

# Jewishmuseum MILWAUKEE Newsletter



NUMBER 30

jewishmuseummilwaukee.org

SUMMER 2011

## President's Message

By Marianne Lubar, Jewish Museum Milwaukee President



Marianne Lubar

**T**his newsletter brings much good news about our just finished Chagall exhibit. We brought in many new visitors with our programming around this fine portrayal of the Chagall Bible Stories series. Thank you to the Haggerty Museum for all their help on this important show. Thank you to our Program Coordinator Molly Dubin for all her work putting this together.

The exciting news is what's coming up for the Museum. We are planning a wonderful trip to Philadelphia to see the brand new National Museum of American Jewish History on September 13 and 14. Be sure to mark your calendars and sign up now. This will be a very special tour for all of us but space is limited.

Our next big exhibit which opens on August 7 will be *Mildred Fish Harnack: A Wisconsin Woman's Story of Resistance*. This is an amazing story about a Milwaukee-born woman who courageously gave her life as a member of the German resistance in WWII in an effort to stop injustice. Again, we will have some extremely interesting programming in connection with this show.

A big thank you to all who have given your encouragement, support and hard work to keep the Jewish Museum a vital part of Milwaukee and of our Jewish heritage. We have a dedicated and hard-working staff who are energized by you.

Sincerely, Marianne

## Executive Director's Report

By Kathie Bernstein

**O**ver the past year, a great deal of time was spent raising funds for the Museum. With the help of Development Chair Penny Deshur and Membership Chair Barbie Blutstein, we were able to take full advantage of matching grants earmarked for new money in the form of outright donations, new or increased memberships or special gifts. Some of our members even doubled their membership levels which were matched by these grants.

Other grants and donations that we received funded last summer's Camping exhibit, Museum visits for school groups, the recent Chagall exhibit, a needed display case, Museum operations and the Mildred Fish Harnack exhibit scheduled to open in August. A list of grants we have received is elsewhere in this Newsletter.

We continue to write grant proposals for upcoming programs and exhibits to ensure that our Museum can continue to present programs that will excite and educate the public. We are undertaking a serious effort to generate endowment gifts to ensure the viability of the Museum long into the future.

Have a wonderful summer!

Kathie Bernstein

## Fall Trip to the National Museum of American Jewish History

The Jewish Museum Milwaukee has arranged an exciting trip to see the new, highly acclaimed National Museum of American Jewish History on Independence Mall in Philadelphia for September 13 -14, 2011!

Highlights of the trip include:

- Docent-led tour of the National Museum of American Jewish History and interactive discussion with representatives of the NMAJH staff and board
- Guide-led Walking Tour of important historical sites in terms of their Jewish significance
- Cultural stops at the Rodin Museum, The National Liberty Museum and The Philadelphia Museum of Art
- Group dinner with a local scholar
- Additional cultural activity electives
- Round trip flight on Frontier Airlines; accommodations at a hotel near historic Independence Mall and in town group bus transportation

The cost for this trip is \$550 per person (subject to change), based on hotel double occupancy; single rooms available with a \$75 subsidy. Watch for more information, and start making plans to join the JMM for this cultural excursion not to be missed! For information call (414) 390-5730 or email [programs@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](mailto:programs@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org)

You are cordially invited



Tuesday, July 26 at 12 noon

Jewish Museum Milwaukee

Chairs

Barbie Blutstein and Mark Brickman

Luncheon will be served; dietary laws observed.

Please mark your calendar for a special luncheon where the Jewish Museum Milwaukee will present the new Spirit of Community Award to honor outstanding contributions to the community through support for cultural heritage, education or the arts.



The first recipient of the Spirit of Community Award will be **Suzy Ettinger**, a strong supporter of Jewish Museum Milwaukee and other local organizations.

Learn more at [www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](http://www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org) or call (414) 390-5730.

