Fast approaching the conclusion of its inaugural year, the Center for Jewish History has emerged as one of the preeminent sites in New York City for the intellectual exploration of the Jewish experience. A diverse program of lectures, symposiums, films, concerts and other special events—each sponsored by one of the Center’s five partner institutions or by another leading organization in Jewish life—has entertained and enlightened thousands of participants since the Center’s formal opening to the public in October 2000.

**SYMPOSIUMS AND MAJOR EVENTS**

Professionals from Jewish museums around the country and abroad gathered for the Annual Conference of the Council of American Jewish Museums, hosted at the Center January 21 to 24, 2001. Held in conjunction with the Council of Archives and Research Libraries in Jewish Studies, the conference featured

Continued on page 2

In a major step forward in access to the unique collections housed at the Center, the Leo Baeck Institute master catalogue is now on-line, accessible to Internet users throughout the world. This catalogue consists of the Institute’s archive, library and periodical collections. The catalogue can be accessed through either the Leo Baeck website (www.lbi.org) or through the website of the Center for Jewish History (www.cjh.org).

The combined library and archive collections of the Leo Baeck Institute encompass the most comprehensive documentation available for the study of the history of German-speaking Jewry. The master catalogue provides information on and descriptions of more than 10,000 archival records, 1,250 memoirs, 70,000 books and 750 periodicals. It also contains unique access to the Institute’s Austrian Heritage Collection. The creation of the on-line catalogue was a project of more than ten years’ duration that included the retrospective conversion of card catalogs.

Continued on page 4
Spotlight On: New Acquisitions

The American Jewish Historical Society has added a number of personal papers and letters to its archival collections: John Hancock, dated June 24, 1771, to Aaron Lopez, which is included in the Society’s current exhibit, “Seeing Ourselves”; Salomon Carvalho to Isaac Leeser; a petition signed by Judah P. Benjamin; and a printed letter from Daniel L. Peixotto to Isaac Leeser, dated 1832, regarding fasting during the cholera epidemic.

The Society also has acquired 11 reels of film about the Catskills in New York for its Catskills Institute Archive. The films provide a unique record of recreational life in the Catskills in the 1950s and 1960s before the decline of the region and are an example of early home movies in color.

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A generous grant from the Irving Tershel Book Fund in Latvian and Baltic Jewish Studies has enabled the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research to bolster its collection of Judaica from the former Soviet Union, especially the Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. The YIVO Library has entered into an agreement with MIPP International, a dealer specializing in publications from the Baltics, and has added to its collections such works as the exhibition catalogue, Vilna Ghetto Posters-Jewish Spiritual Resistance; The Estonian Folklore Archives; The Great Synagogue of Vilnius, a detailed description of its architecture and history; Hands Bringing Life and Bread, an illustrated work on Lithuanians who risked their lives rescuing Jews during the Holocaust; and The Book of Sorrow, containing illustrations and descriptions of more than 200 sites of the Nazis’ mass murder of Jews.

John Hancock writes to Jewish merchant Aaron Lopez, June 24, 1771. (From the collections of the American Jewish Historical Society)
a keynote address by Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, the Salo W. Baron Professor of Jewish History, Culture and Society at Columbia University, visits to many of New York’s leading museums, and workshops on such topics as exhibition development, issues of conservation, and Holocaust art restitution.

February brought to the Center a two-day symposium, sponsored by Tel-Aviv University, Brandeis University, the American Jewish Committee and the Zalman Shazar Center, on “Israeli Historical Revisionism: From Left to Right.” Some of academia’s leading scholars on Jewish history and thought, from the United States, Canada and Israel, convened to discuss and debate, in often controversial and emotional sessions, issues of history, culture and memory.

Against the background of continuing violence in the Middle East, The New Republic brought together at the Center on April 25 a panel of well-known writers and thinkers to debate “Israel and the Arabs: The Illusion of Change.” Panelists included Martin Peretz, chairman and editor-in-chief of The New Republic; Leon Wieseltier, literary editor of The New Republic; Michael Walzer, co-editor of Dissent and professor at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton University; Mort Zuckerman, editor-in-chief of U.S. News & World Report; and Laurence Grafstein, managing director of Gramercy Communications Partners.

