



Edmond J. Safra Plaza  
36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280  
(646) 437-4202 [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 14, 2010

Contacts: Betsy Aldredge / (646) 437-4337 / [baldredge@mjhnyc.org](mailto:baldredge@mjhnyc.org)  
Abby R. Spilka / (646) 437-4333 / [aspilka@mjhnyc.org](mailto:aspilka@mjhnyc.org)

***Jews and Chinese Food***  
***A Delightful Panel Discussion and Walking Tour of Chinatown***  
***at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust***

New York, NY—On **Sunday, November 7 at 1 p.m.**, in conjunction with the wildly popular exhibition, ***Project Mah Jongg***, a trio of authors will discuss the chosen food of the chosen people. ***Jews and Chinese Food*** will feature **Jennifer 8. Lee**, author of *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*; **Professor Donald I. Siegel**, author of *From Lokshen to LoMein: The Jewish Love Affair with Chinese Food*; and **Andrew Coe**, author of *Chop Suey: A Cultural History of Chinese Food in the United States*. This culinary conversation will take place at the **Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust**.

That Jews have an affinity for Chinese food is no secret. The panel discusses why going out “to eat Chinese” continues to be a ritual for many Jewish families, and as Lee explores in her book, why chow mein is so popular with Jews on Christmas, and how the cuisine became deemed by many as “safe treyf.”

Following the discussion, the Museum of Chinese in America will lead a walking tour of Chinatown.

Tickets for the discussion are \$10, \$7 for seniors and students and \$5 for Museum of Jewish Heritage members. Tickets are available online at [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org) or by calling the Museum box office at 646.437.4202. Audience members are also invited to play mah jongg in the *Project Mah Jongg* gallery starting at 12 p.m.

**About the Panel**

**Jennifer 8. Lee** was a reporter at the *New York Times* for nine years where she covered technology, Washington, crime, poverty, and culture. She spent the last two of those years reporting on City Room, the *Times*' New York City metro blog. In promoting *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*, a *New York Times* bestseller, she survived an interview with Stephen Colbert and made dumplings on *Martha Stewart* and the *Today Show*.

**Donald I. Siegel**, a Meredith Professor in Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences, is a nationally renowned scientist, whose research encompasses contaminant hydrology, paleohydrogeology, and wetland hydrology. Siegel is also an award-winning teacher and mentor, and a talented amateur cook.

**Andrew Coe** has written for *Saveur*, *Gastronomica*, and the *New York Times*. He is a co-author of *Foie Gras: A Passion*, and has contributed to the *Oxford Companion to American Food and Drink*.

**About the Walking Tour**

There is a separate fee for the walking tour of Chinatown, which will take place at 2:30 p.m. Bus transportation to Chinatown is provided. Pre-registration for the walking tour is required; space is limited to 50. To register, call the box office at 646.437.4202 or visit [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org).

\$15, \$12 students/seniors, \$10 Museum and MOCA members

Co-sponsored by the Museum of Chinese in America

### **About the Exhibition**

#### ***Project Mah Jongg***

Through January 2, 2011

[www.projectmahjongg.com](http://www.projectmahjongg.com)

Since the 1920s, the game of mah jongg has ignited the popular imagination with its beautiful tiles, mythical origins, and communal spirit. Come learn the history and meaning of the beloved game that became a Jewish-American tradition.

*This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of the National Mah Jongg League. Additional support provided by Sylvia Kay Hassenfeld and the Twice Arts Foundation. Exhibit design by Abbott Miller, Pentagram.*

*New York* magazine is the media partner.

### **About the Museum of Jewish Heritage**

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. Special exhibitions include *The Morgenthau: A Legacy of Service*, on view through September 5, 2011; *Project Mah Jongg*, on view through January 2011; and *Fire in My Heart: The Story of Hannah Senesh*, opening October 13. It is also home to the award-winning *Keeping History Center*, an interactive visitor experience, and Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall and receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

###