

CJH Today

A Publication of the Center for Jewish History

Summer 2007

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the second edition of *CJH Today*, bringing you – our benefactors and friends – updates on the exciting events and activities taking place at the Center for Jewish History.

It has been an exceptional year so far for the Center and its five Partner organizations. During the first six months of 2007, the Center received contributions and commitments totaling more than \$4.8 million and welcomed hundreds of new donors to our family. We also launched our first event for the real estate community, which achieved tremendous success.

I am particularly pleased to acknowledge a \$1 million commitment from the Ackman and Ziff families to support the Center's Genealogy Institute. We are all grateful to Larry and Ronnie Ackman, Bill and Karen Ackman, and Simon and Hope Ziff for their dedication to family history research and to the Center. In honor of their gift, we have renamed the Institute, the "Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute."

This tremendous level of support, I believe, is a clear acknowledgement of the unique stature the Center for Jewish History has achieved. No other institution can boast the wealth of combined resources found in our Partners' archives – documentation that details the richness of Jewish history, culture, and civilization. It is those archives that continue

to attract thousands of researchers to the Center each year, both from the United States and from all across the globe.

I hope you enjoy your summer and look forward to seeing you at some of the wonderful programs and exhibitions that will take place at the Center throughout the year!



Bruce Slovin
Chairman



NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS



American Jewish Historical Society hosted its tenth Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Awards Dinner on April 25 at the Waldorf-Astoria. The dinner commemorated the American Soviet Jewry Movement and honored former U.S. Secretary of State George P. Schultz for his personal and official advocacy for the freedom of Soviet Jews. The award was presented to Secretary Schultz by Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel.



American Sephardi Federation continues to shed light on the vibrant communities that make up the Sephardic community in the United States. Its latest exhibition *Remembering Old Bukhara* – featuring photographs by award-winning photographer Joan Roth – illuminates this famous city along the Silk Road, and documents the people, traditions, and daily life of the Bukharian Jewish community and its rich 2,000-year history.



Leo Baeck Institute offered a variety of interesting exhibits and public programs in recent months, including a panel discussion about art restitution, which dovetailed with its exhibition, "Reclaiming the Galerie Stern, Düsseldorf." Renowned scholar Dr. Clarence Epstein of Concordia University in Montreal gave an illuminating talk on the Max Stern Art Restitution Project.

