President’s Message

Perhaps you have seen our new poster commemorating the landmark status of the Lloyd Street Synagogue. It celebrates the fact that our museum site is a place where history happened. In 1845 a small group of German immigrants, overcoming the prejudices of their time, established the first permanent religious structure for the Jewish community in the state of Maryland. It is a landmark not only for Jews, but for all Americans who share in our heritage of pluralism and religious liberty.

But the Jewish Museum of Maryland is not just a place where history happened, it’s also a place where history is made – every year, every day. FY ’17 was no exception. We made history when we invited Baltimore’s distinguished “alumni” Morris Offit and Alfred Moses to speak here last September as part of Baltimore’s first Jewish Family Reunion. We made history when we brought Henrietta Szold back to life, our living history character performing at 18 venues, including an audience of 900 students at Szold’s alma mater, Western High School.

We made history when, as the Baltimore venue for the “My Family Story” project, nearly 100 students came to JMM with craft projects symbolizing their own Jewish roots – and made history again, when for the third year in a row a Baltimore student was selected to receive the grand prize of attending the international competition at Beit Hatfutsot in Israel.

We preserved history last summer when we worked with the families of survivors of the Holocaust to create the collages of the Holocaust Memory Reconstruction Project that concluded the Remembering Auschwitz exhibit. And we truly made history when we opened that exhibit this March and had our greatest March museum attendance in at least five years.

So what history will we make together in FY ’18? The plans are ambitious and the signs are auspicious. We will serve as the stage for three new exhibits. Our recently opened Just Married! Wedding Stories from Jewish Maryland will continue into September. The exhibit is a showcase for our growing collection of materials related to the life cycles of the community. Just Married! illustrates both common rituals and the enormous diversity and changes over the last 180 years of weddings. It takes history to the family level.

By contrast, Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage, our next offering, makes a global connection. These records, books and objects document a once vibrant culture, sent into diaspora by cruel oppression. Confiscated by Saddam Hussein’s government and nearly destroyed in a flooded building, these artifacts were restored by the National Archives, and the best examples were turned into this great traveling show (in a project originally led by JMM Director Marvin Pinkert). And our history-making plans won’t stop there. Plans for a third exhibit next year are now being developed.

Of course, it’s not just our exhibits that “make history.” Thanks to a grant from The Associated, we will be restoring our in-house archivist position and that individual will help us make new discoveries about our past in the thousands of photos and records we house. Our programs team is already hard at work preparing for both weighty anniversaries in the next year (including the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War, the 70th anniversary of the voyage of the Exodus, the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration) and hefty celebrations of everyday joys (e.g. the Great Kugel Cook-Off). Our education team is creating new tours of our neighborhood, even as Historic Jonestown undergoes its most dramatic development in more than a decade.

I want to congratulate the history-making donors and volunteers who are listed in this report. I hope even more of you will join us in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Duke Zimmerman
Board President
From the Director: Finding Ourselves in Jonestown

Even though it is one of Baltimore’s oldest neighborhoods, Jonestown doesn’t enjoy the same kind of name recognition as some of our neighbors. Regular fans of JMM may remember the article in the Baltimore Sun in which the reporter noted “Ask anyone in Baltimore where the Shot Tower is and they likely can tell you, but many wouldn’t be able to name the neighborhood.” Through the creation of the Jonestown vision plan, we and our partners learned that even residents and business-owners in Jonestown didn’t know where Jonestown was. But that’s about to change.

Today, Jonestown (JMM’s neighborhood, bounded to the north by Orleans Street, the east by Central Ave, the west by Fallsway and the south by Pratt Street) is on the brink of a true renaissance. Annual reports are an opportunity to share important metrics and numbers with our stakeholders.

For this report, we are only thinking about one number: seven. It’s a number important in Jewish culture, and it happens to be the number, by our count, of significant improvements and developments – recent or forthcoming – in our changing neighborhood.

