

Your Jewish Connection – For Museum Lovers

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee

Written by Linda S Trapasso

Do you enjoy visiting museums? There are many fine ones in New England, but going further afield yields a treasure trove, and that includes Jewish museums.

Let's start with the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM; <http://www.cajm.net/home/>). Not every Jewish museum is a member, but there are plenty to explore. On the horizontal menu, click About Us and then click Member Institutions. A list displays of all the member museums, or you can search on the left by name or location and category. There are museums where you would expect them (New York, Greater Boston, the West coast, and Florida), and also in unexpected places (Jackson, MS; Anchorage, AK; El Paso, TX; Denver, CO). If you click on International Jewish Museums, another list displays, with museums in Europe, Australia, South America, and more.

The Jewish Museum in New York City has many online exhibitions. Go to <http://www.thejewishmuseum.org/OnlineExhibitions> and you can choose from Houdini, Curious George, Chagall, and the Dead Sea Scrolls, to name a few.



Copyright © 2008 - 2012 Contemporary Jewish Museum

In San Francisco, the Contemporary Jewish Museum has an unusual online project and exhibit. The Torah Project (http://www.thecjm.org/index.php?option=com_ccevents&scope=exbt&task=detail&oid=43&related=320) includes a Torah scroll being written at the museum by a professional scribe, as well as an online version that you can participate in. If you contribute your hand image, and a museum visitor connects to your hand image, the next letter is written in a virtual Torah scroll. You get notified when this happens and are told which letter was written. This is one way to find your letter in the Torah!

Do you have a story you want to share about your family? Then head over to the National Museum of American Jewish History and the Telling Our Story page (<http://www.nmajh.org/TellingOurStory.aspx>). You can share your story or read stories others wrote. If you enjoyed summer camp, click on Go to Camp to share pictures and reminisce.

There are two places where Jews went to avoid what was happening in Europe during World War II. Those places are Alaska and Shanghai, China. The Alaska Jewish Historical Museum & Cultural Center has a news article about how Jews came to settle in Alaska (http://www.alaskajewishmuseum.com/#!__news) and make their mark on that state. Located in the Hongkou District, the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum commemorates the time

during WWII when Jewish refugees sought sanctuary. Did you know that Shanghai received 25,000 Jewish refugees and became the only metropolis in the world that did not refuse Jews? You can check it out here: <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shanghai/jewish-refugees-museum.htm>.



Copyright © 1998-2012 TravelChinaGuide.com

If you'd like to view some lectures, head over to the Breman Jewish Heritage & Holocaust Museum in Atlanta, GA (<http://www.thebreman.org/index.html>). Click on Events & Programs on the left, and then click on Videocasts. There is a variety of topics, from Holocaust stories to cartooning.

In our nation's capital is the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington (<http://www.jhsgw.org/index.php>). Click on Collections in the horizontal menu. On the next page, click on Objects of the Month. Every month an item from the Society's collection is highlighted. You'll find posters and banners as well as ritual objects, even a circumcision gown.

So go to the Council of American Jewish Museums (CAJM; <http://www.cajm.net/home/>) and begin your museum exploration. You're sure to uncover Jewish treasures around the world.