

HAPPENINGS

Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, Inc.

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January 2018–5778
Marvin Bargar, Editor
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Located on the Campus of Southern Connecticut State University, 270 Fitch Street, New Haven

“A Jewish Joke: The Story of Bernie Lutz”

A Review by
Elizabeth Brochin

A one man show featuring Phil Johnson, outstanding in the role of Bernie Lutz, a screen writer during the Hollywood blacklist period in the 1950's. It was performed November 4th and 5th at Amity High School in Woodbridge. The event was sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven and CT Humanities in partnership with the JCC, part of the fall 2017 Cultural Arts Season.

A phone on stage ringing time and again serves to advance the plot. As the audience listens in, from that end of the conversations we learn Bernie Lutz is a successful screen writer pursued for his talent by the biggest names in the business. The action moves forward, but all changes rapidly. The calls now are to cancel projects. His longtime partner and friend, in spite of Bernie's warnings not to become involved, is identified by the FBI as a Communist sympathizer. Bernie is given a choice – cooperate with the FBI and save his career or protect his partner and suffer blacklisting. He remains loyal to his friend.

At many points during the play Bernie calms himself by pulling a card from a file box. Each card holds a Jewish joke which Bernie reads aloud. It's not hard to grasp the why of the play's title. The joke is on Bernie – and it's a Jewish joke – with that typical wry punchline.

The Greenwich Historical Society Honors the
Town's Jewish Community in its New Exhibition:

“An American Odyssey: The Jewish Experience in Greenwich.”

A new exhibition opened November 15th, tracks the journey with a focus on distant periods, such as 1880 to 1930's when Jewish immigrants established businesses, as well as the anti-Semitism that intensified after World War I and into World War II.

The story continues to the present day, showing how the community became part of the larger post-war suburban movement. The story is told with memorabilia and first person accounts. The town's Jewish community has had an impact stretching back to the colonial days.

Greenwich Historical Society, 39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob; This exhibition continues through Sunday April 15;
Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12-4p.m. Docent led tours at 1, 2, and 3 p.m., or by appointment. \$10 to \$8
(Free to members and children under 18.) For further information: 203/869.6899.

“The Chosen” - Theatre Party

A Review by
Elizabeth Brochin

About 60 members of the JHS and Temple Beth Sholom enjoyed a theatre party at Long Wharf Theatre attending a Sunday afternoon matinee performance of the “The Chosen” preceded by a box lunch and two speakers. The first speaker, Christine Scarfuto, Long Wharf’s literary manager spoke about the staging of the play. Our second speaker was Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic, the spiritual leader from Temple Beth Sholom, who set the historical context of the play for the group.

The play takes place in 1940’s Brooklyn, before the birth of Israel. It is structured on the conflicting ideas of those Jews who are Zionists dedicated to working toward establishing a Jewish homeland and groups like the Hasidim who are dedicated to protecting a religious tradition.

Reuven and Danny, the central characters, play baseball for rival yeshivas. Reuven, a pitcher, is hit

in the eye by a vicious swing of a bat by Danny. Luckily, the eye will heal, but as a result, Reuven and a very remorseful Danny will become best friends. Although Reuven’s father is also religious, he is an ardent Zionist holding views diametrically opposed to Danny’s father on the subject of establishment of a Jewish state. Danny’s father, forbids even any discussion of a Jewish state. He is a Hasidic rabbi, revered by his congregation, and Danny, his eldest son is expected to follow in that tradition. As the play progresses, Reuven and Danny go from being sixteen year old boys to young men about to start their careers.

The play builds to a very touching and satisfactory ending. “The Chosen” is a timeless story and this was an excellent production.

How Will You Assure a Continuing Vibrant Jewish Historical Society?

Commit to leave a legacy and help to ensure that the Jewish Historical Society will be a part of the fabric of Greater Jewish New Haven for many years to come.

Contact Albert Harary at 203-392-6125

Leave a Jewish Legacy for JHS with...

