

HAPPENINGS

Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven, Inc.

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February 2020–5780
Jordan Levin, Editor
Stephen Salinger, Asst. Editor

Located on the campus of Southern Connecticut State University, 270 Fitch Street, New Haven

Presidents' Message

The people who founded the Jewish Historical Society of New Haven had the vision to know that preserving the history of the Jewish population of New Haven was important. With a few exceptions they were not trained in historical or archival techniques. They were amateurs in the best sense of the word – they loved Jewish New Haven and its history. Their passion drove them to learn historical and archival techniques. It drove them to gather documents and artifacts of New Haven Jews. They recruited an organization and built a substantial collection. At its height the Jewish Historical Society had close to 400 members. We believe it is the largest archive and collection of historical material on the SCSU campus.

Today the organization is less than half of its former size. At the same time the archives and collections continue to grow. Just in 2020 we are getting substantial new material from the former Congregation Sinai of West Haven and the former Jewish Home for the Aged of New Haven.



Some of our challenges are similar to those of most volunteer, nonprofit organizations. We need to replace and rejuvenate our dwindling and aging membership. Other challenges are specific to us. The successful growth of our collections means we will soon need more space. We need to make substantial investments to protect our holdings; almost all of them are unique and irreplaceable. We can no longer rely on amateurs and volunteers to care for the collection. We now have a trained, paid staff and in the future, we will need an even more highly trained staff.



Our membership dues do not cover our expenses. We need more donations and we need more members. Please ask your friends and family to join.

Thank you for supporting
The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven
Marjorie Drucker and Burton Levine

Recent Events

June 23, 2019

The annual meeting and brunch took place at the Towers on Sunday June 23rd, 2019. The program included a silent auction, a kosher brunch, and piano entertainment by Gary Lynes. There were opening and closing remarks by JHSGNH President Dr. Robert Forbes. Rabbi Murray Levine led Hamotzi and the Master of Ceremonies was Paul Bass. There was a great turn-out of 115 attendees. The event had three honorees:

Leonard Honeyman: Len served as president of the Jewish Historical Society while also heading Bikur Cholim Sheveth Achim synagogue for more than a

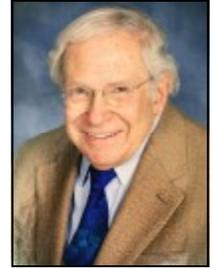
decade. Len also served with the Ethnic Heritage Center and is on the board of the Westville Synagogue, which he now attends. Len has an extensive and illustrious career in journalism as a leader, a writer, and photographer. In recent years Len and his wife Sue have served with Volunteers for Israel, known outside the U.S. as Sar-El. Bringing volunteers from the U.S. and around the world to serve with the Israeli military, not as soldiers but as helpers at military bases throughout Israel. Len is currently an active member of our Board.



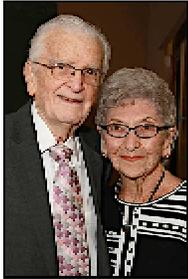
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Stanley Saxe: Affectionately known to many as “Uncle Stan,” Stan was born in New Haven 91 years ago. Stan became a board member of the Jewish Historical Society many years ago because he has fond memories he loves to share involving the trolley, the milkman, egg creams, Barnard School, Troup Jr. High and Hillhouse High School. He has contributed to the success of the JHSGNH through supporting all programs and soliciting a record number of ads for the annual meeting program book.



Lily & Lee Liberman: Lily and Lee married in 1944. After settling in New Haven, Lee became manager for Morse Shoe Store in downtown New Haven for 17 years. He later



worked for MetLife Insurance Company as an agent and General Manager until his retirement in 1993. Lily was born and raised in New Haven. Lily spent over 25 years as a dental assistant. Together they served on the Board of the JHSGNH, Hebrew Burial and Free Loan Association and ARMDI. For almost 18 years the Orchard street Shul had been inactive and in disrepair. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a New Haven Landmark, and thus began the revival of the Shul as an active place of worship. Lee and Rabbi Mendy Hecht, and a handful of dedicated members, with Lee as President, raised money and restored the Shul to its original beauty.



Text and Image in the Hebrew Bible

September 15th, 2019

A group from the JHSGNH took a trip to the Yale Haas Family Arts Library for an exhibit named “Text and Image in the Hebrew Bible”.

November 17th, 2019

A fine event took place within the JHSGNH. Titled, “Coming to the Promised Land: Ethnic Immigration and New Haven”. Materials related to immigration within our archives were on display. Participants brought their own memorabilia and were able to discuss and share their own families’ stories. The discussion was led and directed by Judith Schiff, Chief Research Archivist at Yale’s Sterling Library and Director of the JHSGNH archives.

