

FROM: Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

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Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Opens 82,000 SF Wing on September 15

*First New Construction in Lower Manhattan to Begin After September 11 Terror Attacks
Opens As a Symbol of Renewal and Rebirth*

New York, NY – Six years to the day it opened to the public, the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust welcomes visitors to its newly expanded downtown facility – an 82,000 square foot addition named in honor of long-time Museum Chairman and Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

The Morgenthau Wing, the first new construction project to begin in Lower Manhattan after the terror attacks of September 11, 2001, is poised to become a cultural anchor for downtown. It is the site of new facilities including the 375-seat Edmond J. Safra Hall, a state-of-the-art venue for live performances, film, and music; the *Garden of Stones*, a Memorial Garden designed by Andy Goldsworthy, a café operated by renowned chef and restaurateur Jeffrey Nathan called *Abigail's at the Museum*, an education center with four classrooms, and an event hall with wrap-around views of New York Harbor available for rental. The new 5,000 SF special exhibitions gallery will open in October with the exhibition *Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War*.

Said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, “This project began as the dust was still being settled, and quickly became an important part of rebuilding Lower Manhattan – bringing jobs and restoring a sense of normalcy. Robert Morgenthau’s tenacity sent a message that our spirit will not be crushed.”

“Our Museum stands as a symbol of the power of renewal after catastrophe, and the ability of the Jewish people to survive and endure,” said Mr. Morgenthau. “The Museum’s message of hope is more important than it has ever been.”

“The Museum has been a beacon of hope to us all and represents the rebirth for us,” added Battery Park City Chairman James F. Gill. “The new wing will shine from the harbor adding more beauty to Battery Park City. We are proud to have this symbol, representing the best life can offer following the darkest moments life presented, it speaks more to us now than it could have ever done before.”

The Morgenthau Wing will be dedicated officially on September 15 at 11 a.m.

The four-story Morgenthau Wing, designed by architect Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates, creators of the original building, was built at a cost of \$60 million, with significant support from the City of New York. The building sits on land donated by the State of New York under the auspices of the Battery Park City Authority. MTA Chairman Peter Kalikow and Forest City Ratner Chairman Bruce Ratner served as co-chairs of the Museum’s Building Committee.

NEW FACILITIES WITHIN THE ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU WING

EDMOND J. SAFRA HALL

Edmond J. Safra Hall, named for former Museum Trustee and philanthropist Edmond J. Safra, is an elegant state-of-the-art theater. The 375-seat theater will be the premier performance space for public programs including films, concerts, lectures, dramatic productions, and panel discussions. Peter George, renowned acoustic designer, is the theater's designer.

GARDEN OF STONES

Artist Andy Goldsworthy has designed *Garden of Stones*, a permanent outdoor Memorial Garden employing stones, trees, and soil as its core elements. A series of 18 carefully selected boulders are installed throughout the garden. Each one has been hollowed out and will hold a single sapling Dwarf Oak that will show through a small hole at the top. As the trees mature in the coming years, each will grow to become a part of the stone, its trunk fusing to the base. It will dramatically suggest how nature can survive under seemingly impossible circumstances. As a living memorial, it is the artist's metaphor for the tenacity and fragility of life. The Museum dedicates this Garden to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and honors those who survived. This contemplative space is meant to be revisited and experienced differently through the seasons and over time as the garden matures, and is a central element of the Museum's new Morgenthau Wing. For this project, the Public Art Fund worked with the Museum, overseeing the artist selection process and the creation and installation of the Memorial Garden. There is no Museum admission fee required to visit the garden.

