

CJH TODAY

**\$30 Million
Capital
Campaign
Completed
and Center
is Debt Free**



In the last weeks of December, the Center closed out its year-long \$30 million Capital Campaign and its ten-year-old construction debt is now fully retired. While the Center, like many cultural institutions across the country, faced rising debt service costs and challenging financial demands, the Jewish philanthropic community rallied and made it possible for it to emerge on a stronger financial footing, without a mortgage weighing on the yearly budget. The Center achieved its fund-raising goal in 15 months with a bold and unprecedented capital campaign spearheaded by incoming Board Co-Chairmen William Ackman and Joseph Steinberg along with the Fairholme Foundation and 19 other donors, freeing the organization to move forward with its culture and humanities agenda to preserve and present the history of the Jewish people.

News from Our Partners

American Jewish Historical Society



This year AJHS pays tribute to the 1,500 North American volunteers who served in Israel's 1948 War of Independence (known as "Machalniks"). The opening of the exhibition *Heroes from Abroad: The Machal and Aliyah Bet Legacy* featured a panel discussion including both historians and Machalniks. In May, AJHS will honor Ralph Lowenstein, the founder of the Machal/Aliyah Bet Archives now held at the AJHS, and all other Machal veterans at its annual Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award Dinner.

American Sephardi Federation



ASF aims to promote cross-cultural understanding and highlight the diversity and international scope of Sephardic Jewish heritage. *2000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: An Epic Journey* opened with the exhibition: *Looking Back: The Jews of Morocco*. During the year, a series of lectures by distinguished scholars have taken place, as well as a major symposium on Moroccan Jewry, a concert, and the 15th NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival which presented several films on the Jews of Morocco and the Moroccan Jewish experience.

Leo Baeck Institute



Every year since 1978, LBI has presented the Leo Baeck Medal to an outstanding individual whose work reflects the humanitarian tradition of Rabbi Leo Baeck, the last leader of the Jewish Community in Nazi Germany and LBI's first president. In 2010, LBI honored Angela Merkel for her commitment to fighting anti-Semitism and promoting the integration of minorities into German democracy. In her address, Chancellor Merkel praised LBI's work in preserving the heritage of German-speaking Jewry. Maestro Kurt Masur also received the medal in 2010 for his contribution to the peaceful reunification of Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Yeshiva University Museum



This year, with an ignition grant from the Covenant Foundation, Yeshiva University Museum is piloting a program to *Re-imagine Jewish Education Through Art*. Drawing on its partnership with the Lincoln Center Institute for Arts Education, the Museum will develop an arts education program at Jewish high schools to study and teach Jewish art and texts in new and powerful ways. The current exhibition *There is a Mirror in My Heart: Reflections on a Righteous Grandfather* features an installation by Sebastian Mendes, whose art pays tribute to his grandfather, Aristides de Sousa Mendes, engineer of one of the greatest rescue acts of the Holocaust. Mendes serves as YUM's artist in residence for the current year.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



Celebrating 85 years, YIVO recently honored Stanley Fischer, the Governor of the Bank of Israel. Fischer's lecture on "The Economic Crisis" and panel with William A. Ackman, David Einhorn, Daniel S. Loeb, Joseph S. Steinberg, and Peter Orszag, was followed by speakers including Martin Peretz, Jacob Frenkel, Lawrence Summers, Niall Ferguson, and YIVO chairman Bruce Slovin, who noted Fischer's strong connection and commitment to YIVO. Raised in what is now Zambia, Fischer remarked, "I am interested in YIVO [and] its link with...the sources of the creativity and energy of the Jews of Eastern and Central Europe."

Thousands of Historic Images are Preserved and Now Available with the Click of a Mouse

Over 25,000 original images from the Leo Baeck Institute archives that were soon to be obsolete in their proprietary format were converted and made accessible through the Center's OPAC (Online Public Access Catalog) digital online collections portal. The Center undertook a major digitization project to preserve the images and ensure their long-term accessibility via its Web site. Today, tens of thousands of photographs from its partners' collections are accessible online through www.collections.cjh.org.



Paula Beer-Hoffman
Collection of the Leo Baeck Institute



Student identity card photo of Joseph Roth, circa 1914
Collection of Leo Baeck Institute

Holocaust Resources Initiative

The Center was recently selected by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany as the recipient of a \$165,000 grant to compile digital versions of Holocaust-related collections into a dedicated Web site that will serve as a centralized resource for Holocaust documentation. The project will process still-hidden Holocaust collections from its partners' collections, and begin a robust digitization effort to make these accessible beyond the Center's walls.

The Holocaust collections housed at the Center are among the most extensive worldwide with the Holocaust being among the most frequently researched topics in its Lillian Goldman Reading Room. This project will include the creation of special online exhibits, as well as a gateway to documentary photographs, eye-witness testimonies, memoirs of ghetto life, and much more. This grant makes it possible for the Center and its partners to continue their core mission of preserving historical materials and providing access to the public.