His Eminence John Cardinal O’Connor was warmly remembered in a tribute sponsored on May 15 by the American Jewish Historical Society, the Jewish Community Relations Council and UJA-Federation of New York. Among those offering reminiscences were His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan, former mayor Edward I. Koch, Mrs. Mary O’Connor Ward and Elie Wiesel.

### LECTURES

The American Jewish Historical Society started off 2001 with a lecture by Victor Navasky, publisher and editorial director of The Nation and author of Naming Names. Mr. Navasky’s topic was “McCarthy, the Blacklist and American Jews.”

Subsequent lectures sponsored by the American Jewish Historical Society covered diverse topics and periods in American history and included “The Jewish Confederates” with author Robert N. Rosen; “President Ulysses S. Grant and Anti-Semitism,” presented by Professor John Y. Simon of Southern Illinois University; John Atlas, author of the recently published Bellow: A Biography, speaking on “Saul Bellow’s Adventures in America”; “President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Holocaust” with Ambassador William Vanden Heuvel, chairman of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute; and “President John F. Kennedy: the Family Legacy and the Jewish Vote” with Kennedy advisor and author Theodore C. Sorenson.

The American Sephardi Federation sponsored a Scholars Series, which brought several distinguished speakers to the Center to discuss topics in Sephardic thought and history. On January 10, Professor Nitzhia Shaked of San Francisco State University discussed “Maimonides: The Man, The Rabbi, The Philosopher,” and on May 10 Sjimon den-Hollander arrived from the University of Leiden, The Netherlands, to speak on “Christianity, Islam and Judaism—One Man’s Journey.”

The Leo Baeck Institute sponsored a number of lectures on a wide range of topics, all touching on its mission as the world’s foremost resource on the history of German-speaking Jewry. “Art, Music and Education as Strategies for Survival: Theresienstadt, 1941–45” was discussed by Anne E. Dutlinger on March 29; Melinda G. Guttmann, professor of speech, theater and media studies, John Jay College, spoke on “The Enigma of Anna O: A Biography of Bertha Pappenheim”; Edwin Black discussed his recent book, IBM and the Holocaust.

Yeshiva University Museum sponsored several discussions, talks and gallery tours with the artists whose works were featured in exhibitions this year. The Museum also hosted Dr. Alan Brill, assistant professor of Jewish mysticism at Yeshiva University, for a talk on “Legends and Traditions of the 36 Righteous Ones.”

Isabella Rossellini is interviewed by Center film curator Antonio Monda, following the screening of Left Luggage.

Hudson Shad performs the music of the Comedian Harmonists and The Revelers.

Barbara Goldberg

Professor Anita Shapira of Tel-Aviv University makes a point to her fellow panelists (left to right) Professor Itamar Rabinovich, president of Tel-Aviv University, Professor Jehuda Reinharz, president of Brandeis University, and Professor Peter Rosenblatt, chair of the Institute of American Jewish-Israeli Relations at the American Jewish Committee, during the opening session of “Israeli Historical Revisionism: From Left to Right.”
Genealogy Institute Welcomes Researchers in Family History

where do you call when you want to locate relatives who immigrated to Buenos Aires in 1928—and you don’t read or speak Spanish? Where do you go when you want to locate the town of your grandmother’s birth? What do you do when you don’t know your great grandfather’s name, and it is time to name a newborn child?

The Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History is the place where individuals can begin a challenging, exciting and emotional search for their own history. Center Genealogy staff and volunteers can show nearly everyone of Jewish descent how to find information relevant to his or her own history.

Every day individuals walk into the Center wondering, “Is there anything here for me?” “Where is my history?” Jewish family history research can be daunting and challenging, with multiple languages and records in different repositories around the world. Even the multiplicity of databases on the Internet can be overwhelming.

