

NJV May Issue

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County Premiere screening of the documentary film “Remembering the Family Store.”

STAMFORD, CT – The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) is pleased to announce the premiere screening of the documentary film “Remembering the Family Store” (RTFS) on Sunday, June 12th. The film reveals what it was like to have a family-owned business in Stamford, Connecticut from 1940 through 1965. RTFS takes a nostalgic look back to bygone times where store owners knew customers by name. Many business owners and their grown children who are featured in the documentary characterize how downtown Stamford transformed into what we see today.

Conceived by the late Lester Sharlach, as well as several other JHSFC members who were also store owners, RTFS was a way for them to share their stories with the community. This film has been a 3-year endeavor that started as a narrated presentation of the many stores. Following the presentation, you would hear many conversations starting with, “I remember when...” This led Lester and the RTFS committee to pursue what is now our documentary.

Interviewees feature many well-known Stamford citizens including Sam Lotstein from Grand Central Market, Ed Smith from Syl-May’s Pharmacy and Barbara Aronica Buck from Frank Martin & Sons Clothing Store just to name a few. Steve Karp, from Karps’ Stationery, narrator and interviewee said “I am grateful to Gail G. Trell, Chairperson of RTFS, for giving me the opportunity as a Stamford native to participate in the creative process. It was an honor to help fulfill Lester Sharlach’s inspired vision for this project.”

Gail G. Trell is confident that everyone will learn something new about how Stamford grew from a small town to a bustling city. Gail comments, “Growing up in the town of Stamford, I remember the chicken truck traveling on Pacific Street with the feathers flying on its way to the butcher, as my parents took me shopping to the bakery, shoe store and hardware store. The journey of creating a story of Stamford’s downtown merchants on Pacific, Atlantic, Main Streets to name a few, has been at times challenging as well as rewarding. Working with a dedicated committee and a talented filmmaker, our documentary has brought to life the wonderful memories of a vibrant community prior to urban redevelopment.”

The grant from the Stamford Arts and Cultural Commission along with the generous support of many donors made this film possible. “Remembering the Family Store” will premiere at the historic Avon Theatre, Stamford, Connecticut June 12th. Following the premiere, the documentary will be open to the community. Check the Avon Theatre listings for days and time.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, a non-profit, secular, educational organization established in Stamford in 1983 preserves and archives the past and tells the story. To learn more about JHSFC, please go online: <http://jhsfc-ct.org/> or call: 203-359-2196. For more information about the RTFS documentary, contact Gail G. Trell at: info@jhsfc-ct.org. To see the trailer visit: <https://youtu.be/O-kj-i2eabs>.



Frank Martin & Sons Clothing Store

Frank Martin & Sons was known as the finest Men's clothing store of that time.



Grand Central Market

Sam Lotstein's grandpa opened the first Grand Central Market



Syl-Mays Pharmacy

Ed Smith's family business has moved to a few different locations over the years