

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

ASSOCIATION OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF POLAND



MUSEUM OF
THE HISTORY
OF POLISH
JEWS



Association
of the Jewish
Historical
Institute
of Poland



(FM)

Honorable Donors, Dear Friends,

On the front page of this photoreport you can see a curve dividing the building of our Museum. As you know, in the architect's vision it symbolizes the crossing of the Red Sea. With the opening of the building, if you will, we have crossed our Red Sea. When we fully open the Museum, i.e. launch the Core Exhibition, we will all – including the heads of state – set foot in the Promised Land. It would not have been possible without you, dear and honorable Donors. I thank you for this from the bottom of my heart.

Marian Turski

Chairman of the Museum Council, Vice Chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

A new chapter began on April 14, when the Jewish organizations met for the first time at the Museum. On that special day the Chief Rabbi of Poland unveiled and blessed the mezuzah that symbolizes new beginnings and new life.

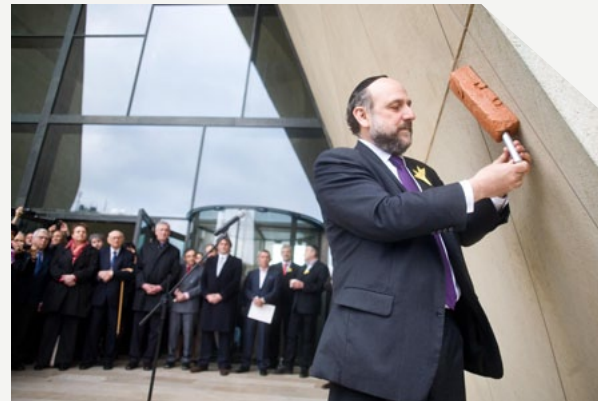
On April 19, we marked the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The official ceremonies at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes were attended by nearly 2,000 people from all over the world, including Poland's leaders: Bronisław Komorowski, President of the Republic of Poland, the Speakers of the Sejm and Senate, and Prime Minister Donald Tusk. Also present were the President of the European Parliament Martin Schultz and the Mayor of Warsaw Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz. Delegations from many countries as well as members of the Jewish community, mayors and representatives of European capitals also gathered at the monument. Guests of honor included Mr. Simcha Rotem, *nom de guerre* Kazik, one of the last living insurgents of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Following

the official ceremonies guests entered the Museum of the History of Polish Jews for a special commemorative concert. Performing were the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Richter String Quartet, the Sinfonia Varsovia Orchestra conducted by Krzysztof Penderecki and Henri Seroka, cantor Yaakov Lemmer and Kayah. In the evening, some four hundred distinguished guests gathered at the Polish National Opera for a Shabbat Dinner dedicated to the Museum's donors. Prior to the dinner, the Shabbat guests listened to a piano concert by Janusz Olejniczak. On April 20, the Museum finally opened its doors to the public. Visitors were able to admire the breathtaking architecture of the building and participate in a wide range of cultural events: concerts, spectacles, movies, debates, lectures, meetings with the Survivors and the Righteous.

This album is an illustration of those moments for those who could not experience them. For all others let it be a token of remembrance of those exceptional days.

Cover photo: (FM)

14/04



Nearly five hundred individuals from all the Jewish organizations in Poland and distinguished guests met for the first time at the Museum to celebrate its inauguration. On this occasion Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudrich placed the klaf and blessed the Museum's mezuzah. It is made of an original brick excavated from the former Nalewki Street in the heart of the prewar Jewish quarter in Warsaw. (MS)(KD)



Left: Waldemar Dąbrowski, Plenipotentiary of the Minister of Culture for the Museum Opening, Dr. Jan Kulczyk, Distinguished Benefactor, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Program Director of the Core Exhibition, Shana Penn, Executive Director of Taube Philanthropies, Piotr Wiślicki, Chairman of the Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland. (MS)
Right: The symbolic ceremony was covered by the New York Times (Photo: Piotr Matecki for NYT)



18/04



The 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising commemoration began with a gala concert at the Polish National Opera. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by maestro Zubin Mehta was accompanied by violinist Julian Rachlin, Cantor Yaakov Lemmer, and the Jewish Theatre Choir that performed the partisans anthem Zog nit keyn mol [Never say]. (PO)



