

# 36

## BATTERY PLACE

WINTER/SPRING | 09



**museum**  
of JEWISH HERITAGE  
a **living** MEMORIAL TO  
THE HOLOCAUST

## Director's Message

I write this message at the start of the new calendar and fiscal year. As with all individuals and institutions, I'm sure, creating our 2009 budget was a sobering task. You have in your hand one of the first tangible results of this new budget — our newsletter with its new compact size, which allows us to decrease our printing and mail house costs. We are using less paper and printing fewer copies. Thus, our budget concerns allow us to help the environment — a silver lining, perhaps, to this gloomy economic cloud.

This fall and winter were unlike any we have ever encountered in the Museum's 11-year history. In the immediate days after September 11th, although we were unsure about the future, we knew that the Museum family would be steadfast in its support. The new economic realities, however, are unsettling precisely because they are so difficult to predict. One thing is certain — they will leave no one untouched, and it is important that you know that the Museum is responding in a careful and deliberate manner. We have undertaken significant cuts in our spending that include staff layoffs, delayed exhibitions, and a reduced advertising budget. We hope that many of these cuts will go unnoticed by the public, and that we can continue to offer world-class programming. Most important, we hope that they will be enough to allow us to weather this storm. But time will tell.

You, of course, will be dealing with your own challenges in these uncertain times, but I hope that you will continue to support us, for we need your help now more than ever before. Consider renewing your membership now — the fewer reminders we have to send you, the more money we can save. On page 4, read about Sol Rosenkranz and Bertha Lowitt, two members who serve as volunteer Gallery Educators. They are stunning examples of people who embrace every moment in life.

I send my best wishes for a bright spring and a happy new year,



David G. Marwell, Ph.D.  
Museum Director

## In Memoriam

Trustee **Harry Albright, Jr.** passed away on October 5. As the president of the Battery Park City Authority in the early 1990s, Harry became a friend in name, in word, and in action. He arranged for the Museum to occupy the land on which it sits, giving it the view that is as much a part of its history as the original six walls.

**Isaac Moinester** passed away on September 5. He and his late wife, Doris, supported many programs and projects at the Museum. Notably, they were the lead funders of *From Brooklyn to Bukhara: Jewish Portraits by Barbara Pfeffer*. Their daughter, Nina, is also a longtime member. Read more about Mr. Moinester on the inside cover.

**Jack Nash**, an early supporter of the Museum and its educational mission, passed away on July 30. Jack and his family fled Nazi Germany at the beginning of World War II before coming to the U.S. He went on to become chairman of Oppenheimer and Company, a pioneer in the hedge fund industry. Through the Nash Family Foundation, Jack and his wife, Helen, have been generous supporters of Jewish causes, including the Museum.

**Murray Pantirer**, a sponsor of the Museum, passed away on November 7. He lived in the Krakow Ghetto with his family before he was imprisoned in Plaszow and assigned to work in Oskar Schindler's factory. Murray was the only member of his family to survive. He and childhood friend Abraham Zuckerman created a housing construction firm in New Jersey. They dedicated over 25 streets in Schindler's honor. His granddaughter, Nicole Pines, is an intern and serves on the Museum's Education Committee.

The staff and leadership of the Museum offer their condolences to the Albright, Moinester, Nash, and Pantirer families.

## Hollywood Comes to the Museum

Edward Zwick's film *Defiance* (Paramount Vantage) is based on the true story of the Bielski family partisan group and follows three brothers whose daring actions during the Holocaust saved 1,200 Jews. Zwick presented a sneak preview of the film in September for nearly 200 members of the Bielski family. The film was also screened at the Museum twice in November, once for the Bielski partisans and their descendants and again at a Members-only screening.

Robert Bielsky, son of the group's leader Tuvia and longtime member of the Associates Board, introduced the film and shared touching personal family memories. He also spoke about the Museum's importance and encouraged others to become Members.

Zwick spoke reverently of the incredible efforts of the Bielskis, highlighting their willingness not only to help their fellow Jews but to actively resist the Nazis, bringing hope to so many. Zwick had previously had an opportunity to tour *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust*, which included artifacts from the Bielski camp that are now on display in the Core Exhibition.

At the family and partisan receptions, Sharon Rennert, Tuvia's granddaughter, screened her film of the family's trip to visit the set in Lithuania. Other recent films that have had special screenings at the Museum include *Good* and *The Reader*.