Sunday, August 7 – Sunday, November 27, 2011

## Mildred Fish Harnack: *The Story of a Wisconsin Woman's Resistance*

By Molly Dubin, Program Coordinator

**M**ark your calendar today for this new exhibit which tells the amazing story of Mildred Fish Harnack (1902 – 1943), a Milwaukee-born scholar and educator who helped build bridges between people of different nations and courageously gave her life as a member of the German resistance in an effort to stop injustice.

Raised and educated on Milwaukee's West side, Mildred attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she developed a passion for German language and literature and met and married Arvid Harnack, a Rockefeller Fellow from Germany and son of a prominent family. She taught literature in Madison and, following a 1929 move to Germany with Arvid, at several German universities. The couple maintained close ties to the U.S. Embassy, and even as the Nazis were rising to power, Mildred continued to teach literature typifying progressive American values.



Mildred Fish Harnack

Together with Arvid and others opposed to Hitler's policies and tactics, Mildred actively worked in opposition to the Nazi regime as a key member of the resistance group known as the Red Orchestra, a code name assigned by the Gestapo, until the couple was arrested in the fall of 1942. Arvid was executed, and Mildred was sent to prison but the Führer intervened and ordered her to the guillotine in February 1943, the only American woman to be executed on direct orders from Hitler.

Through a core installation designed and created by German-based artist and professor Franz Rudolf Knubel, as well as artifacts on loan from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Archives and the private collection of Milwaukee Turners' President Art Heitzer, and the work of students at the Mildred Harnack School in Berlin, this

exhibit tells Mildred Fish Harnack's heroic tale and demonstrates the difference one individual can make by standing up and taking action in the face of adversity.

This exhibit and the affiliated programs are co-sponsored by the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center, a department of the Coalition for Jewish Learning, the education program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

**Thursday, August 11, 9 am:**

Open house for teachers.

**Sunday, August 21, 12 noon:**

Exhibit opening, including musical performance.

**Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 pm:**

A lecture and presentation by New York-based scholar and author Shareen Blair Brysac on her book entitled, *Resisting Hitler: Mildred Fish Harnack and The Red Orchestra*.

**Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 pm:**

A premiere screening and discussion of the anticipated new documentary, *Wisconsin's Nazi Resistance: The Mildred Harnack Story*, a Wisconsin Public Television original production, with producer Joel Waldinger.

## Museum Summer University Series:

Does summer find you searching for interesting, educational stimulation? Then sign up for the **Museum Summer University Series!** Taking place on three consecutive Thursdays in July, the 7, 14 & 21st from 11 am – noon, this series addresses a range of fascinating topics taught by noted local university scholars.

**July 7, 11 am–12 noon:** Tim Crain, PhD, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Center for Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: **'Jews in America: Immigration to Present'**

**July 14, 11 am–12 noon:** Joshua Burns, PhD, Assistant Professor of Theology, Marquette University: **'Jewish Legend and Lore through Literature'**

**July 21, 11 am–12 noon:** Bruce Fetter, Ph D, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee: **'Empowerment of Jewish Women in 19th Century Eastern Europe'**

Cost: Free for members, \$5 per session for non members; to sign-up call (414) 390-5730 or email [programs@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](mailto:programs@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org).

## In Their Own Words: *From a Recent JMM Visitor*

It was my first visit to the Museum, but I found it very enjoyable. The Museum is very up front about answering questions about Judaism (as was the docent who told us that "there are no stupid questions"). It incorporates technology into the exhibits quite effectively, using a video in the beginning of the exhibit to answer, "What makes someone Jewish?" and later on to show the flight of the Jews on a world map, and where they immigrated to. Finally, at the end of the exhibit there is a "story corps" video booth which I have seen in a few other exhibits as well: this encourages visitors to connect with the exhibit in yet another way, by telling their own or a family member's story, and recounting their personal experience. It acts almost like a thumbprint: I was here, and this is what I have to share. Thanks for the opportunity.

