

**REMEMBERING THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD:
STORIES OF HARTFORD'S NORTH END**

Hartford, Connecticut (February 22, 2011): Hartford Public Library announced today that the Hartford History Center will present a discussion of the book *Remembering the Old Neighborhood: Stories of Hartford's North End*, a rich collection of memories and photographs told by and about residents of Hartford's North End during the early and middle decades of the 20th century. The event will take place on Sunday, March 6 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Center at the Downtown Library, 500 Main Street.

"I recall so many big old trees, now long gone--horse chestnuts with big leaves and gorgeous blossoms. There was ice-skating on the pond in Keney Park with ice skates that attached to shoes and a clubhouse for hot chocolate," wrote Sara "Sooky" Theodore Greenberg of West Hartford, who was four years old when her family moved to Hartford's North End in 1914. Greenberg is one of more than 150 contributors to the book.

Remembering the Old Neighborhood: Stories of Hartford's North End was published by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford (JHSGH) and edited by Joan Walden of West Hartford. Featured speakers at Hartford History Center's Sunday book talk will be JHSGH Executive Director Estelle Kafer and book editor Walden.

"Many but not all of the contributors to the book are Jewish," said Kafer. "We wanted to include all the groups who attended school, worked, shopped, raised families, played games, and lived life to the fullest in this vibrant community between 1920 and the 1960s."

Editor Joan Walden was impressed with the detailed memories. "I was amazed by the many recollections of specific names of stores, streets and people," she said. "I didn't grow up here, but after reading the memories, I can see what a fantastically close-knit and nurturing community it was."

Reproduced on the book's cover is a photograph of Fannie Koch Fruchtman (1890-1980). Photographs and a memory of her mother were submitted by Roz Fruchtman Volvovitz. Fruchtman owned a grocery store in the North End for many years and was vividly recalled by several contributors to the book.

"We selected the photo of Mrs. Fruchtman because we thought she evoked a wonderful sense of the community before the age of supermarkets, fast food, and electronic scanning devices," said Kafer.

The Hartford History Center book talk is free and open to the public. Copies of the book will be available for sale with a portion of the proceeds going to support Hartford Public Library's programs and services.

The Hartford History Center is located on the third floor of the Downtown Library at 500 Main Street. The book talk will be followed by an hour of free live jazz in the library atrium. For more information, please call the Hartford History Center at 860-695-6297.

To arrange an interview, please contact:

Mary F. Crean

Hartford Public Library

500 Main Street

Hartford, CT 06103

mcrean@hplct.org

www.hplct.org

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The Library receives more than 850,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of the Hartford Public Library is to promote and support literacy and learning; to provide free and open access to information and ideas and to help people participate in our democratic society.