David Marwell, Robert Bielsky, and Ed Zwick at the family screening of *Defiance*.

## Energy Awareness at the Museum

When the Robert M. Morgenthau Wing was being planned in 2000, solar panels were rarely seen in New York City architectural plans for commercial spaces. But in an attempt to lead by example, the Museum made the decision to install 330 solar panels that continue to help power the building today. In the news, reports of the fragile state of our ecosystem are appearing with increasing frequency. The Museum



Solar panels on the roof of the Museum.

understands that part of *tikkun olam* means being stewards of the environment, and has taken measures to do its part, such as its annual participation in the NYC Energy Curtailment Program. MJH has won this city-wide competition, which requires organizations to run exclusively on generators for a specified time period. The result is less energy consumption and more cost savings. Even this newsletter has been taken into consideration and has been printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, ensuring that the paper comes from well-managed forests, controlled sources, and recycled materials.

**Correction** The editors regret that the Yom HaShoah photo on page 6 of the most recent newsletter identified the Gallery Educator with students from the Razi School as Dail Stolow. The Gallery Educator was actually Renee Feinberg.

## Tenth Annual Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Conference for Educators Sheds New Light on Bystanders and Witnesses

More than 350 participants gathered at the Museum on February 5 for the Tenth Annual Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Conference for Educators, which this year explored the role of bystanders in the Holocaust and other atrocities. *Bystander: Witness to Genocide* is made possible through the generous support of Museum Trustee Fanya Gottesfeld Heller and is presented in conjunction with the special exhibition *The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust By Bullets*. Teachers left the symposium not only with new knowledge of this lesser known aspect of Holocaust history but with a mantle of responsibility to educate their own students to speak out against injustice. In discussing the roles of perpetrators and bystanders, teachers will help students understand their own abilities to influence history.

Teachers heard from Ms. Heller, who shared her personal story of surviving the Holocaust in Ukraine. Following her remarks, leading scholar Omer Bartov provided historical context necessary for teachers to understand the unique experiences of Ukrainian Jews during the war. After Professor Bartov's lecture, Dr. Wendy Lower examined those experiences using testimony of survivors and spoke about memorialization. Rwandan survivor Jacqueline Murekatete spoke about her experiences in a contemporary genocide.

Director of Education Elizabeth Edelstein said, "Ms. Heller's ten-year commitment to this conference has been invaluable. These annual teacher trainings have reached over 1,500 education professionals, who have in turn taught a generation of students about the Holocaust. The Museum is truly grateful for Ms. Heller's outstanding dedication to Holocaust education."



Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, Museum Trustee and Ukrainian survivor, with Father Patrick Desbois, whose work in Ukraine is highlighted in *The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust By Bullets*.

## Recipes Remembered

*Recipes Remembered: A Celebration of Survival* will be a new cookbook of traditional dishes and new interpretations of classic cooking inspired by the recollections of Holocaust survivors. It will feature heartening stories, historic photos, artifacts from the Museum's collection, and reminiscences. The book is the brainchild of June Hersh, a longstanding Museum supporter and the book's editor, along with Evelyn Goldfeier, a second generation leader of the Associates Division and a Gallery Educator.

Says June, "The goal of this life-affirming cookbook is to shine a light on recipes that have endured, while celebrating the Holocaust survivors who have nurtured and nourished their families over the years."

An added dimension of the cookbook will be recipes from well-known cookbook authors and restaurateurs, such as James Beard award-winning chef Daniel Boulud, who shared his recipe for beef tenderloin.

June and Evelyn are seeking recipes from survivors and their families to serve as the basis for *Recipes Remembered*. Contact June Hersh at 646.437.4254 or e-mail her at mjhcookbook@gmail.com.

## Naming Opportunities Still Available

Thanks to a generous gift from one of the Museum's downtown neighbors, the Century 21 Department Store, a newly designed Trustees Wall was installed in the entrance foyer. Dedicated by Al and Shirley Gindi and Sonny and Irene Gindi, the Wall lists the names of Museum Board Members.