**Jewishmuseum**  
MILWAUKEE  
*Newsletter*

SUMMER 2011 • NUMBER 30

The Jewish Museum Milwaukee is a program of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

Please address all correspondence and suggestions to:

Kathie Bernstein, Executive Director,  
Jewish Museum Milwaukee;  
1360 North Prospect Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3094  
(414) 390-5730

[www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](http://www.jewishmuseummilwaukee.org)  
[info@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](mailto:info@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org)

Marianne Lubar, *President*  
Jody Sussman Steren, *Editor*



**MILWAUKEE**  
JEWISH FEDERATION

## Grants Received 2010-2011

Albert & Ann Deshur Family Foundation  
Anonymous Fund  
BYFI Venture Fund  
Einhorn Foundation  
Ettinger Family Foundation  
Eugene Eder Foundation  
Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation  
Gene & Ruth Posner Foundation  
Helen & Bernard Soref Memorial Fund  
Herbert & Jane Rozoff  
Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation  
Karma Foundation  
Rudolph & Helga Kaden Fund  
Wisconsin Humanities Council  
Woman's Club of Wisconsin

## Oral Histories

Dates: August 9 & 10  
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Cost: Free

This video project is open to the entire Milwaukee Jewish community. Come and talk about your past, interview your parents and grandparents or bring business, social and family groups. Give future generations the benefit of your past, regardless of where you're from. Your story is part of the fabric of our community!

Contact Kathie Bernstein, (414) 390-5730 or email, [kathieb@milwaukeejewish.org](mailto:kathieb@milwaukeejewish.org).

## We Appreciate Your Contributions

Thank you to the following individuals for donations of materials to the Archives of the Jewish Museum Milwaukee from November 18, 2010 through June 6, 2011:

Sherman and Marianne Abrahamson	Lloyd and Sheri Levin
Freda Adashek	Arlene Mann
Burr Angle	Stephen Marcus
Suzanne Aschoff	J. Alan O'Connor
Elisha Ben Yitzhak	Miriam Orenstein
Della Bornstein	Dr. Jack Porter
Jayne Butlein	Lillian Rakita
Gerald Colburn	Max Rasansky (Brynwood Country Club)
Jill Cruz (Aurora Health Care Foundation)	Jodi Rubin
Shirley Domnitz	Suzanne Saletra
Robert and Eve Dicker Eiseman	Svetlana Shenderovich
Ruth Farber	Barbara Stein
Harrison and Florence Fishman	Bernard and Sally Lorber Stein
Susan Fono	Jody Steren
Eugene Gilbert	Andrew Stone
Gerald Glazer	Max and Tybie Taglin
Betsy Green	Dorothy Tarachow
Naomi Horwitz	Leo and Renee Weinschel
Dr. Richard Kane	Sandra Zetley
Susan J. Kellogg	Patricia Zimmerman
Mordecai Lee	Dr. Burton and Mavis Zimmermann
Karina Levin	

[jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](http://jewishmuseummilwaukee.org)

## We Want You! *Become a Docent in the Jewish Museum Milwaukee*

By Ellie Gettinger, Museum Educator

In just over three years, 6000 people have visited the Museum as members of groups. They have come from throughout the city, the state and beyond. They are Jews and non-Jews. They come from diverse ethnic, religious and socio-economic backgrounds; it is the job of a Museum docent to help them discover Jewish life in Milwaukee. Through the course of these interactions, docents find their efforts being repaid with insightful questions and enriching discourse. **We hope that you will consider joining the ranks of our talented docents!**

Our staff and volunteers will mentor you, providing historical background and one-on-one training so that you are comfortable presenting the stories conveyed in the Museum. Even if you don't feel that you can do this now, we promise that, with training, you will become a successful docent. **Classes will likely start the week of July 11 and will be completed before Rosh Hashanah.** We will work with participants to find the best time to meet as a group. All docents must be members of the Museum and must attend the majority of training sessions. Additionally, we ask that as a docent, you be prepared to lead a group before January, 2012.

