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## **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust Wins Prestigious Awards for Interactive Websites**

New York, NY—The **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust** is pleased to announce it is a recipient of two awards honoring its achievements in the areas of media and technology. This spring, the Museum won both the **2009 Best of the Web Award** for its **Online Collections**, presented by **Museums and the Web**, and the **2009 MUSE Award** for its **Living Museum** website, presented by the **American Association of Museums**.

“We are delighted to be recognized by our peers,” said Museum deputy director Ivy Barsky, “Through our on-line collections and programs, exhibition companion sites, and especially in our upcoming Keeping History Center, our staff has done a tremendous job of exploiting new technologies on- and off-site to engage visitors in depth with our collections and their interpretations in ways that more traditional museum practice simply doesn’t allow.

Museums and the Web has presented the Best of the Web Awards annually since 1997. The Museum of Jewish Heritage’s Online Collections (<http://collections.mjhnyc.org>) won this year’s Research category for its ease of use for both experienced and novice researchers as well as for its accuracy and depth of content. The Online Collection was conceived nearly a decade ago but only came to fruition in the past year. By putting the Museum’s collection online, anyone anywhere has the opportunity to experience Museum artifacts, including those not currently on display. This site also allows online visitors to search for items by donor, owner, place, or keyword to learn more about certain objects in the collection, and to see detailed, high-res images of artifacts.

Awarded the MUSE Award in the category of Teaching and Outreach, the Living Museum (<http://living-museum.org>) is an interactive online venue where fifth and sixth grade students in Jewish schools create virtual exhibitions of artifacts that represent their Jewish heritage. Through their individual, family, and class research, the students develop a strong appreciation for Jewish culture, community, and history. Jurors described Living Museum as an “incredible way to get children and parents engaged in conversation at home. This inspiring project proves that a museum is more than the bricks and mortar of a physical space. The project personalizes the museum experience, helping students understand that everyone can be part of the museum world and that everyone has artifacts and stories worth sharing.”

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### **About the Museum**

The Museum’s three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. Special exhibitions

include *Woman of Letters: Irène Némirovsky and Suite Française*, extended through August 30, and *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, on view through January 4. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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