Piotr Wiślicki, Cantor Joseph Malovany, Piotr Kadłcik, Chairman of the Union of the Jewish Communities in Poland (MS)



Distinguished Benefactors: Sigmund A. Rolat and Hon. Tad Taube (TP)



Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, Bogdan Zdrojewski, Minister of Culture and National Heritage (MS)



Simcha "Kazik" Rotem, one of the three living Ghetto Fighters has been awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta by President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski. (FM)



Cantor Joseph Malovany sings El Male Rachamim during the prayers at the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes. (MS)



Piotr Wiślicki, Marian Turski, Chairman to the Museum Council, and Sławomir Różański, Director of the Association JHI laid a wreath on behalf of the Donors to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. (MS)



Simcha "Kazik" Rotem (MS)



Journalists from all over the world (FM)



Distinguished Benefactors Victor Markowicz and Corinne Evens (BKG)

"The spiritual power of the Ghetto Uprising commemoration and the magnificent Museum's preview continue to be felt by the Taube and Koret Foundation's 40-person VIP delegation. These two historic events are forever intertwined on this sacred site—symbolic of our collective healing and of a Jewish future in Poland. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will have lasting impact, as these individuals will continue to support the Museum's vital educational mission."

Hon. Tad Taube, Taube Philanthropies and Koret Foundation



Distinguished Benefactors Sigmund A. Rolat, Rick Parasol, Hon. Tad Taube with Olgierd Dziekoński, Minister at the President Chancellery (TP)

19/04

“All of our guests were deeply affected by the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and overjoyed by the opening ceremony of the Museum. Numerous events and programs that filled a week of celebrations underscored the principal purpose of the Museum – to cut through the dark veil of the Holocaust and retrieve the gloried past of Polish Jews for contemporary audiences. Most importantly, this moving experience deepened the understanding of NAC’s mission to support the Museum and renewed the commitment of our donors to future projects. It is our hope that private donors in Poland and abroad will join together with us in support of the Museum’s activities and work to sustain it by building an endowment and securing its future.”

Sigmund A. Rolat, The North American Council of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews



Vilja Fussell and Hon. Tad Taube (MS)



Irene Kronhill Pletka, Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York (FM)



From left: Pinchas Gutter, Elzbieta Jassem, Carol Randy Marrus, Michael Marrus, Peter Jassem, Joseph Gottdenker (MS)



After the ceremony at the Monument distinguished guests could visit the Museum. The first post'89 Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki receiving a paper daffodil, a symbol of hope and remembrance. (MS)

“Those three days were unforgettable. The Polish nation represented by its Government and its President showed its respect for the courageous Polish Jews who decided how to die in a desperate and unprecedented situation. All the participants felt the common conviction that we will do anything possible to prevent such horrors from happening again. We will fight against any signs of actions that could result in such an ‘inhumanity of the human mistake’. We won’t allow this to happen in Europe nor anywhere in the world again.”

Corinne Evens, The European Association of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews



Right: Samuel Pisar, The European Association of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (MS)



Jan Chodakowski, Co-Chairman of the British Committee for the Support of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews (BKG)



The US Presidential Delegation - Estelle W. Laughlin, Warsaw Ghetto Survivor, Hon. Stephen D. Mull, US Ambassador to Poland (MS)



From left: Prof. Władysław Bartoszewski, Bogdan Borusewicz, Senate Speaker, Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, President Bronisław Komorowski, Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski (FM)



From right: Shai Piron, Minister of Education of Israel, Rabbi Michael Schudrich (MS)



Distinguished Benefactors Corinne Evens, Victor Markowicz, Sigmund A. Rolat and Hon. Tad Taube with the President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski at the concert in the Museum's auditorium (TP)



Eric Benhamou, Benefactor, and Jasmine Yang Benhamou (TP)



