

# 2024 Year in Review



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CAPITAL JEWISH M

## WORSHIP

From one Jewish congreg  
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and plenty of places in bet

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\*Of blessed memory



Dear Museum Supporter,

Before we reflect on the milestones and accomplishments of 2024, we must first acknowledge the heartbreaking tragedy that struck our community on May 21, 2025. The loss of Yaron Lischinsky, z"l, and Sarah Milgrim, z"l, is still deeply felt. Their memories remain with us, and we mourn alongside their families, friends, and all who knew and loved them.

In the face of such profound loss, we are more committed than ever to the essential work of the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum: to capture the vibrancy and diversity of the Jewish experience in Washington and to create spaces for dialogue and understanding.

**And so we look back on 2024—a year in which the Museum truly came into its own.**

Thousands of visitors from all backgrounds walked through our doors. We welcomed our first school groups, held lively storytimes and family days, and reached young learners with the richness of local Jewish history. We helped unveil the 2024 Hanukkah Stamp in a special ceremony in partnership with the US Postal Service. We mounted an original exhibition and expanded on two powerful traveling exhibitions, convened sold-out programs—including our first community seder, urgent conversations on rising antisemitism, and a joyous inaugural gala—and witnessed a growing embrace of our role in the cultural and civic life of Washington.

At the heart of all this work is the belief that history creates opportunities for reflection, connection, and charting a path forward. We remain grateful to everyone who has stood with us and helped shape the Museum's story during this formative year.

  
Chris Wolf  
Board Chair

  
Bea Gurwitz  
Executive Director

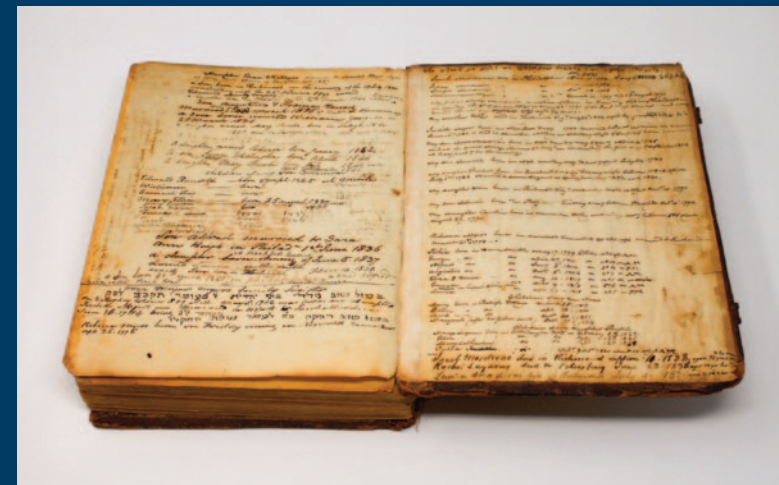
Front: Visitor exploring Jewish-owned businesses in the DMV on the Kay Family Foundation Interactive Map Table | Top: Museum as seen from the corner of 3rd and F Street NW  
Back: Visitors in the Morse-Loeb Lobby | Images courtesy of Alex Fradkin Photography

COLLECTIONS & ACQUISITIONS

# Preserving Our History

The Museum's collections contain historic artifacts and objects, personal and family papers, and archival documents and photographs. These items trace the local Jewish community's history from its founding in the 18th century to the present day, exploring the myriad intersections of Jewish cultural life and civic engagement in DC and the suburbs of Maryland and Northern Virginia.

And we are always collecting! In 2024, our collections team connected with individuals and organizations across the DMV and acquired 1,435 items that are now available for use in future exhibitions and for researchers.



Mordecai Family Bible, Gift of Stanley L. Falk. Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

FEATURED ACQUISITION

## Mordecai Bible

Rosa Mordecai was the very first Jewish child born in the DC Jewish community. Her birthdate, February 14, 1839, and the dates of dozens of other family occasions, simchas and deaths, are recorded in the Mordecai Family Bible, which dates back to the 1750s. This past February, the Museum acquired the Mordecai Family Bible from local historian Stanley L. Falk.

In 1959, Dr. Falk had written his dissertation on Alfred Mordecai's technological innovations on behalf of the US Army. His research into Alfred Mordecai led him to Mordecai's descendants, then living in Bethesda, who were very generous with access to additional family materials. And, in appreciation of his work, they presented Dr. Falk with the family Bible.

During a visit to the Museum, Dr. Falk was delighted to see the Mordecai family featured in the exhibition, *What is Jewish Washington?* and decided the Museum would be the ideal home for this treasured heirloom. In 2024, he donated it so it could be a teaching tool for the Museum.