Center Announces New Fellowship Recipients:

National Endowment for the Humanities Senior Fellow

A recent award from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) will support fellowships over 3 years for senior scholars to hold a 12-month residency at the Center. The first recipient of the NEH Senior Fellowship at the Center for Jewish History is Jay R. Berkowitz, Professor of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Professor Berkowitz will investigate Jewish life in the 18th century from a thoroughly new perspective. His research project, “Protocols of Justice: Family, Community and Lay in Early Modern France,” is based on the records of the Metz rabbinic court during the years 1771–89.

The NEH Fellowships for Senior Scholars serve as a capstone on the Center’s academic programs, raising the level of sponsored scholarship at the Center, and helping the institution work further towards the fulfillment of its mission. The award comes with great excitement, as it places the Center as the only Jewish organization on the short list of approximately 25 elite research institutions to receive this prestigious award since its establishment 38 years ago.

Vivian G. Prins Fellowship for Emigrating Scholars

The Prins Fellowship is designed for foreign scholars who seek permanent teaching and research positions in North America and who are at the beginnings of their careers. In this inaugural year, two scholars were chosen.

Jolante Mickute of Lithuania will expand upon her doctoral dissertation “Modern, Jewish, and Female: Politics of Culture, Ethnicity, and Sexuality in Poland and Lithuania, 1918–1939,” a political, cultural, and sexual history of Jewish women nationalists in interwar Eastern Europe.

Jan Láníček of the Czech Republic, a part-time Lecturer at the University of Southampton and University of Portsmouth in England, will research the question of minorities in inter-war Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, analyzing Jewish/non-Jewish relations in order to better understand the changes in East-Central European policies towards the Jews.

Joseph S. Steinberg Fellowship for Emerging Documentary Filmmakers

For the first time, the Center names its Joseph S. Steinberg Emerging Jewish Filmmaker Fellowship for the 2011 academic year. The award recipients are: Rebecca Bloch and Emily Kennedy of Oberlin College for their project entitled: *Radical Judaism in a Radical Campus: The Emergence of a New Jewish Community at Oberlin College*, exploring the history of Jewish activity on American college campuses. This project will make extensive use of the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) collection covering Jewish student organizations on American campuses from 1907 through 2006. Marianna Yaroslavka of University of Southern California is selected for her project entitled: *Survival in Eastern Siberia: The Other Jewish Side*, exploring a little-known area of Siberia, where a once thriving Yiddish community now struggles with its rebirth and survival. This project will make extensive use of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and AJHS collections, housed at the Center.



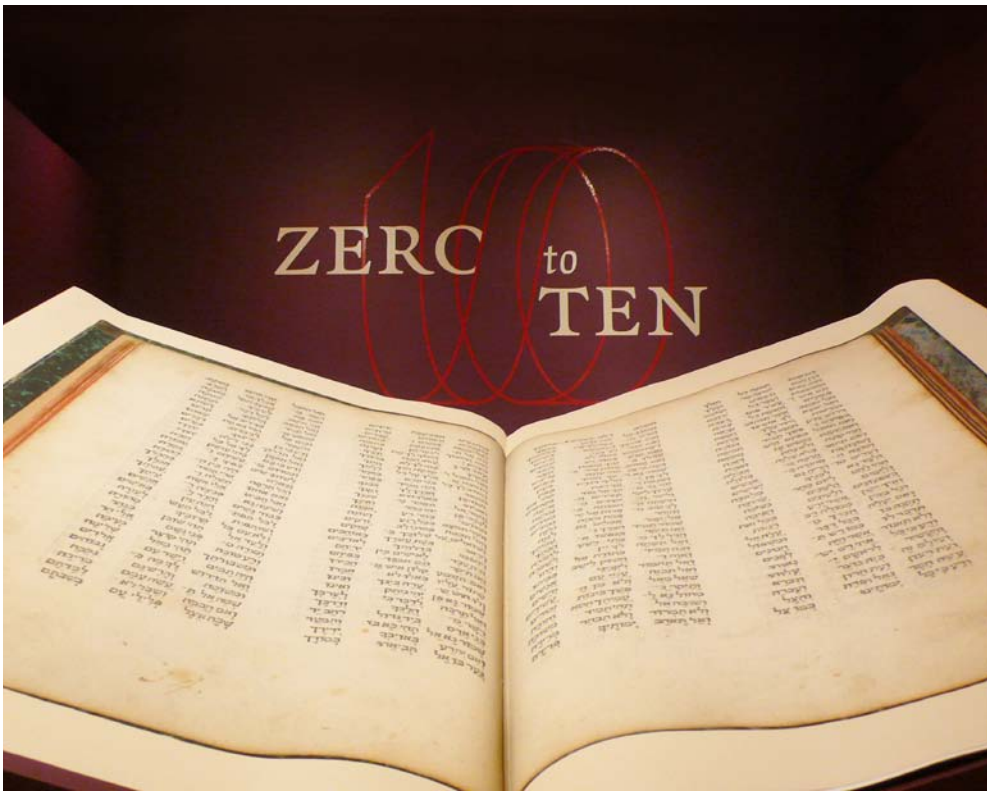
TOP: Keynote address by Sam Zell; attendees listen to keynote address. MIDDLE: Milton Cooper, William A. Ackman, Sam Zell, David Samber; Karen Ackman and Amy P. Goldman. BOTTOM: Joseph S. Steinberg