This is an opportunity to engage as a lifelong learner and to become a teacher. We hope that you will join us! For more information, call Ellie Gettinger (414) 390-5742.

## From The Archives

By Jay Hyland

We are pleased that the Museum has been selected to participate in Heritage Preservation's 2011 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). A conservation professional will visit the Museum for a two-day intensive study, provide a written overview of our collections, policies and procedures, and examine our facility's environmental conditions. We are confident this CAP assessment will allow us to implement further collections care practices and continue preserving your treasures in the best possible manner.

Also, we continue to receive reference questions from throughout the world. Recently, a researcher living in Switzerland contacted us, wanting to learn more about Milwaukee's historic synagogues. We provided him with an extensive list, and he plans on visiting us this summer and possibly writing an article for a Swiss publication.

As always, if you have materials you'd like to donate, please contact us at (414) 390-5759. Your history is very important to us!



Steve "The Homer" True and Mitch Nelles discussed Jews in Sports at a JMM Program in January, attended by more than 70 people.



Guest speaker Charles Mathes is shown with Chagall Special Reception Chairs and hosts, Esther and Fredric Ancel, Suzy Ettinger and Neena and Richard Florshiem.

## 2010-2011 Jewish Museum Milwaukee

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Marianne Lubar, Suzy B. Ettinger, Penny Deshur,  
President\* Vice President\* Vice President\*

Neena B. Florsheim,  
Secretary\*

Lloyd Levin,  
Treasurer\*

Esther Ancel  
Jane A. Avner\*  
Amy Bazelon  
Barbara Blustein\*  
Alan Borsuk  
Sharon Canter  
Patricia Chamoy  
Jane Chernof\*  
Amy Croen  
Daniel Einhorn  
Mark B. Garber  
Richard C. Hack

Ethan Lasser  
Marlene Lauwasser  
Marjorie M. Margolies\*  
Brian Miller  
Rebecca Peltz  
Harry Pelz  
Clarice Resnick  
Pat Rieselbach  
Barbara Shikora  
Michael J. Spector  
Jody Sussman Steren

Jerry Benjamin  
Ex-Officio/President, Milwaukee Jewish Federation

\* Executive Committee

## Tribute Gifts

Please remember friends and loved ones with a special contribution in their name to Jewish Museum Milwaukee. It is a meaningful way to recognize a friend, family member, marriage or death while supporting the important mission of the Museum.

Each gift is acknowledged to the individual or family in whose name the gift is made. This notification does not include the amount of the gift. You will receive a separate acknowledgement for your records.

Your donation is deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please make the check payable to:  
Jewish Museum Milwaukee  
1350 N. Prospect Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3094  
Or by E-mail:  
[www.info@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org](mailto:www.info@jewishmuseummilwaukee.org)

## Museum Hours

**Monday through Thursday:**  
10 am – 4 pm

**Friday:** 10 am – 2 pm

**Sunday:** Noon – 4 pm

### Closed Saturdays

Closed for Jewish holidays:  
call (414) 390-5730 to be sure  
the Museum is open.

Docent tours are available.  
To learn more, please call (414) 390-5730.

The Jewish Museum Milwaukee may be reserved and rented for special events: please call (414) 390-5730 for more information.

## Join our E-mail list

Get advance notice of programs and events by receiving the Museum's monthly e-newsletter. Contact Caitlin at [caitlinh@milwaukeejewish.org](mailto:caitlinh@milwaukeejewish.org) or by phone, (414) 390-5757.

## Mission Statement

*The Jewish Museum Milwaukee preserves and presents the Jewish experience through the lens of Greater Milwaukee, and celebrates the continuum of Jewish heritage and culture. The archives, exhibitions, programs and publications shall inspire public appreciation for the diversity of Jewish life in a local and global historic context.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

1360 North Prospect Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3094

MILWAUKEE

Jewish Museum

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Milwaukee, WI  
Permit No. 5632