November 20th, 2019

In coordination with Southern Connecticut State University and the Ethnic Heritage Center we were a part of “Voices of Immigration” on Wednesday, November 20th. Our past President and current Vice-President Dr. Robert Forbes represented our organization, speaking on a panel of scholars who shared an array of diverse immigration narratives, encompassing various ethnic histories within the United States.

December 8th, 2019

A group was organized and traveled to the Downtown Cabaret Theater in Bridgeport. They enjoyed kosher snacks, and a performance of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

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Our Dear Friend Albert Harary

by Marjorie Drucker

When I think of the one person who has had the most influence on my life in the past 10 years, it would be Al Harary. Knowing Al was an educational course in “The Many Ways To Enrich Your Life”. He was well read, keeping up with the latest issues affecting our world, and a true champion for the arts. I admired his many talents that included his abilities as a leader; to push people to their potential, how to lead effective meetings with meticulous preparation, and the ability to move forward with a positive outlook in the face of adversity.

There was also something about him that could zero in on the best qualities of a person and then, find a way to encourage and utilize those skills. This came from his many years of experience working with people in the corporate world. He was able to transpose that skill to the many organizations in which he served. Once he saw that you could be a valuable addition to an organization, you were in his cross hairs, and the next thing you knew, you were on the board of directors!

That was what happened to me in association with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven. The funny thing is that I wasn’t the only one to have this experience; many others on the board could also credit their association with the board of JHSGNH to Al. He just had that something that could persuade us to want to be a part of the organization.

His many years as a JHSGNH board member, president and chairperson of many committees, so important to the vitality of the organization, will forever be respected and cherished. We hope to continue to work for the best interest of the JHSGNH because that is what Al had in mind when he had us become new recruits. He understood the need for continuity and the benefit of new ideas that could move the organization forward. All of us in the organization plan on doing just that, and will do so with Al in mind.



We are having a Memorial Concert for Al Harary on Sunday, April 5th.
It will be held at Temple Beth Sholom 1809 Whitney Ave, Hamden
Starting at 3:00pm. Suggested donation \$18 per person
Please RSVP by Friday, April 3rd

Current News

Research and Academic Activity in the Archives

We are extremely fortunate in that 2019 served as a fruitful year for research within our archives. In total, our Archivist Marvin Bargar and our lead researcher and administrator, Patricia Illingworth, facilitated 27 research requests.

7 requests came from Connecticut

10 were out-of-state requests

5 requests were from abroad: 2 from Israel, 1 from Finland, 1 from England and 1 from Spain.

Internationally:

A native of Madrid, graduate student Olmo Masa De Lucas, utilized our collections in his master’s thesis, “Holocaust Heritage and Memory in the US. The New Haven Holocaust Memorial.” Studying and working through Freie Universität Berlin, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Department of Culture, Masa states, “The New Haven Holocaust Memorial was born out of the

willingness of a group of survivors to remember their loved ones, tell New Haven about the Holocaust and celebrate Jewish endurance.” A copy of Masa’s thesis is housed within our archives.

Connecticut:

Our lead researcher and organization’s administrator, Patricia Illingworth, contributed to the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford’s exhibit “Trailblazers: Connecticut Jewish Women Making History.” We were able to offer leads and materials that pertained to a variety of Jewish women from New Haven whose historical materials are housed within our archives.

Locally:

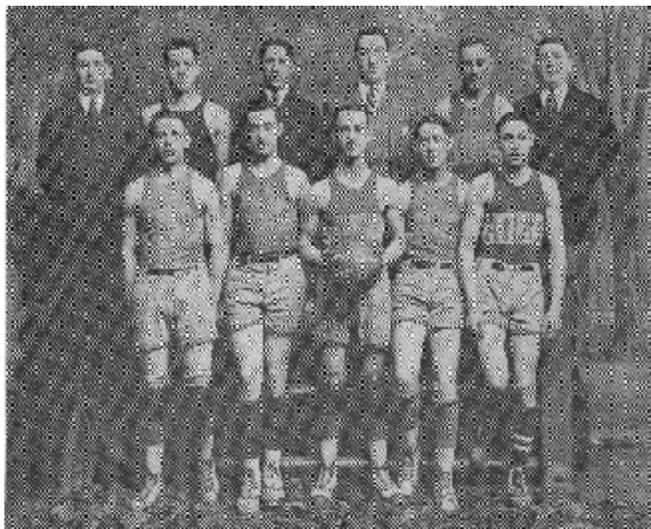
Southern Connecticut State University student Jordan Levin completed an extended internship at the JHSGNH in December. Over this past summer, Levin sought to answer the question, what role, if

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The Atlas Club

In 1906 the Atlas Club became New Haven's first Jewish athletics organization.