With a browsable genealogy reference collection, created with financial support and input from the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York, and with on-site public computers offering internet access (including free access to Ancestry.com, a fee-based site), the Genealogy Institute staff and volunteers can make taking the first steps in genealogical research uncomplicated and easy to understand. Fact sheets on frequently asked questions and on the Center’s vast collections introduce its resources and repositories.

The Genealogy Institute serves as an introduction to the extraordinary partner collections available through the Lillian Goldman Reading Room. Yizkor books and landsmanschaft records at YIVO, family and community histories at the Leo Baeck Institute and military records at the American Jewish Historical Society are just a few of the rich primary sources open to researchers at the Center. And via a microfilm loan program with the Church of Latter-Day Saints Family History Library in Salt Lake City, the largest genealogy library in the world, Genealogy Institute patrons can borrow microfilms of vital records, from 19th century Poland for example, and examine them at the Center.

The Genealogy Institute (which can be reached at 212-294-8324) is open Monday through Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursday, 12 noon to 8 p.m. The Institute also is open one Sunday a month from 12:30 to 2 p.m., when the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York hosts its monthly meeting at the Center. The first Thursday of the month features a free 20-minute workshop on beginning Jewish family history research. The Institute also welcomes mail, fax and e-mail inquiries; it is preferred that e-mail inquiries be sent through the Center’s website, www.cjh.org.

Volunteers who can translate Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian and other languages are on-site regularly or can be contacted to assist patrons in translating short letters, postcards and documents. All basic services are provided free of charge and arrangements may be made for group tours and visits.

Individuals now will be able to do preliminary research off-site, before coming to the Center, and send LBI archivists and librarians a list of the materials they wish to access in advance. This will be a great aid to the many academics and graduate students who come from abroad and throughout the United States to pursue research in the Institute’s collections. Family historians who wish to avail themselves of the Institute’s collection of thousands of family trees, community records and other related genealogical information will find the on-line catalogue a valuable resource as well.

The 70,000-volume library of the Leo Baeck Institute is recognized as the foremost reference source in its field. It is rich in rarities ranging from early 16th century writings to volumes salvaged from famous Jewish libraries that were confiscated and dispersed by the Nazis. The library includes a comprehensive collection of belles lettres by Jewish writers, extensive material on anti-Semitism and more than 750 periodicals of Jewish interest published from the 18th to 20th centuries. The archives includes family papers, community histories and business and public records dating back more than three centuries and touching upon virtually every aspect of German-Jewish life. A unique collection of memoirs, largely unpublished and written from 1790 to the present, offers rare insights into the lives of German-speaking Jews from all walks of life.

Supplementing these collections are the Institute’s holdings of 30,000 photographs and an art collection encompassing paintings, sculptures, drawings, watercolors and prints. Many are the works of leading German and Austrian artists of the past 100 years, including illustrators, architects, satirists and graphic designers. The catalogs of the Institute’s photography and art collections are not yet included in the Internet master catalogue on-line, but are available on-site at the Center.

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The American Sephardi Federation is scheduled to go on-line in the near future with its catalogue of books, periodicals and genealogical records. The growing collection currently includes more than 600 books, 100 periodicals and 50 family histories and is increasing at the rate of 50 book titles and 25 family histories per week.
Volunteers Enhance Visitor Services

Need help finding your seat at a Center concert or film? Usher June Walzer will be happy to assist you. Confused about how to reach the Reading Room on the third floor? Just ask Jerry Rodman seated at the information desk.

Since its inauguration this past fall, the Center’s Volunteer Program has trained and placed 50 men and women in key positions around the building, day and evening, fulfilling a number of important functions.

Among the first people visitors meet when they visit the Center are the information docents. They sit at the information desk in the 16th Street lobby, greeting and orienting visitors and distributing literature about the Center and the five partner organizations. The information desk currently is staffed Tuesday through Thursday, and Sunday will be added in the near future.

Another group of volunteers works as docents in the reception area for the Reading Room and the Center Genealogy Institute. They greet and register visitors, direct them to the appropriate services, and answer general questions. The Center’s ticket-takers and ushers for events in the Leo and Julia Forchheimer Auditorium also are trained volunteers.

