

# JHSGNH NEWS

KEEPING OUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMED  
SUMMER 2025

## Welcome to our

### New Members:

- Jack Levine
- Lauren Piscitelle

### Our Officers:

- **Michael Dimenstein**, President
- **Adele Messina**, Vice President
- **Jordan Levin**, Secretary
- **Lauren Faith Miller**, Assistant Secretary
- **Harold Miller**, Treasurer
- **Mark Caplan**, Assistant Treasurer
- **Marjorie Drucker**, Immediate Past President

### Our Staff:

- **Nicole Zador**, Managing Archivist
- **Patricia Illingworth**, Research Archivist

### Collection Highlights:

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Jewish Voices of Grove Street Cemetery:

#### A Guided Walking Tour

Thursday, June 12, 4:00 PM

Space is limited, so register early! Join us on this roughly 90-minute tour of the Grove Street Cemetery. This guided walking tour will uncover the stories of the remarkable Jewish figures buried in these historic grounds -- pioneers, scholars, philanthropists, and community leaders who shaped the city and beyond. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a member of the local Jewish community, or curious about New Haven's diverse heritage, this tour offers a unique and meaningful way to connect with the past. The total walking distance for the cemetery tour will be approximately a mile, so please wear comfortable shoes! [Register and learn more here!](#)



### Oral History Training

We're excited to share that the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven is preparing to start recording oral history interviews again!

Ways to get involved:

- **Be an Interviewer** – Help record the memories of community members. *(One training session will be required.)*
- **Be a Narrator** – Have a history to tell? We'd love to hear it!
- **Transcribe Interviews** – Turn spoken stories into written records.

At our upcoming [training sessions](#), we'll cover the fundamentals of oral history, including its origins, the latest technology, effective interviewing techniques, and important ethical guidelines. No experience necessary, just curiosity and a willingness to



OBJ 359  
Strouse, Adler Company  
Doll-sized steamer trunk

Pictured above is a doll-sized steamer trunk produced by Strouse, Adler Company, which was primarily known for manufacturing corsets. Formerly the J.H. Smith Co., Isaac Strouse bought the company in 1862 and, along with Max Adler, founded Strouse, Adler & Co. They were the first in Connecticut to make corsets, and their business quickly grew. To keep up with demand, the company made an innovative change from whaleboning to steel stays, which also greatly reduced the cost.



The local product "C/B" corsets became an internationally known trademark. By 1880, the company was producing boxes for its corsets as well as set-up paper boxes used for pizza. By the turn of the 20th century, the business employed as many as 2,000 people, though much of the sewing later moved out of the country.

listen! Please RSVP for either the in-person session at the Ethnic Heritage Center on **Tuesday, June 17, at 5:00 PM** or the **virtual session on Wednesday, June 25, at 5:30 PM.**

If you're interested in getting involved, but can't attend one of the training sessions, [please fill out this form](#) or contact us at [info@jewishhistorynh.org](mailto:info@jewishhistorynh.org)

### Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, June 22, 1:00 PM

Join us for the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven's Annual Membership Meeting at The Towers at Tower Lane. Learn about our accomplishments, get a first look at what's ahead, and add your voice to the conversation as we plan for the future. [All members of the New Haven community are welcome.](#)

Lunch will be catered by The Towers. [RSVP by June 13!](#)

Stick around after our Annual Meeting for the final event of the Gospel Shabbat conversation series to learn about Constance Baker Motley from her niece, Constance Royster:



*Everyone should know the extraordinary story of Constance Baker Motley. She went from being a Hillhouse High School graduate to become the first Black female federal judge. She was born in New Haven to immigrant parents from the West Indies. She was Thurgood Marshall's associate counsel at the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund. She was an unsung heroine of the Civil Rights Movement. She was the first Black woman lawyer Southern judges and lawyers had ever seen. She won famous cases for Black students to enter Ole Miss, the University of Georgia, and Clemson College. Her historic impact was honored by the United States Postal Service with the issuance of a new beautiful Forever Stamp this year. She had many other callings and firsts. What were they? How did New Haven impact her success? How should her success impact New Haven? To get a better understanding, we will view photos, books, and family items.*

This event is partially sponsored by an Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.



## Zichronam Livracha:

We remember those we've lost. Our deepest condolences to all their families and friends.

**Ruth Frohman**, a JHSGNH member, was a beloved teacher, principal, mentor, and matriarch. Ruth taught thousands of children, with a focus on reading, and later, as a principal. She mentored young teachers, shaped curriculum, and remained steadfast in her belief that teaching was not about methods or policies, but about relationships. "If you want respect from children, you must first respect them," she often said.

*May her memory be a blessing.*

## Mazel Tov!

Want to celebrate a member of our community in our next newsletter? [Enter their name here!](#)

## Important Links:

[Submit a research request](#)

[Renew or begin membership](#)

[Make a donation](#)

[Donate archival material](#)

## Contact Us:

Phone: (203) 392-6125

Email: [info@jewishhistorynh.org](mailto:info@jewishhistorynh.org)

Website: <https://jewishhistorynh.org>

## PAST EVENTS:

### Meeting the Moment



In collaboration with Congregation Mishkan Israel, Temple Beth Shalom, and Congregation B'nai Jacob, we organized a three-part lecture series called **Meeting the Moment: What the Jewish Past Teaches About the Future**. We explored different aspects of American Jewish history and the influences shaping our community today. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the conversations!

### The Great Give 2025

Thank you to everyone who donated to our 2025 Great Give fundraiser. With our board matching program, we were able to raise \$10,438 for the next installment of our *Jews in New Haven* book series. If you're interested in working with us on Volume XI, [let us know!](#)



## Community News

Recently, JHSGNH had the pleasure of meeting with staff and residents from Chapel Haven's Schleifer Center, an incredible community dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities in leading meaningful, independent lives. During our visit, we learned more about their wide range of programs, with a special focus on their Judaism Club. This club provides a wonderful opportunity for residents to explore their Jewish heritage, connect with peers, and participate in enriching cultural and religious activities. We also had the chance to meet some of the residents and hear firsthand about the positive impact these programs have on their daily lives.

We're currently in the early stages of planning to honor Chapel Haven Schleifer Center at our upcoming Annual Awards Celebration. This event will recognize their outstanding work and commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities and their significant contributions to the New Haven community.

Members of the Judaism Club recently visited Mishkan Israel, one of New Haven's oldest and most historic synagogues. During their

Join us  
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The Jewish Historical Society of  
Greater New Haven is a member  
organization of the Ethnic Heritage  
Center



visit, they toured the synagogue and had the opportunity to learn about the history of New Haven's Jewish community.