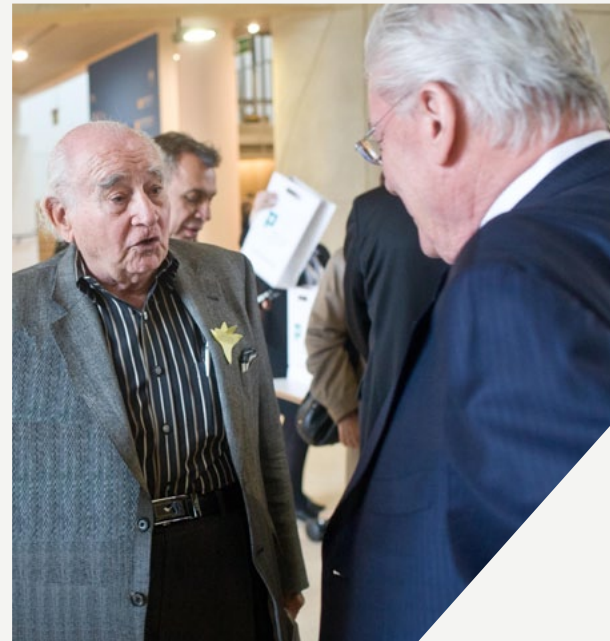
Rick and Laura Brown, Handhouse Studio (MS)

"I've begun to understand the mission of the Museum in a different context than usually - more as a bridge."

"Its importance, its scope and media coverage, awareness that it was one of the most discussed topics those days... The youth distributing the paper daffodils and leaflets... I am moved."

"During those days it was the first time in my life, since leaving Poland in 1968, that I could 'confess' without a fear to who I am."

From letters to the Swedish Committee for the Support of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews



Roman Kent, Treasurer of the Claims Conference, Distinguished Benefactor (MS)



Maria Gruber-Bień, Michał Bron, Katarzyna Gruber, Zygmunt Stępiński, Deputy Director of the Museum (FM)



Marta Prochwicz, Co-Chair of the Swedish Committee for the Support of the Museum (FM)



Guests were able to enter the construction site of the Core Exhibition to admire the remarkable painted ceiling of the Gwoździec Synagogue. (FM)

A tribute to the Ghetto Fighters. The searchlights set up in front of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Warsaw Rising Museum have crossed their beams in the sky over Warsaw. The two museums paid tribute to the Ghetto Fighters, who in some cases joined the Warsaw Uprising the following year. (FM)



19/04



Waldemar Dąbrowski hosted the Shabbat Dinner in honor of the donors at the Polish National Opera. (AD)



Guests at the concert: Piotr Wiślicki, Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, Małgorzata Omilanowska, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Culture, Marian Turski, Jerzy Buzek, former President of the European Parliament, Consul Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka, Andrzej Cudak, Acting Director of the Museum (AD)

“A most remarkable three days, with a wealth of wonderful impressions: walking through the completed Museum interiors – breathtaking architecture, which drew wide admiration; the emotionally charged ceremonies, whose true hero was the man who had taken part in both uprisings – the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943 and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944.”

Jan Chodakowski, The British Committee for the Support of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews



From left: Sigmund A. Rolat, Victor Markowicz, Hon. Tad Taube, Jeffrey Farber, Chief Executive of the Koret Foundation, Distinguished Benefactor (AD)



Dominika Kulczyk-Lubomska, Jan Lubomirski-Lanckoroński. Second row from right: Elżbieta Penderecka, Michael Berkowicz, NAC Treasurer, Bonnie Berkowicz, Roman Kent (AD)



Josef Thesing, Chairman of the German Committee for the Support of the Museum (AD)



From left: Andrzej Wajda, Rainer Mahlamäki, architect of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Krystyna Zachwatowicz (TP)

“Both the commemoration and the Museum can be best described as world class. On April 19 Poland stood up to the occasion and remembered the Jewish tragedy with utmost respect. But through the magnificent Museum she also told the world that this tragedy was preceded by Jewish life on her land, life that flourished for centuries and that made significant contributions to world civilization.”

Peter Jassem, The Canadian Committee for the Support of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews



Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Irene Kronhill Pletka, Shana Penn and Naomi Wechsler light candles to begin Shabbat. On the left: Rabbi Michael Schudrich (AD)

19/04



Sam and Tzipi Tramiel (TP)



Richard Horowitz (AD)



From left: Jelena Nissenbaum, Gideon Nissenbaum and Benjamin Nissenbaum (AD)