Other volunteers assist the professional staff in various offices around the Center. Their tasks may include coordinating mailings, preparing inventories of books, addressing and stuffing envelopes, answering phones and making phone calls.

A team of highly trained and knowledgeable tour guides leads all public tours at the Center (see related story, page 8). A new group of volunteers, who will work as gallery guides in the Yeshiva University Museum, are scheduled to be trained by the Museum’s curators. Gallery guides will be stationed in the exhibition galleries to answer visitors’ questions and monitor the exhibits.

Interested in volunteering? (In addition to the satisfaction of their valuable contribution to the Center for Jewish History, volunteers receive either complimentary or discounted admission to Center events and a percentage discount at the Center Shop and Date Palm Café.) Please call 917-606-8225.

Top Ten List At the Center Shop

Looking to read a good Jewish book? Visitors to the Center Shop have made the following selections our top ten bestsellers.

- **Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia**
  Edited by Paula E. Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore
  American Jewish Historical Society/Routledge
  $79.95

- **Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova**
  Miriam Weiner
  Routes to Roots Foundation/YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
  $60

- **Synagogues of New York City—History of a Jewish Community**
  Oscar Israelowitz
  Israelowitz Publishing Co.
  $35

- **When Boxing was a Jewish Sport**
  Allen Bodner
  Praeger
  $21.95

- **Boychiks in the Hood**
  Robert Eisenberg
  HarperCollins
  $12

- **The Jewish Confederates**
  Robert N. Rosen
  University of South Carolina Press
  $39.95

- **Jewish Communities in Exotic Places**
  Ken Blady and Steven Kaplan
  Jason Aaronson, Inc.
  $30

  Robert Slater
  Jonathan David Publishing
  $25.95

- **Strange and Unexpected Love: A Teenage Girl’s Holocaust Memoirs**
  Fanya Gottesfeld Heller
  KTAV Publishing House
  $14.95

- **Schwebel David’s Journey**
  Schwebel
  A Stabilized Chaos Publication/Yeshiva University Museum
  $40

The Center Shop is open Monday to Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and preceding evening events.
Sixty Years of Art in Jewish Education,” the recent exhibition at the Betty and Walter L. Popper Gallery of the Yeshiva University Museum, offers more than a dynamic and evocative encounter with children’s art. The show of more than 150 works, sponsored by Yeshiva University Museum and the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, ranges in media well beyond familiar bounds of art classroom tempera paint. From glass to fabrics, from clay to pencil, from oil to ink, from foamcore to glitter, the collection undoubtedly celebrates the intuitive vitality of the child’s sense of color, texture, form and energy pervading every stroke or grasp of brush or finger.

More personally, through this sensational window into the challenging subject of art and the child, the exhibit illumines the inspiration and career of its organizing personality, Temima Gezari—artist, educator, humanist.

“Creative process gives meaning to life,” the indomitably jaunty Ms. Gezari notes. “The art of children has elements of greatness, part of the broad ocean of art flowing through the ages,” she insists. “In children’s art we frequently find the counter-part of the art of the adult world on another level, no matter what the idiom, expressing the secure and strong foundation of a philosophy of life.”

“In the field of religious education, art plays a prominent role and deals with profound feelings—one of which is deep religious feeling.” Ms. Gezari reminds visitors in the introductory panel at the gallery entrance. Born in Pinsk, Russia, in 1905, Ms. Gezari spent her girlhood in Brooklyn and was educated at Columbia University, the New School for Social Research, Hunter College, Parsons School of Design, the Art Students League and alongside such renowned artists as Diego Rivera.

Her affirmation of the “natural birthright of feeling, brain, imagination as creative force” has been explored and cultivated for generations of teachers and young people since 1935 in her roles as dean of the Teachers Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary and as director of the Department of Art Education which she initiated at the Board of Jewish Education in 1940.

“I am convinced the approach to children must be the creative one, with patient understanding, expert guidance and genuine faith in their potentialities,” she notes in Footprints and New Worlds, published in 1957 and now in its fourth edition.