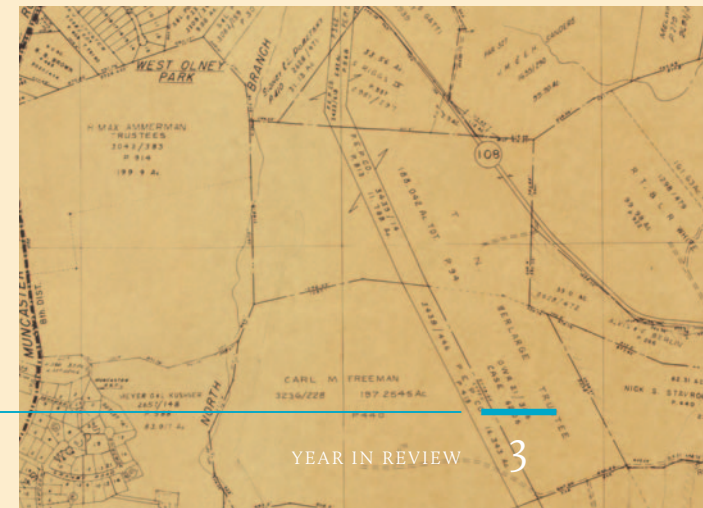


Judye Groner and Madeline Wikler (in red), co-founders of Kar-Ben Publishing, and an unidentified woman standing in front of their booth at a bookfair, ca. 1980s. Gift of Judye Groner and Madeline Wikler, Capital Jewish Museum Collection.



Gibson violin used by Elliot Sivowitch, Gift of Harold Wallace, Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

Map depicting land owners and developers near Olney, MD, 1967. Gift of Wendy Kaufman, Capital Jewish Museum Collection.



# Telling New Stories



## || IF IT'S JEWISH WE HAVE IT: SELECTIONS FROM THE COLLECTIONS

Inspired by a neon sign that introduces our core exhibition, our self-curated exhibition *If It's Jewish, We Have It: Selections from the Collections* celebrated the diversity of Jewish life in the national capital region. This exhibition showcased never-before-displayed items from the Museum's collections.

Selection of prints from the Avrum Ashery Collection, Capital Jewish Museum Collection.

Rolodex featured in Selections from the Collections belonging to IRS Commissioner Sheldon Cohen in the 1990s. Gift of Laura Cohen Apelbaum and Family, Capital Jewish Museum Collection.



## || JEWCE!: THE JEWISH COMICS EXPERIENCE

*JewCE!: The Jewish Comics Experience*, coming from the Center for Jewish History in New York City, explored 100 years of Jewish cartoons, comics, and graphic novels. A visually engaging exhibition, it touched on political cartoons, immigrant stories, female creators, Sunday funnies, some of our favorite superheroes, and much more. Scenes from local DC area comic fandom, a reading room, and an activity space rounded out the exhibition, welcoming new and old comic enthusiasts into the story.



Visitors enjoying the *JewCE!* exhibition and reading library. Chris Ferenzi Photography.

Charles Katz and the Katz/Mates family posing with a 1960's photo of himself at the Katz's Kosher Supermarket "Four Corners" location. Chris Ferenzi Photography.



## || "I'LL HAVE WHAT SHE'S HAVING": THE JEWISH DELI

*"I'll Have What She's Having": The Jewish Deli*, on loan from the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles, explored how American Jews imported traditions, adapted culture, and built community through the experience of food. The exhibition traced the larger arc of the Jewish experience in the US during the twentieth century. The Capital Jewish Museum incorporated new research and works from its collection to highlight the local Jewish community's contributions to deli culture.

*I'll Have What She's Having* Exhibition Gallery



|| PROGRAMS & EVENTS

# Welcoming Visitors of All Ages

The Museum's programs invite audiences to dig deeper into the Jewish experience in Washington—past and present. These programs position the Museum as a “third space”—neither home nor work, but a welcoming place to explore the region's history, connect with others, reflect on the past, and help shape the future.

From exhibition and holiday-inspired family days to thought-provoking panels, the Museum offers visitors of all ages opportunities to explore history and Jewish culture together.



Photos courtesy of Chris Ferenzi Photography and the Capital Jewish Museum.



|| FEATURED PUBLIC PROGRAM

## First Annual Community Seder

Inspired by the Museum's Seder Table found in the core exhibition, the inaugural Nights at the Seder Table brought together a wide variety of community partners, from Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, who each re-interpreted a section of the Haggadah through the lens of the crucial work they do. Partners included Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Action, HIAS, Historic Congressional Cemetery, Smithsonian Anacostia Museum, and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, to name a few. The Seder offered a chance to celebrate our D.C. community and honor our partner organizations that strengthen it by advancing racial justice, fostering multifaith understanding, nourishing neighbors with food, and broadening perspectives through educational and cultural programs.

