



# Immigrants Build a Community: Hartford Jews in the Early 20th Century

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford

Contact us: [jhsg@jewishhartford.org](mailto:jhsg@jewishhartford.org)

860-727-6170

# Cultural context and vocabulary

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**Shabbos:** Shabbat, or the day of rest, is traditionally celebrated in Jewish homes from Friday evening through sundown on Saturday. A special meal, often with chicken or brisket, is common on Friday evening, along with candle-lighting and prayers over bread and wine.

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**Schochet:** Jewish dietary laws specify that an animal must be butchered in a particular way to reduce its suffering in order for the meat to be *kosher*. Butchers trained according to these laws were known as *schochets*..

Some businesses would display the Hebrew words for "kosher meat" in the window

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**Talmud Torah:** A part-time school that taught Hebrew and Jewish topics to children who attended after their public school day.

**Yiddish:** The language spoken by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, Yiddish is a mixture of German and Hebrew and is written in the Hebrew alphabet.