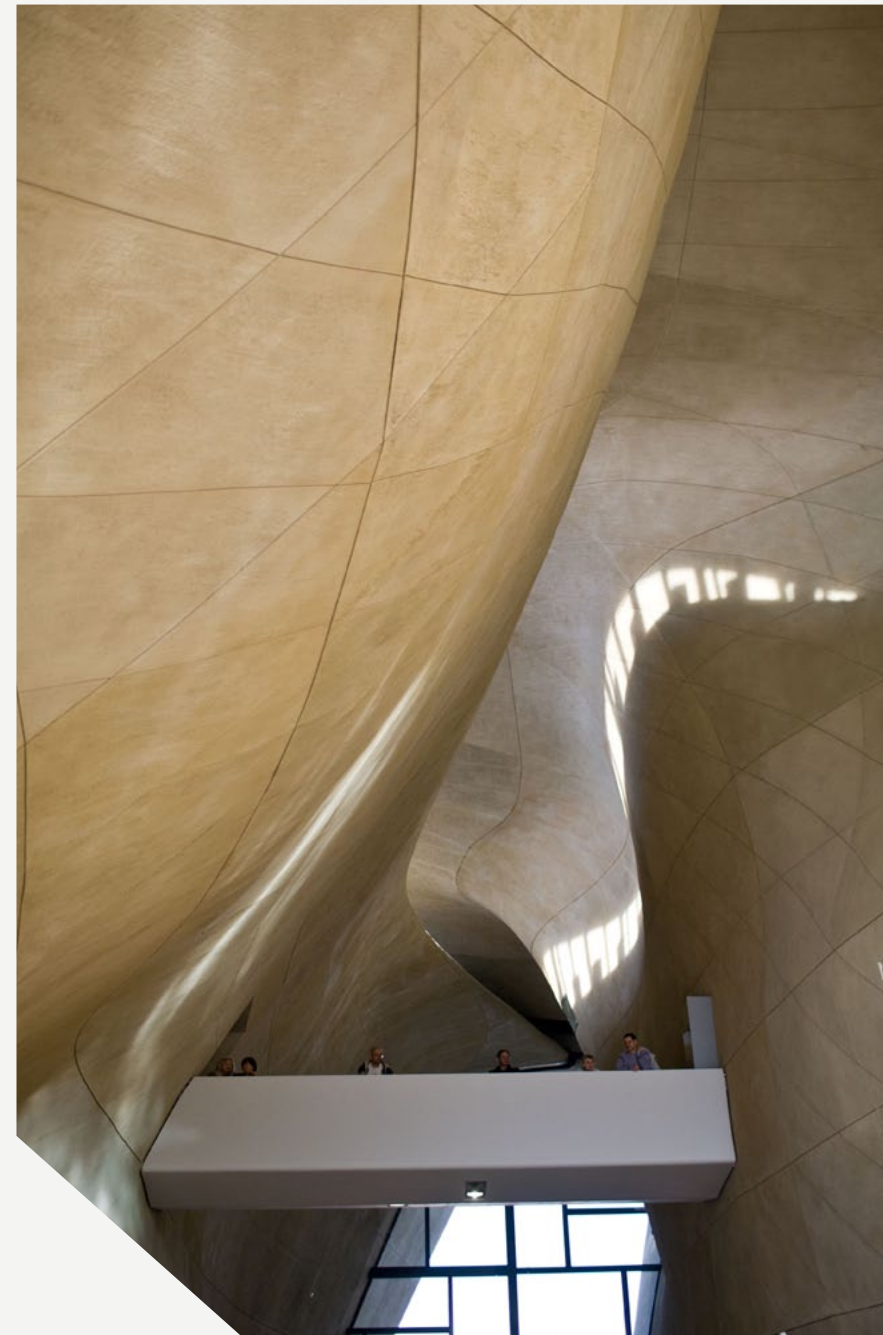


From left: Alon Redlich and Maciej Witucki, CEO Orange, Distinguished Benefactor (AD)