Though the Museum is now in its 11th year, there are many additional naming opportunities still available throughout the institution. Donor opportunities range from \$3,600 to dedicate a seat in Edmond J. Safra Hall to honor or remember a loved one or to celebrate a lifecycle event, to several million dollars for more prominent locations. Please contact Felica Kobylanski, Director of Development for Special Gifts, at 646.437.4302 or fkobylanski@mjhny.org.

L-R: Century 21 Department Store partners Eddie, Raymond, and Isaac Gindi (a second Isaac Gindi is not pictured) with Museum Director David Marwell, in front of the newly installed Trustees Wall in the Museum's Entrance Foyer.

## This Season in Edmond J. Safra Hall

This season, the Museum will present an exciting lineup of creative and compelling programs in Edmond J. Safra Hall.

- **The Punishing Blow**, a new play by *New York Times* columnist and four-time Emmy-winner Randy Cohen, will be performed on **March 25**. After being arrested for drunk driving, an anti-Semitic college professor is ordered by the court to deliver a lecture about one of the 100 most influential Jews of all time. Seth Duerr directs and stars in this dark yet humorous piece, joining Mr. Cohen for a post-performance Q&A.
- On **April 1**, cookbook author and television host **Joan Nathan** will join **Laura Manischewitz Alpern** for a conversation about **Manischewitz: The Matzo Family** just in time for Passover. As an added bonus, audience members will receive a free box of matzo, courtesy of Manischewitz.
- On **April 19**, author **Joe Berger** will be interviewed by former *New York Times* editor Arthur Gelb about his most recent book, **The World in a City: Traveling the Globe Through the Neighborhoods of the "New" New York**, which brings to life the sights, smells, tastes, and people of the globe in an intimate tour of the world's most cosmopolitan city.
- In honor of Yom HaShoah, a distinguished panel of scholars, visual artists, and actors will present **Blooming Through the Ashes: An International Anthology on Violence and the Human Spirit** on **April 22**. Readings of excerpts from the book, which includes pieces by Nobel laureates Toni Morrison, Elie Wiesel, Imre Kertesz, and others, will be interspersed with commentary from Clifford Chanin, founder and president of the Legacy Project; Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, professor of Performance Studies and Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU; and Dori Laub, Deputy Director of the Genocide Studies Program, Yale. Panelists will discuss the use of dramatic presentations, such as literature and film, to explore remembrance in the aftermath of loss.



Steve Cuiffo as Lenny Bruce

- Straight from his sold-out shows at Joe's Pub at The Public Theater, don't miss **Steve Cuiffo as Lenny Bruce** on **May 6**. Bruce is channeled in rare form by actor Steve Cuiffo as he performs selections of this cutting-edge comedian's most biting material verbatim.

For more information on these and other exciting programs at the Museum this season, call the box office at 646.437.4202.

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## New Thought-Provoking Exhibitions to Open this Spring

This spring, the Museum will open two thought-provoking exhibitions with complementary themes about race and social justice. ***Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*** will tell the story of Jewish academics from Germany and Austria who were dismissed from their teaching positions in the 1930s. After fleeing to America, some refugee scholars found positions at historically black colleges and universities in the Jim Crow South. The exhibition will explore what it meant to the students to have these new staff members as part of their community, how the students were affected by their presence, and what life was like for white European Jews teaching at black colleges and universities. *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow* will include artifacts, photographs, and video testimony from both the professors and the students. The exhibit will look at the empathy between two minority groups with a history of persecution, some of whom came together in search of freedom and opportunity and shared the early years of struggle

COLLECTION OF LORE AND DONALD RASMUSSEN



Prof. Lore Rasmussen (third from left) picking cotton in a field with students of the class of 1950–1951, Talladega College, AL. Prof. Rasmussen, a refugee from Germany and Associate Professor of Elementary Education, used unconventional and innovative teaching methods to give her students concrete experiences that brought them closer to their history and backgrounds.

in the Civil Rights movement. Notable students and professors featured in the exhibit include the artist John Biggers, professors Ernst Borinski and John Herz, Dr. Joyce Ladner, the first female president of Howard University, and Dr. Joycelyn Elders, the first black Surgeon General of the United States.

