

THE NARRATOR

MAR 2018

SYDNEY
JEWISH
MUSEUM

WHERE HISTORY HAS A VOICE



SYDNEY
JEWISH
MUSEUM
TURNS

25
YEARS

THE HOLOCAUST AND
HUMAN RIGHTS: OUR NEW
PERMANENT EXHIBITION

UNSEEN UNTOLD:
OUR CURIOUS COLLECTION

SYDNEYJEWISHMUSEUM.COM.AU



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

NORMAN SELIGMAN

The Museum had a great year in 2017 and the busy few months leading into 2018 have shown that this year should be even more remarkable.

In February, the Museum launched a new exhibition, *The Holocaust and Human Rights*, which is one of the first permanent human rights exhibitions to open in a museum in Australia. This was the culmination of three years of research, consultation and design, and is the final piece in our 5 year-long redevelopment and refurbishment project to bring our Museum to a world-class standard.

Following record school student attendance of 25,000 in 2017, education bookings are promising for 2018, with large numbers of primary and secondary groups already booked in for Museum visits.

In 2018 the Museum will host three new temporary exhibitions, numerous public programs and teacher training seminars. Our temporary exhibitions and events are crucial fixtures for new and repeat visitors to the Museum, and with an increased number of programs this year, we expect total visitor numbers to exceed the 50,000 who attended the Museum in 2017.

Thank you again for your much needed and much appreciated support directly to the Museum and also through the Jewish Communal Appeal. It is vital to ensure the continuity of the valuable work we do on behalf of the Jewish and wider community.

On behalf of our President Professor Gus Lehrer AM FAA, Museum board members, staff and volunteers, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and kosher Pesach.



THE HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS

OUR NEW PERMANENT EXHIBITION

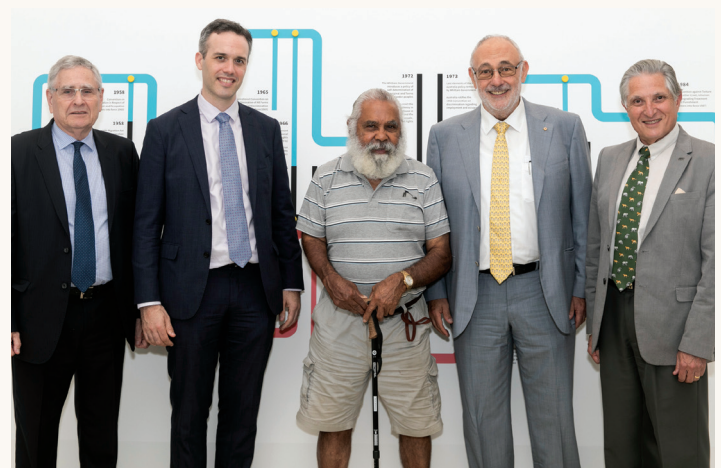
The new, state of the art Holocaust and Human Rights exhibition was officially launched on 15 February at the Museum by Australian Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Edward Santow.

As a capstone to the Holocaust exhibition, this new permanent exhibition outlines human rights achievements and challenges, and focuses on the pressing human rights issues in Australia including those of refugees and asylum seekers, people with disabilities, Indigenous people, and the LGBTIQ+ community.

The exhibition contains three main areas: a timeline of major human rights developments and violations in the 20th and 21st centuries; 'Coming to the Table', made up of four multimedia table top installations, each of which explores a human rights issue facing Australia today; and an interactive space that allows visitors to write down their reflections and voice any lingering questions.

The Museum is proud to be amongst the first museums in Australia to open a permanent human rights exhibition. This new space feeds into a global trend which sees many museums increasingly engaging with human rights.

Utilising the engaging exhibition design, digital technologies and opportunities for interaction, the Museum's education team are developing innovative programs. They are utilising this new content to develop and pilot programs to engage students in relevant discussions about local human rights issues.



Above: Norman Seligman, Edward Santow, Uncle Max, Professor Gus Lehrer AM FAA, Rob Schneider

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM TURNS 25



Since its founding in 1992 by the late John Saunders AO, members of the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and members of the community, the Museum has become an integral part of the cultural life in Sydney and a second home to many Holocaust survivors who volunteer at the Museum.

On Sunday 19 November 2017, the Museum celebrated the milestone anniversary of 25 years. Holocaust survivors, donors, museum members, volunteers and staff gathered at the Museum to reflect upon the past quarter-century, and celebrated with singing, dancing and a special birthday cake.

Distinguished guest, Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO, was joined by The Hon Walt Secord MP and Jess Miller, Deputy Lord Mayor, who honoured and recognised the Holocaust survivors and volunteers, and congratulated the Sydney Jewish Museum for their outstanding contribution to Australian society and culture.