So what about the Jewish Museum of Maryland amid these seven key changes in Jonestown?

Fear not, dear reader, we have plans that will make you proud! We are refining a vision for our future that will create a Center for Discourse and Discovery at JMM – with a special focus on Holocaust/genocide education in the 21st century, reposition the historic Lloyd Street Synagogue as a landmark of religious liberty, and add improved program and exhibit space to our main museum building.

These are exciting times! We hope to see you around the Museum and in the neighborhood soon.

1. Through the creation of the Jonestown vision plan, we and our partners learned that even residents and business-owners in Jonestown didn’t know where Jonestown was. But that’s about to change.

2. Jonestown doesn’t enjoy the same kind of name recognition as some of our neighbors. Regular fans of JMM may remember the article in the Baltimore Sun in which the reporter noted “Ask anyone in Baltimore where the Shot Tower is and they likely can tell you, but many wouldn’t be able to name the neighborhood.”

3. Jonestown (JMM’s neighborhood, bounded to the north by Orleans Street, the east by Central Ave, the west by Fallsway and the south by Pratt Street) is on the brink of a true renaissance.

4. For this report, we are only thinking about one number: seven. It’s a number important in Jewish culture, and it happens to be the number, by our count, of significant improvements and developments – recent or forthcoming – in our changing neighborhood.

5. These are exciting times! We hope to see you around the Museum and in the neighborhood soon.

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THE ASSOCIATED AND ITS AGENCIES:
As an agency of the Associated, JMM is a full participant in activities that advance and inspire Jewish community. This year we were pleased to collaborate on such successful programs as last fall’s Baltimore Jewish Family reunion featuring author and diplomat Alfred Moses—an event that drew more than 100 community leaders from Baltimore and beyond. We also worked together to increase the number and scope of receptions and tours for The Associated. There are four categories of partners that merit special attention in FY ’17:

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS:
In FY ’17 our education department intensified its relationship with several Baltimore City Public Schools to develop customized activities that closely align with specific classroom learning objectives. We even took our Henrietta Szold living history character out to her alma mater, Western High School, presenting to a full school assembly. We continued to foster special relationships with public charter schools as well. We were deeply moved by a visit from students from refugee families from Vanguard Collegiate Middle School. It was an opportunity to make connections between kids from Somalia, Ethiopia and Syria, and the experience of the Jewish community in the 1890s and 1930s. Of course we maintain important partnerships with Jewish educational institutions as well. This year Beth T’Shi’lah, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, and Bolton Street Synagogue were able to participate in our “My Family Story” project—which is itself a partnership with Beit HaTfutsot in Israel. Other key educational partners include the Maryland State Department of Education, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University, and the Institute of Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies.

NEIGHBORHOOD:
For many years, the JMM has worked in coalition with our neighbors to promote and strengthen community planning, which included the commissioning of a neighborhood master plan. We are leaders in the cultural affinities group Historic Jonestown, Inc. and an active participant in the Jonestown Planning Council hosted by St. Vincent DePaul Church. We are proud of the recent developments in Jonestown (see the Director’s Report in this publication on “Finding Ourselves in Jonestown”) and look forward to continuing to work with neighborhood stakeholders to promote our community as a desirable place to live, work, and visit.

THE ASSOCIATED AND ITS AGENCIES:
“...” We couldn’t do it alone.” In the case of JMM this is not just a cliché, it’s a reality. This annual report is a testament to the hundreds of individuals who gave of themselves – our Board, our staff, our volunteers, our donors and more – who make our success possible. But our recent advances in visibility, financial stability and program development have depended as much on partners who work with the JMM family as those who work within our formal organization. There are four categories of partners that merit special attention in FY ’17:

THE ASSOCIATED AND ITS AGENCIES:

We are fortunate to work at the intersection of communities where partnerships are encouraged and we look forward to working with these and many more organizations in the year ahead.
Statement of Financial Activities