*This exhibition is made possible through major funding from the Leon Levy Foundation and the Helen Bader Foundation, with additional support from The Lupin Foundation, The Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and the Alpern Family Foundation.*

***Seeking Justice: The Leo Frank Case Revisited*** recounts the racially charged and tragic events surrounding the murder of thirteen-year-old Mary Phagan in 1913 and the lynching of Leo Frank two years later. The exhibition, on loan from the Berman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, includes artifacts and documents recently made public. While not drawing conclusions, *Seeking Justice* presents evidence about Frank, the Jewish factory superintendent found guilty of murder and sentenced to hang. When his sentence was commuted to life in prison, Frank was kidnapped from his cell and lynched by otherwise well-respected residents of Marietta, Georgia. The case that sparked decades of debate is outlined utilizing objects relating to both the murder and the lynching. Original newspapers chronicling the case, and interviews with descendants of Leo Frank, Mary Phagan, and other key players in the trial and its aftermath, will bring new insight to these unsolved murders and the events that led up to them. In 1982, new information from a key witness prompted members of Atlanta’s Jewish community to petition for a posthumous pardon. The process ended four years later when a pardon was issued on the grounds that the State had failed to protect Frank from the lynchers, rather than as a statement of innocence.

*Seeking Justice: The Leo Frank Case Revisited* is created by The Berman, Atlanta, GA.

**COVER: Professor Ernst Borinski teaching in the Social Science Lab, Tougaloo College, MS, ca.1960. Prof. Borinski, a refugee from Germany, was part of the Tougaloo community for thirty-six years. In the Social Science Lab, students were encouraged to think critically and question social attitudes, prejudices, and race relations. His tombstone in the campus cemetery reads: “Ernst Borinski, Inspiring Teacher.”** COURTESY OF MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

### Search Our Collection Online

The Museum has launched *Search Our Collection* <http://collection.mjhnyc.org>, a new website that invites online visitors to view some featured objects and photographs from the Museum’s holdings of almost 25,000 artifacts, some of which have never or rarely been on display. The online collection includes a description of the artifact as well as a story associated with it — who donated it, why it was important to them, and, sometimes, the fate of its owner. These artifacts represent a sample of the Museum’s collection, which was created with the goal of showing how Jews lived and how they live, not only how they died. Be sure to visit the site often, as the Museum is in the process of adding more artifacts. Museum Educator for New Media, Allison Farber, said, “Website visitors now have the capability of searching our collection by date, type of object, and place of origin. This interactive feature allows users to experience a little bit of the Museum from home.”

GIFT OF ANDREW SIPÓS



Andreas and Vera Sipos in ski outfits. December 1933, Vienna.

### Curator’s Choice

Two longtime friends of the Museum, Daniel M. Friedenberg and Leslie Schreyer, recently enriched the permanent collection with donations from their own. Mr. Friedenberg contributed Judaica representing Jewish communities in Italy, Palestine, Israel, Macedonia, and the United States, including marriage contracts (*ketubbof*), menorahs, etrog boxes, a Scroll of Esther, an Elijah’s chair, and a Torah ark. These artifacts will join previous donations from Mr. Friedenberg that have rotated into the Core Exhibition, allowing visitors to examine the richness, diversity, and traditions of Jewish life in the 20th century. Mr. Schreyer contributed 26 posters that reflect a number of themes, including Weimar Germany, Hitler’s rise to power, Hitler Youth, French anti-Semitism, and Jewish philanthropy. A 1943 poster from Tel Aviv urges Jews to “give your heart to a refugee” and send clothing to Polish Jews who fled to Soviet central Asia. These posters join Mr. Schreyer’s previous loans and donations, which have supported the Core Exhibition since its opening to the public in 1997. The gift, from Leslie, Judith and Gabri Schreyer and Alice Schreyer Batko, is in memory of Oscar Schreyer.

GIFT OF DANIEL M. FRIEDENBERG. PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER GOLDBERG



*Ketubbah* (marriage contract), Ferrara, Italy, 1825.

## Museum Celebrates Openings of Extraordinary Exhibitions

On September 24, Irène Némirovsky's daughter, Denise Epstein, and former French Minister of Culture Jack Lang were among the distinguished guests at the opening of **Woman of Letters: Irène Némirovsky and Suite Française**.

Also in attendance were Némirovsky translator Sandra Smith; Dr. David G. Marwell; Museum Deputy Director and exhibition curator Ivy Barsky; and Olivier Corpet, Director of IMEC (Institut Mémoires de l'Édition Contemporaine), the archive that holds Némirovsky's personal papers. They were joined by some of the exhibition donors: Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, Nancy Fisher, Michele Tocci of the David Berg Foundation, and Antoine Roset of Ligne Roset, which furnished the Rotunda Salon.