The Museum continues to explore the history and ongoing relevance of the Holocaust and the rich contribution that the survivors have made to contemporary Australian life. As part of the 25th anniversary celebrations, the Museum will launch an exhibition titled *Unseen Untold: Our Curious Collection*, opening on 28 March 2018.

“...the Museum has become an integral part of the cultural life in Sydney and a second home to many Holocaust survivors who volunteer at the Museum.”



Top: Eddie Jaku OAM and Michael Jaku

Bottom: Jillian Segal AM and Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir AC CVO

SEEN AT THE MUSEUM

There have been a large number of public program events held at the Museum recently, with an overwhelmingly positive response both in terms of attendance numbers and feedback from audiences.

A special day of fun and entertainment was arranged for the Museum's 25th birthday celebration in November 2017. Many of the original founders of the Museum were present to cut the birthday cake and enjoy the festivities.

The Museum has become the 'go to' place for authors wishing to launch their books. More than 250 attended the launch of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* with the author Heather Morris in conversation with journalist and TV presenter Hugh Riminton. Author Diane Armstrong launched Judit Mitro's autobiography entitled *Children without Tears*, and Mark Dreyfus MP QC launched a book by Anna Rosenbaum entitled *The Safe House Down Under*.

There were several public program events held to highlight the temporary exhibition *The Jews of Greece*. Anna Conomos gave an unforgettable performance relating the story of the Jews in Thessaloniki; Nina Angelou gave a talk about her father, one of the few Greek Holocaust survivors; and the documentary *The Song of Life*, the story about the Greek Jews of Zakynthos, was screened.

To commemorate the Liberation of Auschwitz and UN International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January, four Holocaust survivors gave moving presentations about their survival and talked about rebuilding their lives in Australia. The event was held in conjunction with the Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants.

We have some exciting upcoming events to look out for. In conjunction with the Sydney Writer's Festival, on Sunday 6 May, we will present a panel entitled *My Words to Remember: five Holocaust survivors* will talk about the memoirs that they have written. On 14 June we will host a panel discussion on human rights issues in Australia today. We have an excellent line-up of panel members, including Catherine McGregor and Deng Adut. Be sure to book early as we expect tickets to sell out quickly.

TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH OUR UPCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS, GO ONLINE AND SIGN UP TO OUR WHAT'S ON E-NEWSLETTER.



UNSEEN UNTOLD: OUR CURIOUS COLLECTION

28 MARCH – 21 OCTOBER 2018

At the heart of the Sydney Jewish Museum is our collection of 9,000 artefacts which shapes and informs our exhibitions, research and education programs. Only a small fraction of this material is in our permanent exhibitions. To celebrate the Museum's 25th anniversary, the curators have gone behind-the-scenes, delving into the Archives and will showcase 25 never before seen precious, quirky and curious items, each with a unique story to tell.



WE ARE COLLECTING HOLOCAUST MEMORABILIA

As we become increasingly aware that the window of opportunity is diminishing for collecting undiscovered material from Holocaust survivors and their descendants, the Museum is embarking on a proactive collecting campaign.

Collections lie at the core of our museum. We collect and conserve this material and its associated stories and provenance. The collection drives our exhibitions, research and education programs. Objects, letters, documents and photographs are needed to expand our collection, preserve the narrative of Jewish people prior, during and after the Holocaust and serve as a memory for future generations.

What may seem insignificant may be a crucial piece of Holocaust memorabilia.

If you have an item you think should be donated to the Sydney Jewish Museum, please contact one of our curators on **02 9360 7999** or email curator@sjm.com.au



GIVE HISTORY A VOICE

Your gift or bequest will help ensure the Museum can keep the stories of the Holocaust alive.

For a confidential discussion, please contact Rob Schneider on **02 9360 7999** or email rschneider@sjm.com.au



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Image Captions: 1. Carol Gordon in The Jews of Greece exhibition; 2. Johnny, Gary and Lotte Weiss; 3. Edward Santow in The Holocaust and Human Rights exhibition; 4. Noel Zhabamwe and Deng Adut; 5. Harry Fransman; 6. London Klezmer Quartet; 7. Hugh Riminton and Heather Morris; 8. Anna Conomos; 9. Miriam Sonnenschein, Associate Professor Michael Robertson, Egon Sonnenschein, Lucille Segal



From the fun to the serious, the **MUSEUM SHOP** has you covered this Pesach with seder plates, matzah covers and boxes, afikoman bags, haggadot, gifts for children and adults. Some items are also available for sale on the Museum website.

sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au | 02 8036 0147 | shop@sjm.com.au

PLAQUE DONATIONS

The Sanctum of Remembrance offers a sacred and solemn place of reflection on the upper level of the Museum. We invite you to place a plaque to honour family members who were murdered during the Holocaust, survivors of the Holocaust who are no longer alive, and those who saved Jewish lives. All plaque donations are tax deductible.



For more information, contact Rita Prager on 02 9360 7999