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

Assets
Cash $432,561
Investments $5,638,035
Receivables & Promises to Pay $34,512
Shop Inventory $34,512
Property & Equipment $3,547,700
$9,705,241

Liabilities and Net Assets
Total Liabilities $76,785
Net Assets $9,628,456
$9,705,241

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Income
Associated Allocation $300,018
Membership Dues $70,706
Draw on Investment Income $403,827
Gifts & Grants - Unrestricted $683,071
Earned Income & Other $384,851
Total Income $1,842,473

Expenses
Public Interpretation & Exhibitions $884,326
Education & Community Services $293,971
Collections, Sites & Research $130,528
Fundraising $143,778
Administration $322,907
Museum Shop $52,996
Total Expenses $1,828,505

OPERATING RESULTS BEFORE DEPRECIATION $13,968

Depreciation
(buildings & equipment) ($255,114)
Operating Results, including depreciation ($241,146)
Investment Income ($403,819)
Change in Board Designated and Temporarily Restricted ($357,243)
Change in Net Assets ($1,002,208)

Collections Report

As always, our members and friends donated many fantastic photos, objects, and archives to the JMM collections. Thanks to this generosity, we updated several of our important manuscript collections relating to local families and organizations, such as the Pickwick Jewish Center and the Beser family; created new manuscript collections, such as the timely Exodus commemoration research collection; made exhibitions Remembering Auschwitz: History, Holocaust, Humanity and Just Married! Wedding Stories from Jewish Maryland even more memorable with new additions like a student-made 20-square-foot model of the camp at Auschwitz, and a dress-and-tuxedo combo from a 1940 Baltimore wedding; and, altogether, brought the total artifact collection to over 11,500 objects.

To view a list of all FY2017 donors and donations to the JMM collections in the past year, please visit our website at jewishmuseummd.org/collections-research/new-in-collections
$5,000 - $9,999
Dr. Robert and Carol Kwehr
Arnold and Joyce Fruman
Duke and Phyllis Zimmerman
Abram Kronberg and Robin Kaplan
Hecht-Jew Foundation
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Toby Gordon and Bruce Kaup
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$50,000+
Trudy and Milton Magarill
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Robert and Jacqueline Smealson
PSA Insurance and Financial Services
Pechter Family Foundation
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Nurses Alumni Association of Sinai Hospital
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Alexander Schostak
ANNUAL GIVING

Like most major cultural organizations, the Jewish Museum of Maryland relies on community support to sustain its programs, activities, and operations. We need your help to maintain and grow our schedule of exhibitions, programs, educational resources and community projects. Contributions are welcome at any level.

Benefactors at the $500-level and above are recognized in our annual Report to the Community and in the Museum lobby for a period of one year. Sponsors of programs, events, publications, and initiatives are acknowledged in publicity and print materials relating to those events.

Corporate sponsors and patrons are offered special donor fulfillment including free admissions for employees and their families, use of the Museum facilities for events, and prominent mention in paid ads, print materials, and Museum publications.

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

Simply fill out the form below and return with your tax-deductible gift.

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________
PHONE NUMBER: ________________________________
GIFT AMOUNT: ________________________________
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CARD TYPE: ________________________________ EXPIRATION DATE: ________________________________

Checks payable to The Jewish Museum of Maryland
Donate online at: jewishmuseummd.org/donations-memberships/donations/

PLAN AHEAD AND HELP

Many friends want to ensure their commitment to the Jewish Museum of Maryland carries on after they are gone, so that we can continue to offer vital programs for the community. Consider remembering JMM through a direct bequest in your will or through a planned financial vehicle arranged during your lifetime.

For more information on planned giving, contact Sue Foard, sfoard@jewishmuseummd.org / 410-732-6400 x5162.

Opposite page: School of the Cathedral students survey the Holocaust Memory Reconstruction Project collages.