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Second Annual Mah Jongg Marathon on March 11

Rings in the Year of the Dragon and Puts the Fun in Fundraising

at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

New York, NY—On **Sunday, March 11, from noon to 5 p.m.** the **Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust** will be hosting the second annual ***Mah Jongg Marathon***. Participants will pay a \$36 registration fee in advance or \$54 on the day of the marathon and will get sponsors to support them in their efforts. The structure of the event will resemble that of a walk-a-thon — no carb-loading required. All proceeds will benefit the Museum.

Melissa Martens is the curator of *Project Mah Jongg*, the Museum of Jewish Heritage’s wildly popular exhibition that inspired the marathon, now on view in Cleveland at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. She said, “Since the 1920s, mah jongg has been used by Americans for both entertainment and philanthropic purposes. Mah jongg is still the perfect way to have a great time while supporting a cause you believe in.”

Dr. David G. Marwell, the Museum’s director and a newish player himself, said, “At last year’s marathon dozens of players, representing four generations, took time to kibitz, win a few hands, and raise money for our Museum. We look forward to welcoming them back along with new enthusiastic players.”

The event will include special raffles, such as a gift certificate for the Gotham Bar and Grill. Other raffle prizes will be announced at a later date.

Participants are encouraged to register online through FirstGiving.com (<http://www.firstgiving.com/mjh/mah-jongg-marathon-2012>) and set up a personal fundraising page. Participants may also register by phone. Players may register alone or with a team. Single players will be matched with other players of their own level. All levels are welcome. Participants can play for as little or as long a time as they wish. Snacks will be included and lunch is for sale at the Museum’s café.

The Museum will also offer a free mah jongg lesson on Wednesday, February 29 at 6 p.m. for all those interested in learning and participating in the marathon.

For more information, please contact mahjongg@mjhnyc.org or call 646.437.4224.

About the Exhibition

Project Mah Jongg, which was on view in New York from May 2010 through February 2011, was a favorite of visitors and critics alike. It explored how the game of mah jongg has ignited the imagination

with its beautiful tiles, mythical origins, and communal spirit since the 1920s. The exhibit is currently at the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage in Beachwood, Ohio through April 22, 2012. It will open at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles on May 17 and will remain on view there through September 2, 2012. Visit www.projectmahjongg.com for more information about the exhibition's touring schedule.

This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of the National Mah Jongg League. Additional support provided by Sylvia Kay Hassenfeld and the Twice Arts Foundation. Exhibit design by Abbott Miller, Pentagram. New York magazine is the media partner.

About the Museum of Jewish Heritage

The Museum's exhibitions educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. Current special exhibitions include *Emma Lazarus: Poet of Exiles*, on view through December 2012 and *Let My People Go!: The Soviet Jewry Movement, 1967-1989*, on view through April 29, 2012. It is also home to the award-winning *Keeping History Center*, an interactive visitor experience, and Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall and receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

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