

CJH TODAY

10th
Anniversary



It has been 10 years since 5 distinguished Jewish archival and cultural institutions came together to build a communal home dedicated to the preservation of the history of the Jewish people. That home is what we refer to as the Center for Jewish History and it is focused on the vibrant collections and historic contributions of the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), American Sephardi Federation (ASF), Leo Baeck Institute (LBI), Yeshiva University Museum (YUM) and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO). Together with its Partners, the Center has emerged from a vision to become a bastion that safeguards the memory of the Jewish people from being destroyed, re-written or erased.

News from Our Partners

American Jewish Historical Society



In June, hundreds of scholars attended the 2010 Biennial Scholars' Conference on American Jewish History, which examined the notion of American Jewish "exceptionalism," or uniqueness, that has shaped conceptions of American Jewish history from its beginning. Papers were given by a range of prominent academics and doctoral candidates from around the U.S., Canada, and Israel. The keynote was offered by Professor David Sorkin and an evening roundtable featured the esteemed U.S. historians Jon Butler and Ira Katznelson in dialogue with outstanding scholars in the field of American Jewish history.

American Sephardi Federation



As part of a year-long program and exhibition on the Jews of Spain, ASF and the Sephardic House presented a Symposium entitled "The Jews of Spain: Past and Present." Senior Spanish government officials came to New York to join eminent scholars from the U.S., Canada and Israel in addressing both the triumphs and travails of the Sephardic Jewish legacy in Spain. The symposium proceedings will be published in a book documenting the deep roots of the Sephardic heritage in Spain, and translated into Spanish and distributed to universities, libraries, and other institutions throughout Spain.

Leo Baeck Institute



Leo Baeck Institute recently acquired a collection of books by the greatest intellectuals of the Renaissance period, including Erasmus, Martin Luther, Sir Thomas More, and Johannes Reuchlin. Reuchlin, a Christian theologian, defended the right of Jews to publish books at a time when the Church controlled the press. This debate was one of the earliest controversies in Jewish-Christian relations, and without Reuchlin's intervention, these Jewish books may have been burned. A \$3 million grant from the German Foreign Ministry will help LBI process and catalog this collection.

Yeshiva University Museum



A Journey through Jewish Worlds: Highlights from the Braginsky Collection of Hebrew Manuscripts and Printed Books offered museum visitors a first-time glimpse at the rare treasures inside a world-class private collection. The exhibition provided an overview of seven centuries of Jewish creativity and artistry, and featured beautifully ornamented legal and liturgical manuscripts, decorated marriage contracts and illustrated scrolls of the Book of Esther, many with richly crafted cases made from precious metals or carved wood.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has launched the online edition of its *Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. The critically acclaimed work has been greatly enhanced by added selections from YIVO's vast archive of images and media. This unprecedented website makes accurate, reliable, scholarly information about Eastern European Jewish life universally available online free of charge. YIVO is pleased to announce that it has received a gift of approximately \$4.5 million from the estate of Michael (Mickey) Ross, an award-winning television writer, who was the first generation son of Jewish immigrant parents. The initial bequest will be supplemented by periodic residual payments from the estate.

10th Anniversary

continued

During its short but meaningful 10-year history, the Center has been a learning institute and resource for 45,000 students, scholars and members of the general public from over 55 countries around the world who have conducted research on site, and for the tens of thousands more who have obtained knowledge online at the Center's Web site. It has become a destination of Jewish learning and culture for the more than 210,000 visitors who have viewed exhibits, attended conferences, enjoyed films, concerts and performances, and participated in a plethora of public programs. The Center and its Partners have provided support to more than 200 graduate students through its fellowship program.

It is important to recognize the continued support of the prominent philanthropists, foundations and governmental institutions who have acknowledged the importance of the Center's work, as well as the more than 25,000 individuals and families who have been inspired to contribute to the Center's continued growth with more than \$130 million raised since our founding.

In honor of the Center's 10th anniversary, a major exhibition and several events are planned.



Guests enjoying dinner in the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Great Hall at the Legacy Council Launch

Legacy Council Launch

In June, 60 guests gathered at the Center for Jewish History for dinner to inaugurate the Legacy Council as part of the Center's growing family of supporters. The Legacy Council is a newly formed community of young professionals representing business, finance, real estate, law, philanthropy and academia. Through educational, social and charitable programs, the Legacy Council will explore the lasting role this generation will play in the Jewish future. Their first dinner included discussions of Jewish history and provided opportunities for guests to meet and network with distinguished industry leaders and longstanding Center patrons. The Center is proud to welcome the Legacy Council and excited for a full future calendar of events.