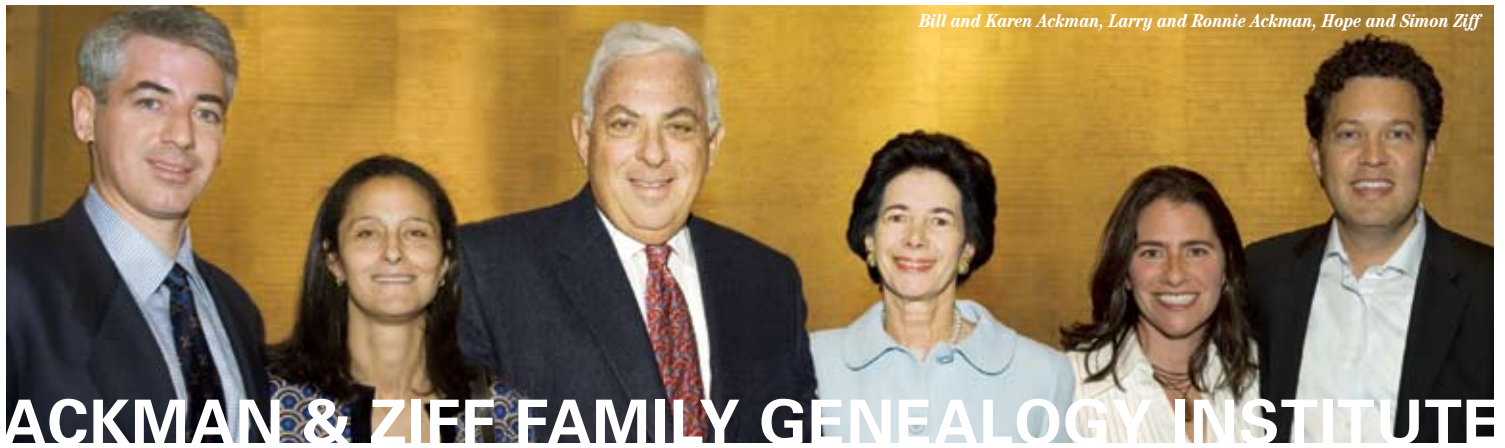


Yeshiva University Museum unveiled "And I Still See Their Faces: The Vanished World of Polish Jews," a photographic exhibition that documents the faces of Polish Jewry and their everyday activities before the Holocaust. The exhibition's photographs and albums were saved from obscurity by the Shalom Foundation, which devoted years to tracing the identities of those photographed and piecing together their stories.



YIVO Institute for Jewish Research made headlines around the world with its release of a recently discovered file of letters and documents detailing the efforts of Otto Frank, father of Anne Frank, to escape Holland with his family. The file, containing nearly 80 pages and spanning dates from April 1941 to June 1945, includes personal correspondence and official records.

Save the Date December 11, 2007
The Annual Dinner of the Board of Overseers and Board of Directors



ACKMAN & ZIFF FAMILY GENEALOGY INSTITUTE Launches Membership Program



A gift of \$1 million to the Center for Jewish History made by members of the Ackman and Ziff families will enliven and sustain the work of the Genealogy Institute. In honor of this contribution, the Center has renamed the Institute, the “Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute.”

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute will continue to serve as a resource for those interested in tracing their Jewish roots. At the Institute researchers can access over 500,000 books, periodicals, and microfilms and more than 100 million archival documents, along with several Internet-based biographical and geographical tools essential in tracing one’s family history. “Funding Jewish genealogy is essential to us, since we share a deep sense of family history and identity, and understand the need to discover information relating to our roots, culture and traditions,” said Simon Ziff.

Along with this exciting announcement, the Center is pleased to present its Genealogy Membership Program! With membership levels ranging from \$100 to \$10,000, the program enables research on family history to be customized to each patron’s individual needs.

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute draws on the vast archival records of the Center’s five Partners and a skilled professional staff to help individuals reconnect with long-lost relatives or find meaningful information that reveals where they came from and how their family’s experience fits into the broader context of Jewish and world history. The new Membership Program will make possible a more efficient use of those resources by providing patrons with options for everything from a simple name search to a complex family tree.

For more information about genealogy at the Center for Jewish History or to become a Genealogy Member, please visit: www.genealogy.cjh.org.

MEET CJH VOLUNTEERS, ROBERTA AND NOEL EISLER

The Center for Jewish History would be hard-pressed to accomplish all it does without the tireless efforts of its volunteers. In this issue of *CJH Today*, we recognize the contributions of Roberta and Noel Eisler, whose gifts of time and talent have enhanced many Center activities. Among their contributions, Roberta works with the Development Department and Noel in the Cahnman Preservation Laboratory.

Currently retired, the Eislers remain dedicated and active – traits that shine through in their volunteer work at the Center. Roberta worked for over 30 years as an educator and counselor in New York City’s Department of Education, and her husband, Noel, managed businesses in the transportation field for some 40 years.

“We are very gratified to be part of this dynamic, stimulating, and supportive place.”

To learn about volunteer opportunities such as working as a tour guide, information docent, gallery guide, usher, or office/library assistant at the Center, please contact (917) 606-8226 or cjhvolunteer@cjh.org.





The evening's Honorary Chair, Steven Roth, giving the keynote address



Leaders of the real estate community gather at the Center

REAL ESTATE EVENT 'RAISES THE ROOF'

On April 25, the prime real estate in New York City was a seat at the Center for Jewish History – when the Center hosted “**The History of Jewish Involvement in Building New York,**” a special evening for the real estate community.

The evening featured a keynote address by the event’s Honorary Chair Steven Roth, Chairman and CEO of Vornado Realty Trust, one of the largest owners of real estate in the United States. Mr. Roth gave a fascinating speech, providing a candid peek into his career. As a surprise addition to the evening, Jonathan Gray of The Blackstone Group joined Mr. Roth on the stage to discuss the recent Equity Office deal on which the two were bidding against one another.