SPECIAL EXHIBITION GALLERIES

OURS TO FIGHT FOR: American Jews in the Second World War, the inaugural exhibition of the Robert M. Morgenthau Wing, will explore the role of Jewish men and women who were part of the American war effort in Europe, the Pacific, and at home. *OURS TO FIGHT FOR* honors World War II veterans who tell their stories through video testimony, artifacts, personal quotes, letters, and photographs. In addition, an interactive gallery will present the experiences of all ethnic groups who contributed to the Allies' fight to preserve democracy. Visitors become part of the exhibition through a unique scanning project. They can bring photos of themselves or their loved ones in uniform during World War II and the photos will be scanned and rotated into the exhibition. The exhibition opens to the public October 21.

CAFÉ

Abigail's at the Museum, a 100-seat meat and parve kosher café, will provide Museum visitors with a full menu of moderately priced lunch, snack, and children's options prepared in observance of Glatt kosher dietary laws. The café features the signature recipes of celebrity chef Jeff Nathan, host of public television's "New Jewish Cuisine," author of the recent cookbook *Adventures in Jewish Cooking*, and the chef behind New York restaurants Abigail's on Broadway and King David, and the "Chef Jeff" line of ready-made kosher foods. *Abigail's at the Museum*, which features spectacular views of the Statue of Liberty and *Garden of Stones*, will be open during regular Museum hours. There is no Museum admission fee required to gain entrance to the café.

EDUCATION CENTER

As an educational institution, the Museum is committed to serving students and instructors from a broad spectrum of schools. The Museum offers guided class visits led by trained Gallery Educators, pre- and post-visit curriculum materials, classroom speakers, professional development opportunities for educators – all designed to integrate the Museum visit into the process of classroom learning. With the opening of the Morgenthau Wing, students can take advantage of multimedia learning environments, and teachers can utilize the Resource Center, which houses interactive, slide, and text materials as well as a film and video collection that can be previewed at built-in screening stations. The Museum serves tens of thousands of public, private, and parochial school children and their teachers each year.

BUILDING PARTNERS

Forest City Ratner

Forest City Ratner Companies (FCRC) is the project manager of the Morgenthau Wing. An affiliate of Cleveland-based Forest City Enterprises, the nation's largest publicly traded development company and a major mixed-use property owner in the United States, FCRC has completed 35 projects totaling 7.7 million square feet at a development cost of over \$2 billion. In addition, another 7 projects are under construction totaling 3.2 million square feet at a development cost of \$1.18 billion; an additional 3.4 million square feet are in active development.

F.J. Sciamè

Frank Sciamè established F. J. Sciamè Construction Co., Inc. (Sciamè) in 1975. In the years since, he has led the firm to its current position as one of the tri-state's leading construction management firms with current projects underway valued at about \$450 million. Just a few of Sciamè's completed projects include the restoration of Central Synagogue on Lexington Avenue, the oldest synagogue in Manhattan, and the restoration of the New Victory Theater in Times Square, New York's oldest theater. Other high profile projects in Times Square include megastores for Virgin Records, Warner Brothers and Toys "R" Us, as well as Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and the New 42 Studio Building. In addition, Columbia University has repeatedly selected Sciamè to serve as construction manager on highly technical projects such as the International Research Center for Climate Prediction, the Center for Chemical Research and the historic preservation of Casa Italiana.

Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates

Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates (KRJDA) is the architectural firm of record for the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Architect of the Museum's original building, Kevin Roche began the designs for the expansion almost as soon as the Museum opened. Mr. Roche, who is responsible for all of the designs for the firm, has designed a varied array of institutional and corporate facilities worldwide, including 38 corporate headquarters, three hotel/apartment buildings, eight museums, numerous research facilities, theaters, schools, factories, performing arts centers, houses, and the Central Park Zoo in New York. For the past 36 years, he has been the architect for the Master Plan and expansion of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, designing all of its new wings and installing many of its collections.

The firm received the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 1974 Architectural Firm Award and more recently the firm was the recipient of the 1995 AIA 25-Year Award for The Ford Foundation Headquarters in New York City. In 1982 Kevin Roche received the Pritzker Architecture Prize and in 1993 he received the AIA Gold Medal.

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