With a sold-out crowd, it was an opportunity to re-visit the traditions and themes of Passover anew in conversation and in community.



|| FEATURED FAMILY PROGRAM

## Countdown to Hanukkah

On December 25, 2024, when Christmas Day and the first night of Hanukkah aligned, the Museum hosted hundreds of visitors for a family day. Highlights included a scavenger hunt, visits to see the special exhibition *JewCE!: The Jewish Comic Experience*, and decorating holiday cards and dreidels—an activity that connected the eight nights of Hanukkah with eight ways participants could bring a little more light to the world.

*The Washington Post* captured the vibrancy of the day in a feature on the cover of the Metro section. The article conveyed how the Museum became a gathering place for the local Jewish community and for out-of-town visitors eager to learn about the Washington Jewish experience.



Young visitor interacting with family programming in the Community Action Lab. Chris Ferenzi Photography.



Salon Nights: Homemade Sandwiches for Good program in partnership with MAZON and the Edlavitch DCJCC. Attendees prepare sandwiches to donate to neighbors in need.



Panel for Nights at the Round Table program on Environmental Justice

Milton Gotesman Jewish Day School students performing at 2024 Hanukkah stamp unveiling ceremony in partnership with the US Postal Service. Chris Ferenzi Photography.





Students on a guided tour of What is Jewish Washington?

SCHOOL TOURS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Reaching Students and Educators

The Museum saw its educational offerings about the impact of the local Jewish community—including school visits, student tours, and teacher professional development—gain significant traction. During the course of the year, we welcomed 32 school groups, representing nearly 700 students. At a time of rising antisemitism and few opportunities to engage with Jewish history and tradition, the Museum offers a vital space for learning, connection, and understanding.

A school group attending a storytime program.

Student and teacher evaluations show the impact of these experiences:

The most valuable part was learning more about Jewish culture and people in my community.

~ Sarah, 11th grade

I enjoyed that I learned more about the Jewish experience in DC. Just expanding knowledge and finding connections and relationships.

~ Mattias, 10th grade

The tour was tailored to our specific learning needs, so my scholars walked away with a clear understanding of basic Jewish tenets and DC history.

~ Ms. Aliyah, 6th grade teacher

I just wanted to thank you for a wonderful day at the museum yesterday. It was definitely a great fill your cup day, and I have already sung your praises to several of my coworkers and my family (who live in the area and are museum buffs). I walked away with ideas I already know I want to incorporate in my class and hopefully broader school community.

~ Ms. Johnson, high school Government and African American Studies teacher

GALA

# Inaugural Gala

On Monday, September 16, 2024, the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum hosted its Inaugural Gala at La Maison Française at the French Embassy. The evening honored Senator Ben and Mrs. Myrna Cardin, Josh and Marjorie Harris, and renowned violinist Pinchas Zukerman. Esteemed journalist Andrea Mitchell hosted the program.

The 2024 honorees exemplify the many contributions of Jews to our nation's capital through leadership, philanthropy, business, the arts, and public service. Guests were treated to a special musical performance by Pinchas Zukerman and cellist Amanda Forsyth, marking a memorable celebration of community and impact.

Inaugural Gala Committee

- Sherry Bindeman Kahn and David Kahn, Co-Chairs
- Christopher Wolf and James Beller, Co-Chairs
- Nancy Robinson Breuer and Lanny Breuer
- Esther Safran Foer and Bert Foer
- Elisa and Kenneth Glazer
- Melissa and Joshua Hausfeld
- Larry Ne
- Dee Sanae
- Pat and Robert Silverman
- Tina and Albert H. Small, Jr.



Top: Albert H. Small Jr. and Esther Safran Foer with Senator Ben and Mrs. Myrna Cardin, Honorees | Top Left: Marjorie and Josh Harris, Honorees  
 Bottom Left: Pinchas Zukerman, Honoree, and Amanda Forsyth, Cellist | Center: Andrea Mitchell, Host  
 Bottom Right: Sherry Bindeman Kahn and Chris Wolf, Gala Committee Co-Chairs  
 Photos courtesy of Chris Ferenzi Photography and Betty Adler Photography.

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A planned gift to the Museum is a legacy—a way to invest in the Museum's mission. Bequests, endowments, and other legacy gifts are important ways to secure the Museum's financial future. Benefits include recognition in Museum publications, invitations to future special programming, and the knowledge that you have helped to ensure our community's stories will be shared and preserved.

### Leadership Legacy Endowments

These endowments represent some of the Museum's most generous supporters, whose exceptional philanthropic contributions of \$250,000 or more have strengthened the Museum's endowment:

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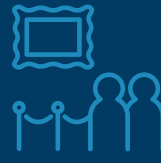


## || 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



# 1,277 members

3  
special  
exhibitions



76  
tours  
for 971 people



32  
school trips



669  
students



2338  
intern- and volunteer hours



# 22,643 visitors

78 newly acquired  
collections, which include:



195  
artifacts



1,200+  
photographs



40  
linear feet of  
paper materials

Through our  
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20+  
oral histories to  
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LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL  
**CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM**



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