In honor of the opening of **The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust By Bullets** on November 23, the Museum welcomed Father Patrick Desbois, Baron Eric de Rothschild, President of the Mémorial de la Shoah, Consul General of Ukraine Mykola Krychenko, Consul General of Germany Horst Freitag, and the exhibition's generous funders: Ukrainian philanthropist and businessman Victor Pinchuk, Lily Safra, and Walter Weiner representing the Robert I. Goldman Foundation.

ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: MELANIE ENZIG



Jack Lang, Robert O. Paxton and his wife, Sarah Plimpton, and Olivier Corpet.



Denise Epstein with Ivy Barsky, Deputy Director and curator of the exhibition.



Dr. David G. Marwell, Elena Pinchuk, Father Patrick Desbois, Museum Trustee Lily Safra, and Victor Pinchuk.

### Victor Pinchuk Speaks about Ending the Silence

Ukrainian businessman and international philanthropist **Victor Pinchuk** has supported Father Desbois' work and organization, Yahad-In-Unum, and was a generous donor to **The Shooting of Jews in Ukraine: Holocaust By Bullets**. At the opening of the exhibit, Mr. Pinchuk, who flew in from Ukraine for the event, offered these thoughtful remarks:

*We are here today to mark the end of an astonishing silence of more than 60 years after the execution of 1.5 million people in Ukraine. Everyone knows about the horrors committed at death camps like Auschwitz and Dachau, but until now, the atrocities that took place on the Eastern Front and in Ukraine remain largely unknown. Isn't it incredible that today is the first exhibition ever organized in the United States about this tragedy?*

*This silence was so deep because of two reasons: First, the Soviets were hiding it. Second, there was no visible proof — no concentration camps.*

*Until Father Patrick Desbois arrived, [most of the] public knowledge related to this tragedy were survivors' video testimonies recorded by the Shoah Foundation at the initiative of Steven Spielberg. It is based on these incredible testimonies that we co-produced a film two years ago called Spell Your Name with Spielberg.*

*But the real breakthrough in terms of understanding what happened came only thanks to Father Desbois, who uncovered the horrible truth and the proof: the mass graves are still there, the bullets as well, and the witnesses who saw everything and never forgot.*

*Patrick is not Ukrainian. Patrick is not a Jew. He is a French Catholic Priest, and yet, he dedicated his life to this cause. This is a remarkable example of great humanity and tolerance. This is a lesson for all of us.*

*Patrick, thank you for what you are doing.*



Father Patrick Desbois in conversation with Dr. David G. Marwell at a public program that evening.

**VISIT US ONLINE** The Museum's website now features podcasts of recent sold-out events at Edmond J. Safra Hall including discussions with Irène Némirovsky's daughter Denise Epstein on September 24; and Father Patrick Desbois and Dr. David G. Marwell on November 23. Another exciting online feature is a website devoted to *Woman of Letters* ([www.mjhnyc.org/irene](http://www.mjhnyc.org/irene)) that offers a virtual glimpse at the exhibition. Highlights of the interactive site include artifact explorations, a timeline of the author's life, and a chance to post comments about the exhibit.

## MEMBER PROFILES: Bertha Lowitt and Sol Rosenkranz

**Bertha Lowitt**, Gallery Educator and Individual Member, has been involved with the Museum “since the beginning.” Bertha’s understanding of the Holocaust has been influenced enormously by her participation as a volunteer and a Member. She believes that by the Museum’s “very existence,” it best remembers those who survived and those who have perished, especially through the many survivor testimonies throughout the Core Exhibition. Bertha emphasizes that these testimonies not only illustrate the horrors of the Holocaust, “they tell us about the way [Jews] fought to retain their dignity, their heroism, their pride in their heritage.”

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Bertha is a retired school teacher who brought her passion for educating young people to the Museum. While she has many fond memories of the Museum, her most poignant are the



MELANIE ENZIG

**Bertha Lowitt**



**Sol Rosenkranz, with his son Joel, at Sol’s 90th birthday celebration at the Museum.**

student responses she receives after a tour she has given. She enjoys reading the letters describing how much the students have learned, and how their visit to the Museum has affected their understanding of the Holocaust.