Following the keynote presentation, intimate breakout sessions, led by prominent scholars and real estate community leaders, gave participants the opportunity to engage with one another to explore the Jewish community’s impact on the development of New York City throughout history. The breakout sessions included: The Promised City: New York as the Jewish Metropolis; Bankers and Buildings: Early 20th Century Jewish Real Estate Developers; Building Capitol: The Architecture and Development of the Garment District; and The Evolution of the Jewish Real Estate Family: A Conversation with the Next Generation.

The success of the event would not have been possible without the support and work of: William A. Ackman, Pershing Square Capital Management; Bruce Beal, The Related Companies; Bruce Berkowitz, Fairholme Capital Management; Jeff T. Blau, The Related Companies; Jonathan D. Gray, The Blackstone Group; Jeffrey Gural, Newmark & Company; Rick Kleeman, Starwood Capital Group; Bruce Slovin, 1 Eleven Associates; Joseph S. Steinberg, Leucadia National Corporation; and Simon Ziff, Ackman-Ziff Real Estate Group.

The event was attended by over 160 people, including some of the most prominent members of the real estate community, and raised nearly \$500,000 for the Center.

Simon Ziff and Leonard Wilf



Bruce Slovin, Bill Ackman, Steven Roth, Jonathan Gray, and Simon Ziff

Tracey and Bruce Berkowitz, Joseph Steinberg, and Keith and Sara Trauner



Martin Kravet with members of the Rose family - Elihu, Susan, and their daughter Isabel



Two generations of a real estate family - Joshua, Jeffrey, and Brian Feil





WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE...

Joseph S. Steinberg, one of the Center's longest-standing benefactors and a member of the Board of Overseers, has been named to the Center's Board of Directors as a representative of the American Jewish Historical Society. Also joining the Board of Directors is **Joel R. Marcus**, as a representative of American Sephardi Federation. In addition, **Mark Slobin**, a professor at Wesleyan University, has been appointed to the Center's Academic Advisory Council.

The Center has been awarded a **\$250,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** for its Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). The grant will enable the Center to complete the cataloging of 30,459 records, constituting almost all remaining uncataloged Partner books and serials.

The Lillian Goldman Charitable Trust awarded the Center a grant of **\$250,000** to enrich the public services of the Lillian Goldman Reading Room, fund an annual graduate Fellowship and academic lecture series, and provide for enhancements to the Center's publicly-accessible reference collection.

On April 11, a wide array of Center supporters, lawyers, legal academics, and law students gathered for **"Religion in the Public Sphere: A Transnational Conversation on Freedom and Tolerance,"** part of the **Jews and Justice** program, the longest-running program series in the Center's history. Jews and Justice is made possible by the **David Berg Foundation**. Please join us on September 19, as Jews and Justice presents **"Jewish Lawyers in the Civil Rights Movement,"** featuring Jack Greenberg (Law Professor at Columbia University) Rabbi David Saperstein (Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism), and Anne Roiphe (an American Jewish author and journalist).

New 2007 Fellowships have been awarded to David Horowitz (Columbia University), Cahnman Fellow; Dr. Zoltan Tarr, Cahnman Senior Fellow; and Hilit Surowitz (University of Florida), Morris and Alma Schapiro Fellow. In addition, three Sophie Bookhalter Fellowships have been awarded to Emily Levine (Stanford University), Ellie R. Schinker (University of Pennsylvania); and Elizabeth Strauss (University of Notre Dame). For more information about the Center's Fellowships, visit: www.cjh.org/collections/fellowships.php

The **Center for Jewish History** is one of the great public Jewish historical and cultural institutions in the world. Opened to the public in October 2000 as the campus to its five Partner organizations, the Center has achieved recognition as a venue of unrivaled historical documentation and scholarship, imaginative exhibitions of Judaic art and artifacts, and vital public dialogue. The collections of its Partners total more than 500,000 volumes and 100 million archival documents, and include thousands of pieces of artwork, textiles, and ritual objects, as well as music, films, and photographs. They comprise, taken as a whole, the largest repository of the modern Jewish experience outside of Israel.

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.CJH.ORG

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

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