In sharing how she introduces the history of art to curious youngsters, she notes that unlike Egyptians, Greeks or Mexicans, “the Jews were away from the art-producing soil so long. That fact, added to the strict prohibition contained in the Second Commandment, kept them from producing art on a scale of any importance. In times of leniency, however, art flourished, contributing some excellent examples of fine mosaic floor work and warm, earth colored mural painting for synagogues.”

She continues by noting that Jewish art as such became dormant with the dispersion of the Jewish people throughout the world. “Artists who were Jews were painting in every land, but they painted in the idiom of those lands—France had Pisarro; Italy had Modigliani. Not until the return to Israel and the development of a new state has it become possible for Jewish art really to begin to flourish again.”

“The Art Teacher as an Ever-Flowing Fountain” is the title one section of Footprints; it can easily describe Ms. Gezari as well. Approaching her ninety-sixth year, she has just hung the bulk of the trove of works from which the Yeshiva University Museum’s exhibit was selected—a five-story exhibition of children’s art which opened mid-June at the Board of Jewish Education headquarters, 426 West 58th Street, New York City. In August she holds the annual exhibit of her works at her studio in Rocky Point, near Port Jefferson, Long Island, and a September show at Stony Brook will follow.

“I don’t believe in competition in the arts,” she firmly stated. “Children’s art should be honored for the hard work it represents and to show we appreciate what they have done.

“With art,” she smiled, “we each have wings!”
Scholars, schoolchildren, visitors from as far away as China and Japan, are among the hundreds of patrons each month conducting research in the Lillian Goldman Reading Room at the Center. The Reading Room is the gateway to the Center’s unparalleled holdings of 100 million archival documents, half a million books and tens of thousands of photographs, artifacts and other materials.

For Lori Gemeiner, a 31-year-old graduate student at the University of Sussex in Brighton, England, the Reading Room provides access to resources and a cross-section of material from collections of four of the Center’s five partner organizations that probably cannot be found at any other institution in the world. Ms. Gemeiner, the recipient of a German Academic Exchange Program/Leo Baeck Institute Fellowship, has been in New York since February. She spends between three and four days each week at the Reading Room, a minimum of four hours per day.


“My dissertation examines the ways in which German-Jewish refugees retained, rejected and negotiated aspects of German-Jewish culture and identity within their new settings,” she explained. “I utilize memoirs, diaries, correspondence and oral history interviews in order to reveal the transformation of German-Jewish life in the private sphere. The differences between these processes in New York compared to London will also be explored.”

Describing herself as feeling like “a kid in a candy store,” Ms. Gemeiner is steadily working her way through diaries, letters, memoirs, personal papers, books and taped interviews that span the collections of the American Jewish Historical Society, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

“For example,” she explained, “the collections of the Leo Baeck Institute include a book by Gerhard Saenger called Today’s Refugees, Tomorrow’s Citizens, written in 1941 before the United States entered the war. I couldn’t find this book in the British Library or at the University of Sussex. I was thrilled to discover it here as it was written expressly to help Americans understand German-Jewish refugees and is an absolute goldmine of information for my work.

“I particularly love archival material, like letters and personal notes,” she continued, “but in truth diaries and memoirs reveal a lot more. I spent two weeks straight, for instance, reading through the diaries of Rudolph Katz, which also are found in the Leo Baeck collections.”

Ms. Gemeiner hopes to return to the University of Sussex later this summer to defend her thesis and will then seek an academic teaching position in the United States. She pointed out that without the Center’s collections, her work would have been much more difficult.

“Without the original source material at the Center,” she noted, “I would have had to do many more individual interviews and I would not have wanted my thesis to be based so heavily on personal recollections; it is much better to be able to research material written at that point in time.

“I also found that one member of the Reading Room staff would lead me to another. I would be talking to someone from YIVO and he or she would indicate that I really ought to talk to someone from the American Jewish Historical Society and on and on. Having everything in one building allowed me to use my time much more efficiently and the interaction between staff added a wonderful dynamic to my work.”