Titans of Industry: The History of Jewish Involvement in Building America

The Center for Jewish History hosted its 6th annual evening on the history of Jewish involvement in business, finance and real estate. The event was held on October 13, 2010 and featured Sam Zell, Chairman of Equity Group Investments. Mr. Zell, regarded as a titan of industry for his great success in real estate and finance, is widely known as the founding father of today's public real estate industry, having created three of the largest real estate investment trusts (REITs) in history.

The Center provides attendees with a unique networking environment that is complemented by high-level scholarship and philanthropy. The evening features break-out sessions with notable academics on a plethora of topics highlighting Jewish life and experience through time.

The 2010 event was attended by 200 executives, representing a cross-section of the real estate and finance industries, who helped raise more than \$600,000 to support Center operations.



Zero to Ten: First Decades/New Centuries, photograph of the gallery.

Zero to Ten— First Decades/ New Centuries: Highlights from the Collections at the Center for Jewish History

In honor of the Center's 10th anniversary, an exhibition entitled *Zero to Ten: First Decades/New Centuries* provides the public with a first look at the diverse, rarely seen, one-of-a-kind historic treasures housed at the Center and represented from each of its five partners: the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Sephardi Federation, the Leo Baeck Institute, the Yeshiva University Museum, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Among the books, documents and artifacts on display are:

Thomas Jefferson's 1818 letter denouncing anti-Semitism and invoking America as a bastion of religious freedom and tolerance.

Emma Lazarus' handwritten draft of her iconic 1883 poem, "The New Colossus," inscribed on the Statue of Liberty.

Torah scroll belonging to the Baal Shem Tov (1700–1760), founder of Hassidism, featuring lines written in his own hand.

The Trial of the Jews of Trent, 1478–1479—Written for the first Duke of Wurtemberg, Eberhardt I, and bearing his arms, this is the only known German copy of the records of the Trials of the Jews of Trent, accused of the ritual murder of a young Christian boy named Simon in 1475.

Gazette of the United States—In 1790, the *Gazette*, a New York newspaper, reproduced the first correspondence between the newly-elected president, George Washington, and Levi Shaftall, leader of the Hebrew Congregation of Savannah, Georgia.



Portraits of the Seligmans
1902
Collection of the
American Jewish Historical Society

The Trial of the Jews of Trent,
Trent, 1478–1479
Collection of
Yeshiva University Museum



In his introduction to *Zero to 10*, Steven J. Zipperstein, the Daniel E. Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History at Stanford University and a member of the Center’s Academic Advisory Council, writes, “No culture saves everything. Time passes, timber burns, stone is eroded, documents are misplaced, and memories become dis-torted and rendered unidentifiable. All the more so for a people without a central political or religious authority; for a peripatetic people, like the Jews, without vaults that held treasures for millennia or longstanding archives. Who was there to gather the remnants of the past, to determine what must not be lost?”

“This exhibition,” Zipperstein continues, “shows, side by side, the widest array of the collections housed at the Center for Jewish History from written texts, to art, to ritual objects and even personal ephemera from ages gone

by. History is packed with moments easily forgotten but misplaced at great risk, and the Center for Jewish History contains remnants of some of the most irreplaceable, otherwise inaccessible moments of our people’s past.”

Zero to 10 is made possible by The David Berg Foundation with additional support from The Kumble Cultural Fund, The Selz Family Cultural Fund, and The Slovin Foundation and is curated by the Yeshiva University Museum.

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

A DECADE OF CULTURE,
SCHOLARSHIP, AND IDEAS

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New York, NY 10011

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NO. 04568

A Publication
of the Center for
Jewish History



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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.

As Seen on NBC News

The Center for Jewish History was recently featured on an NBC news segment as a prime destination for genealogy research. The Center's Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute provides an enormous wealth of genealogical resources through the partners' collections and a variety of fact sheets ranging from "how to" guides for the beginner to advanced research guides for the seasoned genealogist. The Center is open six days a week and genealogy specialists are available to assist patrons with their own family history research.