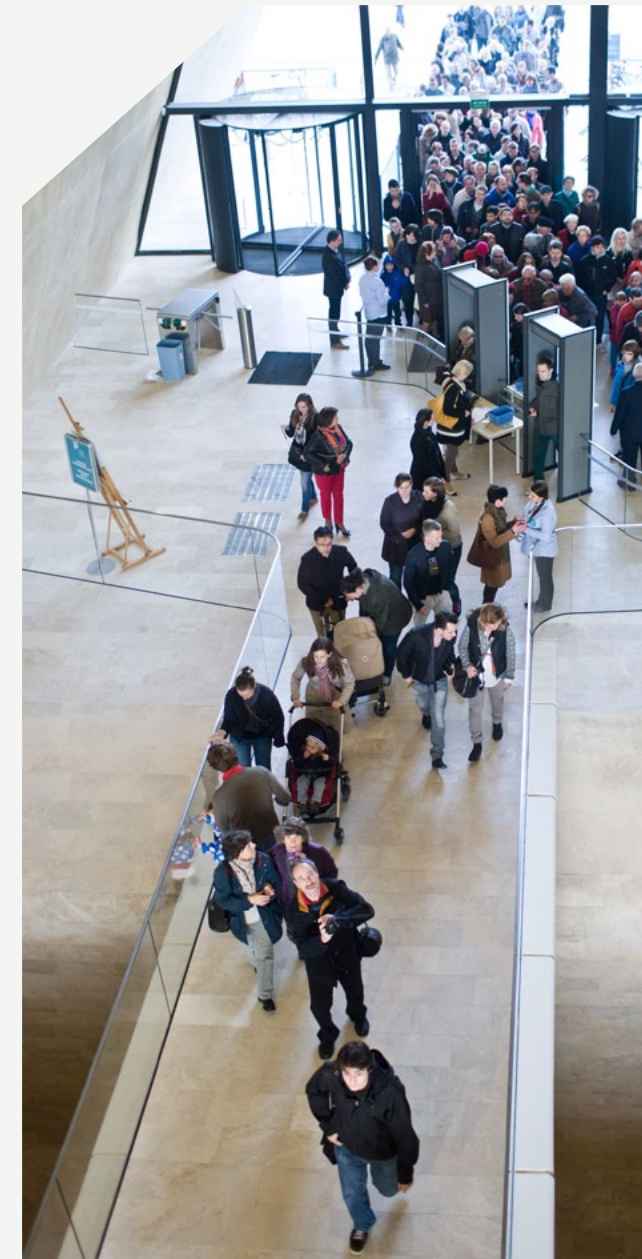


Center: Hon. Alexandra Bugailiskis, Ambassador of Canada and MP. Ted Opitz, representing the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs (AD)

20,21/04



The Museum is a bridge between the past, present and future (MS)



On April 20th and 21st the Museum opened its doors to the public (MS)



Tourists and visitors waited in long lines and filled the square outside the Museum. (MS)

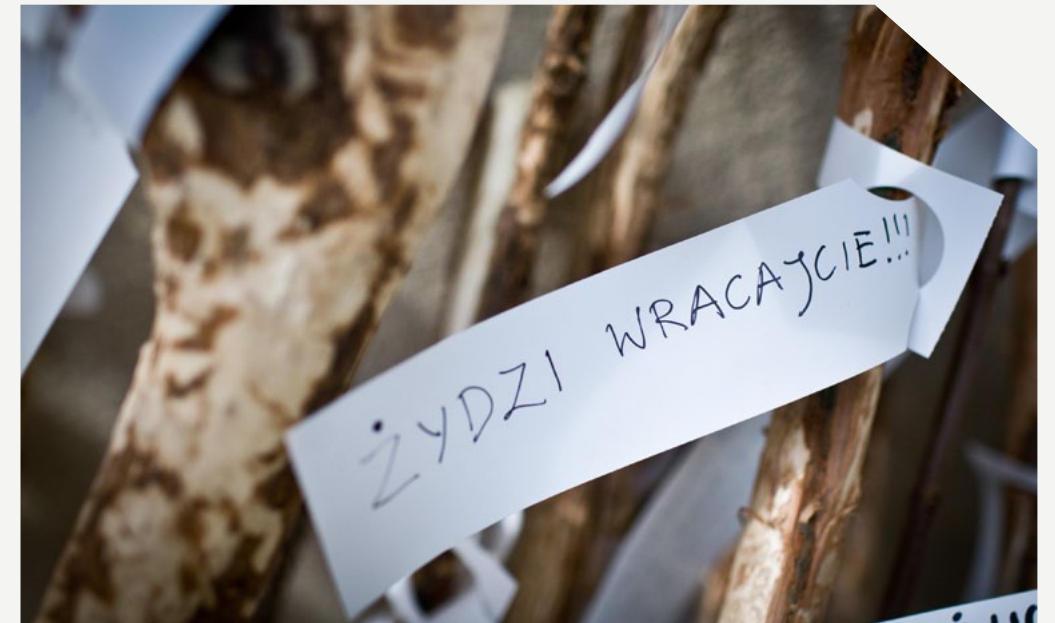
20,21/04



Among the first visitors there were also many children. This Museum is especially for them, the future generation (MS)



The installation Tree of Dreams invited visitors to support the Museum by sharing their expectations and dreams (MS)



One of which translates as "Jews [please] return!!!"



