecticut have never been known to sit idle. From women’s rights activists to artists, journalists, and health and education reformers, these pioneering women overcame obstacles of gender, social class, and religious identity to make changes that continue to impact our lives today.

This traveling exhibition – developed and curated by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford – highlights the stories of 12 of these pioneers, teaching us what it meant, and what it means to be a Trailblazer.

This exhibition was partially funded by a grant from the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund/Koopman Share at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford and the generosity of individual donors.


I fought for the rights of unskilled working women.

– MATILDA BASHNOWITZ – LABOR ORGANIZER

For more information visit: jhshg.org
email: bnewman@jewishhartford.org
tel: 860-727-6170

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
JHSGH
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West Hartford, CT 06117