For **Sol Rosenkranz**, his fondest memory of the Museum is the rainy opening day on September 11, 1997, when a diverse group of politicians, dignitaries, and religious leaders from all walks of life “crowded together underneath the massive tents,” in support of the Museum’s mission. Sol, a survivor of six concentration camps, is a Dual Member, a Gallery Educator, and a member of the Speakers Bureau. Sol believes his involvement beyond Membership “is incumbent upon [me] as a survivor to teach and educate others what was going on during the Holocaust.” He feels the Museum best remembers the Holocaust “by always talking about it (the victims and survivors) any time the situation presents itself.” His son, Joel Rosenkranz, is also a Member and artifact donor. Last year, Joel and his sister Rita honored their father’s 90th birthday with a celebration at the Museum.

Together Bertha and Sol have given tours to over 11,500 students. They also recently celebrated their 91st birthdays. Other Members of the Museum family who are over the age of 90 include Trustee **Mac Pickman**, **Dr. Saul Scheidlinger**, **Henry Morgenthau**, **Ruth Gruber**, and **Bert Askwith**.

For more information about Membership, call the Membership Office at 646.437.4334 or e-mail [membership@mjhny.org](mailto:membership@mjhny.org).

## Events Lend Support and Educate about the Auschwitz Jewish Center

Many Auschwitz Jewish Center (AJC) outreach events were held in the fall and winter. In November, Dr. David G. Marwell spoke to more than 150 congregants at Temple Shaaray Tefila (Bedford Corners, NY)



FELICA KOBLYANSKI

about his efforts to track down the notorious Nazi Dr. Josef Mengele. On Sunday, February 22, Abe Haruvi and his wife, Giovanna, hosted a breakfast at the Palm Beach Synagogue featuring Dr. Marwell, who was also hosted at a cocktail reception on February 23 at the home of Museum Overseer Gary Zwerling and his wife,

Marie, in Sunny Isles.

On November 16, James and Wendy Schreiber, leaders of the Auschwitz Jewish Center for more than 10 years, hosted a brunch in their Greenwich, Connecticut home, where Dr. Marwell spoke about the Center in Qswiecim, Poland, which merged with the Museum in 2006. He elaborated on one of its signature programs, the American Service Academies Program (ASAP).

For the past few years, the Museum has chosen outstanding cadets and midshipmen from the United States Air Force, Military, and Naval Academies, and the Coast Guard, to participate in the program. The participants visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Pentagon, and the Department of State, before taking part in discussions with Museum staff and hearing testimony from survivors. Students then embark on a two-week trip to the Auschwitz Jewish Center and Poland, where they study the Holocaust in a way that will equip them with the tools they need to make important moral decisions.

Fred Schwartz, the Center’s Founder, and Cadet First Sergeant Nathan Custer of the United States Military Academy at West Point, who participated in ASAP last summer, shared their perspectives.

Nathan Custer said, “As an Army officer, it will be my job to ensure the safety and comfort of the American people and other struggling groups around the world, and to prevent anything like the Holocaust from taking place again. I am more determined than ever to share what I have learned with my peers, and to utilize my experiences to make the world a better place.”

For more information on the American Service Academies Program and the Auschwitz Jewish Center, visit [www.ajcf.org](http://www.ajcf.org) or call Shiri Sandler at 646.437.4276. On June 1, the Museum will hold a dinner to benefit the AJC at which Tom Brokaw will speak.

For information about hosting or attending an event to support the AJC, please contact Felica Kobylanski, Director of Development for Special Gifts, at 646.437.4302 or [fkobylanski@mjhny.org](mailto:fkobylanski@mjhny.org).

**ABOVE: From L-R James Schreiber, Dr. David Marwell, AJC Founder Emeritus Fred Schwartz, Michael Delikat, Wendy Schreiber, Cadet First Sergeant Nathan Custer, Morrie Sandler, and Alice Delikat at the Schreibers’ home.**

## Young Friends Start the Year In Style

The Young Friends kicked off 5769 with an array of activities. In September, the Young Friends held a Wine & Vodka Tasting on the Museum’s newly refurbished terrace. The Benefit was co-chaired by YF Board Members Danielle Sarna, Joshua Garay, and Robert Jordan. Nearly \$11,000 was raised by the more than 200 young professionals in attendance.

