



A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST

36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280
(646) 437-4200 www.mjhnyc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 16, 2008

Contacts: Betsy Aldredge
(646) 437-4337
baldredge@mjhnyc.org

Abby R. Spilka
(646) 437-4333
aspilka@mjhnyc.org

EXTRAORDINARY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION CELEBRATES ISRAEL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

"To Return to the Land..." Paul Goldman's Photographs of the Birth of Israel at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

NEW YORK, NY – “He stood with his camera by the cradle of the state in the making,” *Newsweek* photographer Shlomo Arad said of Paul Goldman, whose work is the focus of a new exhibition celebrating the 60th anniversary of Israel’s statehood. *"To Return to the Land..." Paul Goldman's Photographs of the Birth of Israel* will open at the **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust on February 17. A press preview will take place on February 15 from 10 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Hungarian-born photojournalist Paul Goldman fled to the British Mandate of Palestine in 1940, where he chronicled the events leading up to the foundation of the State of Israel. Goldman’s photos of life before statehood, during the War of Independence, and the ingathering of dispersed Jews are complemented by rich memories of individuals who lived through those same events. Images and words together tell stories of the birth of Israel through the lenses of photographic and human memory. From Tel Aviv streetscapes to the bombing of the King David Hotel, from street vendors to Prime Ministers; both the extraordinary and every-day document this monumental story.

While Goldman was one of only a few photojournalists working in the British Mandate of Palestine in the 1940s, he remains largely unknown, mostly because of the practice at the time of not including photo credits in newspapers. His work was beautifully composed and restrained, as *Jewish Week* writes, “This supreme sensitivity makes Goldman’s photographs a small miracle in today’s world of extreme close-ups and telephoto lenses, and they make for interesting, almost prosaic constructions, rich with tensions between public and private.”

“We could think of no better way to honor the birth of the State of Israel than by showing the powerful images of its struggle and its triumphs,” Museum director Dr. David G. Marwell said. “The title of this exhibition is taken from the words of the Israeli national anthem, *Hatikva*, and captures the fervent dream of the Jewish people to have their own state.”

Highlights of the exhibition include more than 35 images culled from a collection of negatives that lived in a shoebox until they were rediscovered in recent years. The photos are on loan to the Museum from the collection of Spencer M. Partrich. The exhibition will feature such inspiring images as the one of future Israelis toiling the land of a Kibbutz in 1943; and heartbreaking images such as one of Holocaust survivors arriving at a detention camp in 1945.

Goldman, born in 1900, fled Budapest in 1940 to escape the spreading threat of Nazism. He worked as a freelance photographer for local newspapers and international news services during the 1940s and 1950s. His role as a member of the British Army, and later as a confidant to important Israeli leaders, provided him with privileged access and a front-row view to Israel’s growing pains. Unfortunately, Goldman’s eyesight failed him in the early 1960s — he died penniless at the age of 86 in Israel. Sadly, he never was able to see Israel’s physical beauty beyond her adolescence.

(More)

This exhibition is made possible through the generous support of Spencer M. Partrich/Photo Art Israel, with additional funding provided by Harvey M. Krueger.

Also opening in February

Sosúa: A Refuge for Jews in the Dominican Republic
Sosúa: Un Refugio de Judios en la República Dominicana
Opening February 17

In 1938, a time when openings for Jewish refugees were hard to find, the government of the Dominican Republic offered to resettle up to 100,000 Jews. Sosúa, an abandoned banana plantation on the north coast of the island, would become a refuge to hundreds of Jews. The settlers were given resources to cultivate the land they were provided, and built a thriving town – one that still exists today. This exhibition will tell how the settlers were recruited and came to Sosúa, what awaited them there, what role the Dominican and U.S. governments and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee played in the story, how the settlers worked with their Dominican neighbors to establish themselves, and what kind of a town they created. Sosúa speaks poignantly to one chapter in a shared Dominican and Jewish story.

This exhibition was made possible, in part, through major funding from the Leon Levy Foundation, with additional support provided by: NY State Senator Eric T. Schneiderman, Former City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, City Council Member Miguel Martinez, and the American Jewish Congress.

About the Museum

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century--before, during, and after the Holocaust. Current special exhibitions include *Daring to Resist: Jewish Defiance in the Holocaust*. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

###

