

CJH Today

A Publication of the Center for Jewish History

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

We are very proud to share with you CJH Today, which highlights some of the recent achievements of the Center for Jewish History, home to the archives of the Jewish people.

From public forums to musical concerts and workshops, from fellowships to a genealogical research lab, the Center is the place to connect with, understand, and celebrate the Jewish past so that we can build – together – a strong Jewish future.

Thousands of stories of modern Jewish life are preserved in the vast archives of the Center's Partner organizations – the American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and Yeshiva University Museum. The richness of our Partners holdings has led some to call the Center the "Library of Congress of the Jewish Diaspora."

A research library, a cultural institution, a museum, an intellectual center, and a gathering place where visitors can gain a greater understanding and appreciation of Jewish history and civilization – that is the Center for Jewish History.



CJH Today – an exclusive publication for the Center's benefactors and friends – is your source for the inside happenings from the Center. We hope to see you soon at an upcoming event or public program!

Bruce Slovin
Chairman

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS



American Jewish Historical Society is embarking on a multi year project to preserve the history of the American Soviet Jewry Movement. This initiative was launched to capture oral histories, photographs, organizational records, films, and other materials documenting the American campaign to rescue Soviet Jews, one of the most significant grassroots movements in American Jewish history.



American Sephardi Federation hosted its Historic Jewish Communities in the Islamic World Inaugural Benefit Dinner in November. The kickoff gala celebrated 2,600 years of Jewish life in Iraq and inaugurated the ASF Leon Levy Leadership Awards, which were presented to Shlomo Bakhsh, Carole Basri, Edeed Ben-Joseph, Selim Mahlab, Albert Nassim, and Maurice Shohet for their extraordinary roles in the Iraqi-Jewish community.



Leo Baeck Institute held its annual Gala Award Dinner in November, where the 2006 Leo Baeck Medal was presented by Dr. Horst Köhler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, to the Honorable James D. Wolfensohn, Chairman of Citigroup's International Advisory Board and former President of the World Bank. The evening also included a presentation by Dr. Henry Kissinger.



Yeshiva University Museum continued to offer a variety of fascinating exhibits and public programs, including a screening of the documentary film, "Just a Link," featuring Andree Geulen, a Righteous Gentile who worked to hide Jewish children during World War II. This event helped reconnect Mrs. Guelen with more than a hundred of her "hidden children." Upcoming exhibits include "And I Still See Their Faces: The Vanished World of the Polish Jews," which will open in March.



YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is working with the Howard P. Milstein Foundation on a groundbreaking three year project to preserve key New York Jewish social service agency records regarding the more than 2.7 million Jews who immigrated to America in the 1900s. In addition, the Eli and Edythe L. Broad Foundation has offered its support for the restoration, archiving, and permanent display of Yiddish theater memorabilia.

Save the Date
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2007

THE HISTORY OF JEWISH INVOLVEMENT IN BUILDING NEW YORK
FEATURING STEVEN ROTH, CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF VORNADO REALTY,
AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

1939-1951

Hedge Fund Event Draws Influential Audience

More than 150 people – including some of the world’s most influential hedge fund managers, investors, innovators, and thinkers – converged at the Center for Jewish History on November 15, 2006, for the Center’s second annual hedge fund event, exploring “The History of Jewish Involvement in Business and Finance.”

The event raised nearly \$500,000 to benefit the Center. Attendees enjoyed an intimate dinner and a keynote address by Harvard University’s most popular lecturer, Tal Ben-Shahar; and leading scholars from around the country led interactive sessions on a range of thought-provoking topics regarding the Jewish community’s relationship with entrepreneurship, music, comedy, philanthropy, commerce, and American history.



Gregory S. Lyss, Alexandra Kaufmann, and Roy Katzovitz



William A. Ackman (Chair of the event) with Leon Cooperman



Craig Gilbert, Charles J. Rose, and Oscar S. Schafer

SAMBERG FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

A special graduation ceremony was held for participants in last summer’s Samberg Family History Program, a fellowship program that offers teens an opportunity to learn more about their ancestry and family heritage.

Among those students was Joey Katz, a 15 year old who discovered records of his long-lost great-grandparents in the YIVO collections at the Center. Joey and the other students taking part in the graduation ceremony showcased their final family history projects, which ranged from family trees to videos to photo exhibits.

The 2006 program was the most successful to date, with 44 students receiving fellowships – more than all previous years combined.

The program is made possible by support from the Samberg Family Foundation, which recently renewed its support for the next three years.



Samberg Fellows celebrate their graduation with Jeff Samberg



The Center for Jewish History Annual Dinner December 2006



Natalie Eigen, Joseph Tocci, Michele Tocci (a member of the Center Board of Overseers), and Estanne Abraham Fawer.

Annual Dinner Attracts Mix of Long-Standing Supporters and New Friends

The Center's Annual Dinner in December attracted some 200 benefactors and friends, raising nearly \$1 million for the Center.

Highlights of the gala evening included a presentation by Tracey Berkowitz, a member of the Center's Board of Overseers, and an appearance by comedian/actor Jerry Stiller, who shared with guests some of his experiences growing up on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Presiding over the event was a new generation of Board members, whose energy and enthusiasm helped draw many new supporters and friends to the Center.



Jerry Stiller and Anne Meara



Tracey and Bruce Berkowitz and their guests enjoy the Annual Dinner

LILLIAN GOLDMAN READING ROOM CELEBRATES GOLDMAN FAMILY COMMITMENT

Long before the doors first opened to welcome visitors to the Center for Jewish History, Lillian Goldman was an avid believer in the Center's mission and goals – so much so that she provided a leadership gift to create the Lillian Goldman Reading Room, which has become the Center's heart and gateway to the vast holdings of its Partners. To commemorate her commitment to the Center, a special evening was held with presentations by Dr. Amy Goldman, Lillian Goldman's daughter, and noted scholar Dr. Noah Feldman of New York University.

Since the Center's launch in 2000, the Lillian Goldman Reading Room has welcomed more than 26,000 patrons to conduct research, and has served tens of thousands more seeking information over the Internet, by e-mail, phone, or fax. The number of international researchers has also grown significantly, now accounting for 15 percent of all users and representing more than 50 countries around the world.



Members of the Goldman family in the Lillian Goldman Reading Room



Amy Goldman, Bruce Slovin, and Francesca Slovin



Professor Noah Feldman pays tribute to the Center's library and its founder

In Case You Hadn't Heard...

The Center has had a number of exciting announcements in recent months, and we are pleased to highlight a few:

- The **Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC)** has gone “live” – enabling the public to browse the wealth of materials housed at the Center from any computer with Internet access, anywhere in the world. The online catalog provides access to the vast library, archive, and museum collections of the Center's five partner organizations. To search the OPAC please visit the Center's website, www.cjh.org.
- The **Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)** has become an affiliate of the Center. The AJS is currently working with Center and Partner staff to build and develop new relationships and strengthen existing ties with the academic community and its 1,500 members.
- The **White House** has requested that the Center for Jewish History take the lead on the Iraqi Jewish Archival Project, to preserve and document cultural resources rescued in Iraq. The Center is working with the National Archives, and is carrying out this project through its partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- The **Center Genealogy Institute** is now offering additional services to help you research your family history. For more information, please visit: www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy.
- The **Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Book Store and Gift Shop** is pleased to announce that it has begun to carry a selection of rare books, autographs, and manuscripts.

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.



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