Within a few years its basketball team became a dynasty, known throughout New England and New York. According to Maurice Bailey, it's longtime



coach and strategist, "throughout Connecticut we made them respect us." At this time (1906 until the club's dissolution in 1931) there were towns in Connecticut where they had never seen Jews, let alone Jewish athletes.

The Atlas Club has a permanent and cherished place within New Haven's tapestry.

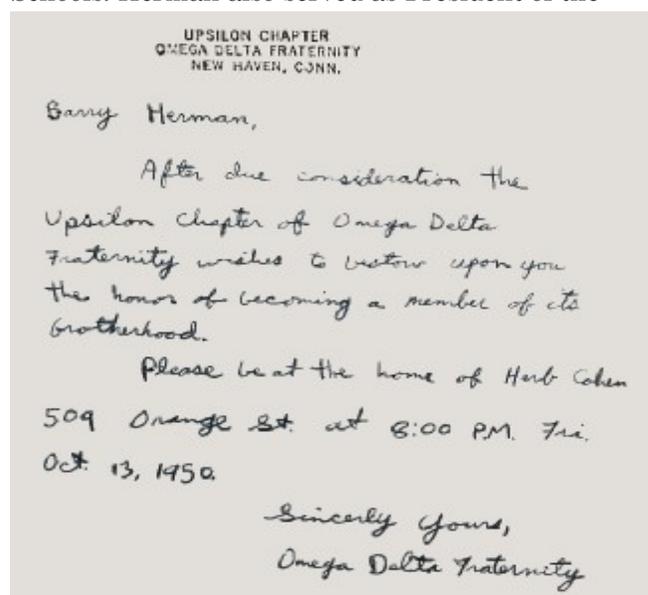


Jewish Secret Societies

These are primarily excerpts from an article written by our Archivist Marvin Bargar.

In 1881, the first fraternity was established in New Haven High School (later renamed Hillhouse High School). The first sorority was acknowledged in 1887. These are the 'Secret Societies' referred to in Marvin's title. Active in all phases of school life, there were athletic teams, scholastic competitions, and in the fall new members were invited to sorority "Teas" and fraternity "Smokers".

Pictured below is Barry Herman's 'secret' invitation to join Omega Delta in 1950. Herman was to become a positive and influential figure in New Haven Public Schools. Herman also served as President of the



JHSGNH and was a longtime "mover" (Marvin Bargar's words!) within our organization. He is greatly missed.

Last, you can see Herman pictured second from the left, front row.



(Continued Recent Events from page 2)

December 15th, 2019

Archivist Marvin Bargar, in conjunction with Dr. Robert Forbes, spent two weeks preparing for a visit from Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel (BEKI). Marvin took the visiting group on a tour through BEKI's history, their various mergers and changes over time. On display were photographs and materials housed within our archives. Our hope is that events such as these will spark future interest in utilizing the vast array of historical materials within the archives.

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any, did New Haven play in the creation of Israel in 1948? As it turned out, New Haven played an extensive role beginning as early as the 1910s. This one question grew into research with extensive angles and avenues. Levin was able to utilize the personal papers of Louis Sachs, one of the Sachs brothers, who was instrumental in the Zionist movement in New Haven in the first half of the twentieth century. Also, the personal papers of John and Rose Fox served as a month's worth of research and discovery in and of themselves. He counts the JHSGNH's oral histories collection as being indispensable to his

research. This is an ongoing project. He is still on the campus and is happy to share all that he has discovered so far.

Locally:

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the construction of the New Haven Holocaust Memorial. We worked with Yale's Fortunoff Archive on a project titled, "New Haven Remembers," and a publication under the same name was released. Dr. David Fischer, a longtime and active member, historian, and "Jews in New Haven" volume editor, was the central figure in providing the bulk of the histories printed therein.

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: Sidney Levine
203-234-9867
howdysid@aol.com

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

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 class books.

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 class books from Hillhouse, Commercial, and Lee High Schools. Also needed are class books from the local area colleges and Hebrew schools.

For more information, or to donate any of the needed resources as mentioned.

Please call Patti Illingworth at 203-392-6125 (Tuesday–Friday mornings).



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

**FROM OUR BOOK SHOP
FOR ANY & ALL OCCASIONS**

“Jews in New Haven”

Volumes VIII, IX, and X (Set) \$45.00

Special - take 50% off these prices*

	(Each)	25.00
Complete Set I - X (1 thru 10)		99.00
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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 sustain the Society.
Thank you for your continued support

*Offer good until April 30th, 2020

Upcoming events:

JHS Photo Exhibit at Hoos Family Gallery at
The JCC from Mar 2nd - April 30th

Memorial Concert for Al Harary on April 5th

Save the Date!

Our 44th Annual Brunch Meeting

Sunday June 28, 2020.

at the Towers

New Members

- Ann Annex
- Stephen Naron
- Jay B. Levin