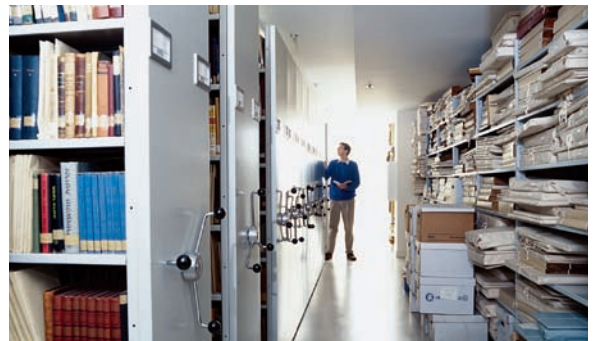


The Lillian Goldman Reading Room

National Endowment for the Humanities Awards Grant to CJH

In recognition of its thriving fellowship program and scholarly initiatives, the Center was awarded \$169,200 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) this year to support 12-month fellowships over the next 3 years for distinguished senior scholars to conduct original research within the collections at the Center. The NEH award is particularly exciting, as it makes the Center the only Jewish organization on the short list of approximately 25 elite research institutions across the world that have received this prestigious award since its inception 38 years ago.

Support from the Leon Levy Foundation



The Center's archival storage facility

The Leon Levy Foundation has supported the important work of archival processing at the Center since 2007. With an additional grant, the Foundation has agreed to support further work through 2013, bringing the total contribution to more than \$1.5 million devoted to making over 3,000 linear feet of archival collections accessible to researchers and the general public. In recognition of the value of this work, and in gratitude for the generosity exhibited by the Foundation, the Center has named a new space devoted to the collections, the Shelby White & Leon Levy Archival Processing Laboratory. A one-of-a-kind, state-of-the-art facility equipped with appropriate technologies capable of producing high quality finding aids and efficient collections arrangement, the Laboratory will provide a permanent home for archival processing at the Center, ensuring unprecedented access to the collections, and allowing the enrichment of scholarship and research for decades to come.



TOP: William Ackman; Isaac Khafif, Edgard Khafif, Robert Shapiro and Jerome Gottesman; Simon Ziff and Bruce Slovin
 BOTTOM: Honorary Chair Howard P. Milstein and Abby Milstein; Steven J. Kumble; Beth Rosenstein, Elysabeth Kleinhaus and Peter Kleinhaus; Joseph S. Steinberg

Great Real Estate Families of Gotham

Keeping to its mission of preserving Jewish heritage and honoring Jewish contributions to society, the Center for Jewish History hosted its 5th annual dinner celebrating the history of Jewish involvement in building New York. The event was held in December 2009 and featured Howard P. Milstein, Chairman and CEO of New York Private Bank & Trust Corporation, and Milstein Properties. Mr. Milstein has continued his family legacy as a prolific builder of large scale office buildings and apartment houses in New York City and is regarded as one of the most prominent individuals in the real estate and banking industries.

The Center developed this model of fundraising, which targets the real estate and finance communities, because it not only provides a unique networking opportunity, but allows attendees to engage in an evening of high-level scholarship and philanthropy. In the past 5 years, more than 1,000 guests have attended these annual events, creating a new generation of donors and partners interested in the context of the history of business, finance and real estate, as it relates to the core mission of the Center. The 2009 event attracted nearly 200 guests, representing a cross-section of the real estate and financial leaders who came to the Center and raised more than \$850,000.



Compilation of Talmudic stories, Slavuta, Ukraine, 1816

Completion of Iraqi Jewish Archive

The Center has been working on a vital initiative with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Archives and Records Administration. In 2003, American troops found a trove of Jewish books, documents and artifacts in a flooded, bombed basement in Iraq. These materials, named the Iraqi Jewish Archive collection, were flown to the United States (per agreement with the then Coalition Provisional Authority) for preservation, description, and assessment. While the National Archives has temporary physical custody of the items, the Center is responsible for the materials' bibliographic description. A team of multi-lingual catalogers, under the purview of CJH Archive and Library Services, has spent the last year cataloging the items off high-resolution digital scans into a National Archives database. Next steps include setting priorities for additional assessment. The Center has played a crucial role in establishing the significance of these materials and in the safekeeping of the historical legacy of the Iraqi Jewish community.

Center Celebrates First Decade with Major Exhibition



Yizkor (memorial for Theodor Herzl). Boris Schatz (1866-1932). Painting: oil on board. Collection of Yeshiva University Museum, Gift of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore

To mark the first decade of CJH and Partner achievements at this location, a new exhibition planned for October 2010 will gather an outstanding collection of artifacts, documents, photographs, paintings, three-dimensional objects, and books that relate to the first decades of new centuries. Objects to be presented will reveal the historical impact and experiences of 1910, 1810, 1710 and other critical decades, providing a window into changing technology, political activity and those elements of Jewish heritage that have remained constant as well as those that have evolved over time. The specialist fields of the Partners will provide access to distinct and diverse communities while simultaneously demonstrating shared traditions.