The Reading Room is open to the public, free of charge, Monday to Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Friday by special appointment. Please call 212-294-8325 for additional information.
The Leo and Julia Forchheimer Auditorium was formally dedicated at the Center for Jewish History, Tuesday evening, May 2. Almost 100 guests, many of whom were personally acquainted with the late Mr. and Mrs. Forchheimer, joined in honoring their legacy of philanthropy and dedication to the business, art and Jewish communities. Pictured in photo right at the dedication are Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Forchheimer (center) surrounded by family members (Mr. Rudolph Forchheimer is the nephew of Mr. Leo Forchheimer), and in photo far right Mrs. Erica Jesselson, vice chair of the Center’s Board of Directors, who organized the dedication ceremonies.

Seats in the Forchheimer Auditorium may be endowed for donations ranging from $10,500 to $1,800. A plaque with the donor’s name, or another selected designation, will be permanently affixed to each endowed seat. Please call the Development Office (212-294-8310) for further details.

Formal program of guided tours has been inaugurated at the Center. Led by trained docents, tours are offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m. Reservations in advance are not required for individuals; group tours may be scheduled by special arrangement with the Center.

Tours encompass all areas of the Center dedicated to public service, including the Reading Room, Genealogy Institute and the major exhibitions of the American Jewish Historical Society, Leo Baeck Institute, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Visitors also tour the areas available for special events, including the auditorium and “Great Hall,” and are welcome to browse in the Center Shop, eat in the Date Palm Café, and avail themselves of the Center’s services in tracing family histories. Groups from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Oregon and throughout the metropolitan New York area, as well as hundreds of individuals, have participated in Center tours during the past few months.

The Center requests a contribution of $6 per person, $4 for seniors and students, with the funds used to support educational programs. For visitors wishing to include the Yeshiva University Museum galleries in their tour, special combination tickets may be purchased at a cost of $10 per person, $6 for seniors and students. All tickets may be purchased in the Center Shop.

For further information, or to arrange a group tour, please call Julie Kaplan at 917-606-8226.
Several major new exhibitions highlight the spring/summer season at the Center, while visitors continue to enjoy the long-term and permanent exhibits on display.

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has mounted “Ida Kaminska (1899–1980): Grande Dame of the Yiddish Theater” which explores the long and eventful life of the great actress and her Yiddish theater family. The exhibit includes theater posters, film stills and a great variety of photographs and memorabilia.

Following its inaugural exhibit on German Jewish history in modern times, the YIVO Institute is presenting “Credit Due: Eight German-Jewish Artists Persecuted by the Nazis.” Composed of paintings, photos, and prints, complemented by historical documentation, “Credit Due” explores the work and traces the journey of eight painters, sculptors and illustrators, none internationally prominent, as they fled the Nazis and wandered as refugees from country to country. Much of the research for this exhibit is based on unpublished manuscripts and documents in the Leo Baeck Institute Archives.

Two new exhibitions at the Yeshiva University Museum have been attracting larger than average crowds. “Moritz Daniel Oppenheim: Jewish Identity in Nineteenth Century Art,” features the work of the German artist considered by many art historians to be the greatest Jewish genre painter of his time. The exhibition was organized by the Jüdisches Museum der Stadt Frankfurt am Main, and is being shown exclusively at the Yeshiva University Museum in the United States. Drawn from private and public collections in Germany, Switzerland, Israel, France, England and the United States, “Oppenheim” showcases more than 90 paintings, 14 works on paper and a silver and bronze presentation cup designed by the artist.

The Museum’s other major new exhibition, “60 Years of Art in Jewish Education,” presents drawings, paintings, wall hangings, murals, stained glass, ceramics and sculpture, created by children throughout the world. This retrospective, sponsored with the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, pays tribute to Temima Gezari who since 1940 has brought visual arts into the Jewish school curriculum, motivating and guiding hundreds of art teachers to encourage and develop children’s innate creativity. (See interview with Ms. Gezari, page 6.)