The YF Annual Hanukkah Celebration was once again a huge hit. Over 400 young professionals from the metropolitan area celebrated the holiday with festive foods, dancing, fine wines, cocktails, and the music of premiere mixmaster DJ Schuller. Co-chairs included Danielle Sarna, Joshua Garay, and Jonathan More. Proceeds from ticket sales and the raffle exceeded \$30,000.

For more details and information about YF events and membership, please contact Rachel Weiss at 646.437.4321 or [rweiss@mjhny.org](mailto:rweiss@mjhny.org).



JODE KATZFF

**Fred Hulnick, Erica Kreiswirth, and Debra Weisleder enjoying themselves at the Young Friends Hanukkah Party on December 18th.**

# MUSEUM FAMILY

## Rosa Strygler Honored for Two Decades of Dedication at the 20th Annual Generation to Generation Dinner

Survivors, their families, and friends gathered on November 6, 2008 for the 20th Annual Generation to Generation Dinner, honoring Trustee Emeritus Rosa Strygler for her dedication to the Museum, particularly her role in the formation of the Associates Division and planning of the Museum's first Mission to Poland in 1988.

Guests had the opportunity to enjoy a reception on various floors of the Museum and visit the exhibitions before the formal dinner in our Events Hall. The evening's program included remarks by Rita Lerner, Trustee and Associates Division Co-chair; Dr. David G. Marwell; Ann Oster, Vice Chair and Dinner Journal Co-chair; Young Friends Board Member and Co-chair Stacey Saiontz; and a presentation by



Members of the Rubach family, Eva and Leon (center), their son Joseph, his wife, Elizabeth (extreme left), and their daughters Gabrielle, Tess, and Camryn.

the second generation speaker, Joseph Rubach, who was one of the 1988 mission participants. Recounting his experiences, he said, "I was 24 at the time and didn't think the trip would have much effect on the rest of my week, let alone the rest of my life, but the trip was truly memorable. I returned home having seen and heard some new things about the Holocaust and had a new respect for the survivors."

Rosa, in her moving remarks, said, "I feel I have a tremendous responsibility and burden, but nothing is more important for me than to know that everyone of you here will remember. You take on this burden for me, for survivors everywhere. In creating the Associates Division, I have fulfilled my father's wishes and dreams, and with the Young Friends another generation will remember. For my generation, hope cannot be without sadness; let the sadness not be without hope."



Olivia Strygler, Rita Lerner, Museum Trustee and Associates Division Co-chair, Dinner Co-chair Marilyn Rosen, Rosa Strygler, Dinner Co-chair Evelyn Goldfeier, and Ann Oster, Museum Vice Chair and Journal Co-chair. Not shown: Dinner Co-chair Deborah Zuckerman; Journal Co-chairs Simon Bergson and Jack Kliger; Associates Division Co-chairs Howard Butnick and Helene Kener Gray; and Young Friends Division Co-chairs Seth Weisleder and Stacey Saiontz.

## Planned Giving Ensures that Donors' Favorite Charities are Provided for in the Future

Isaac Moinester was a very generous donor to the Museum for many years. Though he passed away on September 5<sup>th</sup>, by naming the Museum a beneficiary of his IRA, he provided for its wellbeing after his lifetime as well. Mr. Moinester's gift of \$1 million will help the institution continue its mission of remembrance and renewal.

Making the Museum a beneficiary of an IRA is one of many planned giving options that are available to donors.

Donors 70½ years and older should note that the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 states that in 2008 and 2009, an owner of a traditional or a Roth IRA may give up to \$100,000 directly to a public charity without the gift being included in taxable income. That distribution will count toward the IRA owner's mandatory withdrawal amount.

For more information about planned giving, please contact Felica Kobylanski, Director of Development for Special Gifts, at 646.437.4302 or [fkobylanski@mjhny.org](mailto:fkobylanski@mjhny.org).

## JewishGen's Resources to Be Available to Millions

At a press conference held in October, it was announced that JewishGen and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Inc. (JDC) have joined forces with Ancestry.com to introduce the world's largest collection of Jewish family history records. Millions of records will be searchable for free, including JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry, which documents names from over 2,000 cemeteries around the world. The Holocaust Database of two million names and rare records from Poland and Lithuania and the Given Names Database, which enables one to learn possible European, Hebrew, and Yiddish translations of an ancestor's given name, will also be available on Ancestry.com along with many other records.