- A bequest in your will
- An IRA beneficiary designation
- A life insurance policy
- A gift that pays an income for life

We Gratefully Acknowledge The Following Contributions

Research

Sandra Mayer

Special Birthday

Rose Dubin

By Mitzi Bargar

General Fund

The Setlow Family

Hedda and Michael Dimenstein

New Members

Daniel Dimenstein

Robert Dimenstein

FROM OUR BOOK SHOP FOR ANY & ALL OCCASIONS

“Jews in New Haven”

Holiday Specials

Volumes VIII, IX, and X	(Set)	\$45.00
	(Each)	25.00
Complete Set I - X	(1 thru 10)	99.00

Books sold separately

Vol I – V.....	(Each)	\$ 9.50
Vol VI		12.50
Vol VII.....		18.00

For further information call the
Society at 203-392-6125 or Email: info@JHSGNH.org

All proceeds support the Society.
Thank you for your continued support

The Archives

In order to answer various inquiries, we would like to have resource material. Two of our most important resources are: The New Haven City Directories and classbooks.

If anyone has City Directories, especially the years from 1978 through the eighties and nineties, we would very much like to have them.

Then we would also like to have any old classbooks from Hillhouse, Commercial, and Lee High Schools. Also needed are classbooks from the local area colleges and Hebrew schools.

For more information, or to donate any of the needed resources as mentioned, please call Marvin Bargar at 203-392-6125(Tues. – Fri. mornings).

Our Newest Acquisitions

A Unique Donation

In November, the Congregation Sinai of West Haven donated a unique piece of memorabilia for our object collection.

It is a wooden cabinet measuring 18” x 30” with a glass door. Contained within this cabinet are items

which were found after a May 1988 fire.

When looking into this cabinet, you will see burnt prayer book pages, two burnt menorahs, and several other religious items.

This incident was confirmed by the West Haven Police Department as both arson and a hate crime. This disgraceful crime remains unsolved.

**The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven
Invites Friends and Family to JOIN NOW...WHY?**

Help preserve the rich history, culture, and traditions of
Greater New Haven's Jewish community.

Enjoy year-round programs of cultural and social activities.

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

Membership Application

Individual.....	\$36	Family	\$54
Life Individual	\$250	Life Family.....	\$350
Patron.....	\$72	Student.....	\$18
Legacy Heritage Circle - (call the office for details)			

Membership will be valid until June 30, 2018

Please Support

**The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven
and Consider Donating to JHS Funds**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey & Eleanor Ladin Memorial Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Arthur Chiel Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Louis Sachs/Isadore Wexler Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund |
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Name(s) _____ Tel: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Dues and Donations are Tax Deductible within the Provisions of Federal Tax Laws.

Checks payable to: Jewish Historical Society,
PO Box 3251
New Haven, CT 06515

Thank you

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven

We Want to Thank Our Lifetime Members

This is a gentle reminder, in order to continue our mission to the preservation of our Jewish History for future generations...

Please consider a donation to our any of our Funds

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harvey & Eleanor Ladin Memorial Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi Arthur Chiel Fund |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Barry E Herman Fund | |

or make a donation

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Name(s) _____ Tel: _____

Address _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Donations are Tax Deductible within the Provisions of Federal Tax Laws.

Checks payable to: Jewish Historical Society,
PO Box 3251
New Haven, CT 06515

Thank you



Jewish Historical Society
of Greater New Haven, Inc.
PO Box 3251,
New Haven. CT 06515-0351

Moved, change your phone or email? Did you tell us?

Name _____

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Please print clearly or send us your business card as we would like to update our files.

Jewish Historical Society PO BOX 3251 New Haven CT 06515 or email info@JHSGNH.org

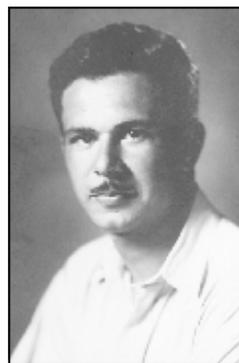
Thank you

New Mystery Photo - Who is this person?

Answer in the next Happenings issue.

If you know who, call the office

First caller to correctly identify this picture
will receive a complimentary copy of
Jews in New Haven, Volume X.



Answer to last issue's ***Mystery Photo:***
Bernard Hurwitz AKA Berel Howard