First users at the Resource Center in its temporary setting (MS)



The family tour program was overbooked! (MS)



A do-it-yourself daffodil (MS)

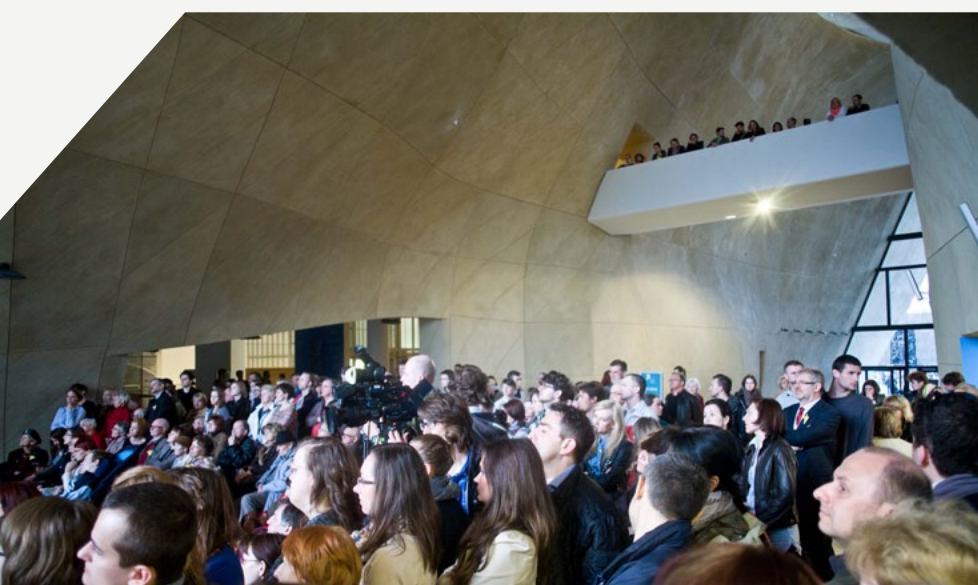


The support from visitors has been overwhelming (MS)

20,21/04



More than 7,500 visitors flocked to the Museum on the second Open Day (MS)



The crowds came, even in the evening. The audience watching the spectacle "Memory Maps" (MS)



Andrzej Rojek with family, Benefactor (MW)



Full audience during the two open screenings and the official movie premiere of "Rotem" (MS)



"The Survivors" - another movie premiere that weekend (MS)



The Bund Band concert. A sensational performance by the Wojtek Mazolewski Quartet (MS)



The cultural program is rich in educational offerings. Prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett with Prof. Sam Kassow at his lecture about Emanuel Ringelblum and his underground archive. (MS)

WORLD HEADLINES



WHAT'S NEXT?

The Museum inaugurated its cultural and educational activities and continues to develop its rich program offerings. More information about the program can be found at the Museum's website in a brand-new layout.

www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/en

The Core Exhibition walls and mezzanines separating the individual galleries and individual exhibition areas have been built. Installation and production of the galleries is proceeding in tandem with the process of obtaining digital and original museum artifacts supporting the exhibition narrative. For complete information on the progress of work, please visit the Association's website.

www.szh.org.pl

Marta Wróbel
Fundraising Managing Director
Association of the Jewish Historical Institute
Tel: +48 22 47 10 319
Cell: +48 501 221 945

mwrobel@jewishmuseum.org.pl



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Photo credits: Andrzej Daniluk (AD), Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (BKG), Franek Mazur (FM), Karolina Dzięciołowska (KD), Magdalena Starowiejska (MS), Marta Wróbel (MW), Paweł Ośka – Polish National Opera (PO), Taube Philanthropies (TP).

15,000

visitors during the
first two days

50,000

paper daffodils

400

volunteers supported
the commemoration events

1,080

pages of press clippings from Polish media only

20

diplomatic delegations at the anniversary
and the Museum inauguration

700

accredited
journalists

2 movie
premieres
and ...

1,500

viewers of the
„Rotem” movie

1,000

year history of Polish Jews