The History of Genocide Initiative

Thanks to the generous support of The David Berg Foundation, The Einhorn Family Charitable Trust and The Pershing Square Foundation, the Center launched its History of Genocide Initiative in November 2009. The inaugural event, presented in partnership with AJHS and YUM, was an international conference, *Genocide and Human Experience: Raphael Lemkin's Thought and Vision*. The conference, attended by 250 people, featured internationally renowned scholars of both genocide and of the life and legacy of Raphael Lemkin. Lemkin coined the term genocide, and is considered the architect and chief motivating force behind the United Nations' Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

A multi-sensory exhibition depicting his crusade, *Letters of Conscience: Raphael Lemkin and the Quest to End Genocide*, curated by Yeshiva University Museum, was on display at the Center through April 2010. This exhibition will now be traveling to other locations.

In addition to the conference and exhibition, a series of public programs that focused a lens on genocide through Lemkin's unique perspective took place in early 2010. The Center has extended the History of Genocide Initiative indefinitely by making available Web-based versions of the conference talks; an online exhibition in which people can view the collection; and a blog in which visitors to the online or physical galleries can interact. These can all be accessed at www.cjh.org/lemkin.

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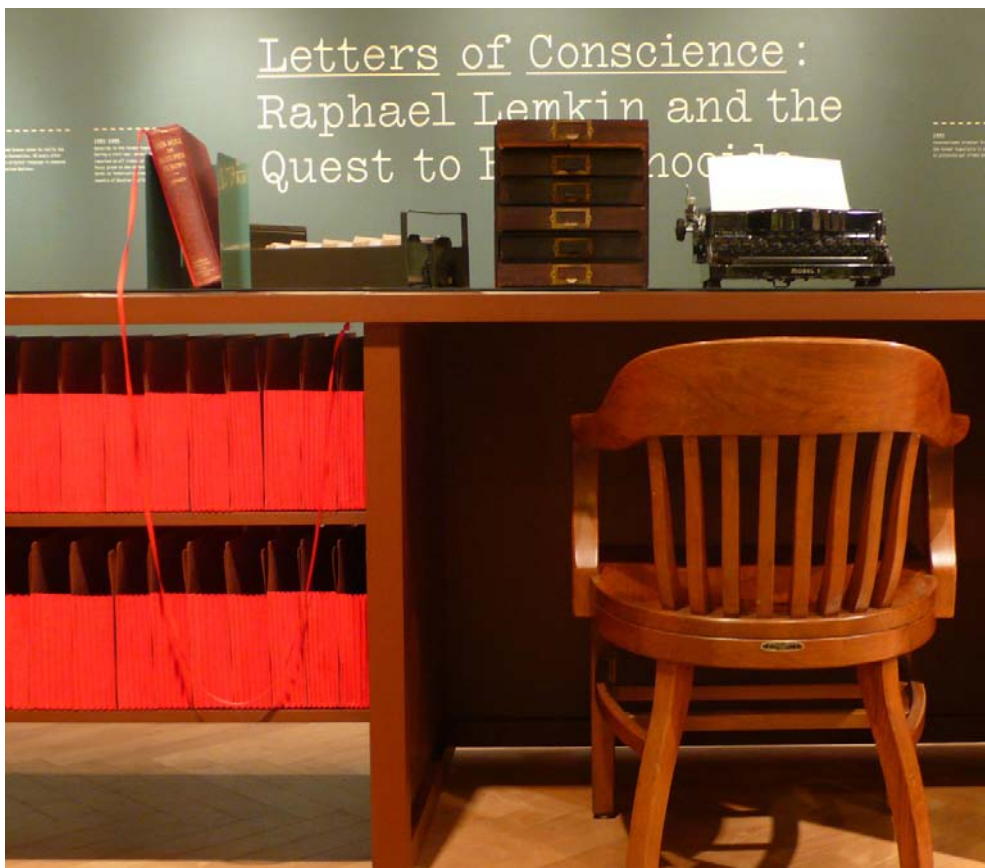


Photo from the exhibition *Letters of Conscience: Raphael Lemkin and the Quest to End Genocide*

**Save the Date
Wednesday,
October 13, 2010**

*The Center for Jewish History's
6th Annual Real Estate/Finance Event*
Featuring remarks by Sam Zell
Chairman and President, Equity Group Investments, LLC



**Visit Us Online at
www.cjh.org**



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.

**CENTER
FOR JEWISH
HISTORY**

A DECADE OF CULTURE,
SCHOLARSHIP, AND IDEAS

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