The Yeshiva University Museum also is currently exhibiting “Reach for the Moon: When Art and Medical Science Intersect—Paintings by Ruth Dunkell”; “Introspective Retrospective: Contemporary Glass by Sidney Cash”; and, in the sculpture garden, “In Search of Ancestors: Sculpture by Simon Gaon.”

Other exhibitions continuing at the Center include “Seeing Ourselves,” the American Jewish Historical Society’s portrait of Jewish life in America; “The Jewish House of Learning,” an exhibition jointly curated by the Center’s five partner organizations; and “The Jewish Writer,” a series of black and white photographs by Jill Krementz.

Visitors attending “60 Years of Art in Jewish Education” react with delight to The Circus, glazed terra cotta, inspired by Alexander Calder. From a group installation created by the third and four grades and their art instructors, Marilyn Davidson and Hanna Larish, at Rabbi Arthur Schneier Park East Day School in New York City.
The “guests of honor” were the major donors to the Center for Jewish History at a gala dinner, Tuesday evening, June 5, held to pay tribute to all those whose support and significant gifts made the creation of the Center possible.

“You are our donors who believed in this Center,” commented Bruce Slovin, chairman of the Board of Directors, in his opening remarks. “And it is with great emotion that I welcome this opportunity to thank you and to assure you that the best is yet to come.”

Mr. Slovin’s welcome was followed by a presentation of the Center’s website (www.cjh.org) by executive director Dr. Lois Cronholm, which provided a virtual tour of the Center, its resources and programs, and chronicled the Center’s first year of operation.

Featured speaker at the event was former United States Senator Bob Kerrey, who now serves as president of the New School University. Mr. Kerrey spoke of the New School’s history as a haven for German-Jewish intellectuals fleeing the Nazis and discussed his view of the mission of the Center for Jewish History.

“One of the problems of a free society,” he noted, “is that we begin to take our freedom for granted. The study of history in this building should teach us the importance of guarding these freedoms.

“At the Center,” he concluded, “men and women will learn stories that will enable them to make not only the United States, but the world a more humane and just place.”

A highlight of the evening was the surprise presentation to Mr. Slovin of a framed collage of documents, tracing his personal family history beginning with the immigration of his ancestors to the United States. The presentation was a joint project of the Center’s Genealogy Institute, the Conservation Laboratory and the Center Shop, with special assistance from Mrs. Francesca Slovin.

To commemorate the inauguration of the Center for Jewish History as a major resource in Jewish studies, an International Scholars Conference will convene, October 28 to 29, 2001, hosted by the Center’s Academic Council. The conference, entitled “Centers of Modern Jewish Studies,” is expected to attract Judaic scholars from around the world and will feature individual sessions for both academic and general audiences.

Major sessions will include “Contemporary Jewish Scholarship: International Perspectives” with noted academics from Israel, Germany, France, England and Spain; “Creating Modern Jewish Studies”; “Jewish Museums: The Creation and Dissemination of Knowledge”; and “Modern Jewish Studies and the American Context.”

A distinguished panel of university and college professors is coordinating arrangements for the conference. They include Elisha Carlebach, Queens College; Robert Chazan, New York University; Henry Feingold, Baruch College; Jane Gerber, City University of New York; Michael Meyer, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; Pamela Nadell, American University; Alvin Rosenfeld, University of Indiana at Bloomington; Lawrence Schiffman, New York University; Chava Weissler, Lehigh University; Beth Wenger, University of Pennsylvania; and Steven Zipperstein, Stanford University.

**International Scholars Conference Scheduled for October**

**Hold the Date!**

“Climbing the Family Tree” A Day of Films and Workshops Exploring Jewish Family History

Sunday, November 4, 2001
Sharing Our Commitment

The Center for Jewish History thanks the following donors for their most generous participation in this exciting endeavor to preserve the Jewish past and ensure the Jewish future. This roster includes major benefactions received through May 30, 2001. Many significant gift opportunities remain available at the Center, including the naming of various outstanding facilities. Please call our Development Office at 212-294-8310.

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11