Dr. David G. Marwell said, "We are excited that through this new relationship with Ancestry.com we will be able to broaden our reach and extend our invaluable resources to a much larger group of researchers around the world. The entire community benefits when more people get involved in the fascinating and rewarding activity of researching their family history," he said.

For more information, log on to [www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory](http://www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory) or [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org).

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# SAVE THE DATE

## 13th Annual Heritage Dinner

May 18, 2009, at the Museum

The 13th Annual Heritage Dinner will be held on May 18, 2009, and will honor Museum Trustee Larry A. Silverstein, President and CEO of Silverstein Properties. Guests will have access to all Museum spaces, including the Core and special exhibitions, and attend a program highlighted by the presentation of the Heritage Award to the honoree. This event attracts the corporate and business community, bringing together current and new members of the Corporate Partner Program, and raises significant funds in support of the Museum's programs. To learn more about the dinner, contact Shari Segel at 646.437.4322 or [ssegel@mjhny.org](mailto:ssegel@mjhny.org). To learn more about Corporate Partner Benefits, contact Sharon Steinbach at 646.437.4335 or [ssteinbach@mjhny.org](mailto:ssteinbach@mjhny.org).

### Sign Up for the E-Newsletter

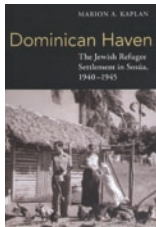
As the Museum strives to be green, we would appreciate your help with this effort. Please consider subscribing to the Museum's E-Newsletter rather than the print version. You will receive a PDF of the newsletter. E-mail your name, mailing address, patron code on the address label, and e-mail address to [communications@mjhny.org](mailto:communications@mjhny.org). Thank you very much.

### What's New on the Web

The Museum continues to venture into new technological terrain. Dr. David G. Marwell's Director's Blog is now joined by Blog from Battery Place, an inside look at the galleries, offices, and classrooms; and JewishGen's genealogy blog. The blogs can be accessed from the Museum's home page.

Fans of the Museum are invited to join the MJH Facebook group. Facebook members are often offered special discounts and advance notice of programs. Be sure to log on and keep in touch.

### Mazel Tov



The Museum congratulates professor Marion A. Kaplan whose book, *Dominican Haven: The Jewish Refugee Settlement in Sosúa 1940-1945* (published by the Museum) was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards in the Holocaust category. We also congratulate the winner of that category, Father Patrick Desbois, for his book *The Holocaust By Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews*, published by Palgrave Macmillan. (See page 3 for more about Father Desbois.) Both books are available in the Pickman Museum Shop.

## Find All Your Passover Essentials at the Pickman Museum Shop

It's never too early to prepare for Passover. Next time you visit the Museum, stop by the Pickman Museum Shop to stock up on all of your holiday needs. Celebrate women past and present with the Miriam's Cup, a colorful ceramic cup and stand beautifully hand-painted in Armenian style. For a unique and meaningful seder, pick up the *Survivor's Haggadah*, created during the winter of 1945-46 by Holocaust survivors in displaced persons camps in preparation for the first Passover after the liberation. Interwoven with the traditional Passover



PETER GOLDBERG

liturgy and bold illustrations are two stories: that of the deliverance from Pharaoh in Egypt, and a Holocaust story of Jewish survival. And for the little ones, the Passover Seder Giant Floor Puzzle is a wonderful Afikoman gift for the lucky searcher. All of these items can also be purchased through the shop's online store at [www.pickmanmuseumshop.com](http://www.pickmanmuseumshop.com), which offers a wide variety of Judaica, jewelry, books and music, and toys for children, as well as gifts related to the Museum's educational mission. Members receive a 15 percent discount.

Miriam's Cup: \$25; Survivor's Haggadah: \$50; Passover Seder Giant Floor Puzzle: \$10

### Meaningful Gatherings at the Museum

Consider having your next special event here; it's a great way to support the Museum in style. Various special event spaces can accommodate lavish benefit galas and lifecycle events, or intimate gatherings such as family reunions, board meetings, or cocktail parties.

For more information contact Yaffa Hoffman at [yhoffman@mjhny.org](mailto:yhoffman@mjhny.org) or call 646.437.4298.



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