



NOVEMBER 2011 WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

JEWISH MUSEUM
OF AUSTRALIA
GANDEL CENTRE OF JUDAICA

THIS MONTH

Mameloshn garners accolades winning Victorian Community History Award for best exhibition as well as bolstering its street cred as Yiddish makes its mark on hip urban cafe **1000 Pound Bend**. Curtain call at the Museum as Yiddish theatre hits the stage with Arnold Zable's **Wanderers and Dreamers** and find out more about **The Babel Project** participants.

TOP NEWS STORIES

Mameloshn wins Best Exhibition Award

Mameloshn - How Yiddish Made a Home in Melbourne won the Victorian Community History Award in the category 'Best Exhibit or Multimedia'. The winners of the Victorian Community History Awards 2011 were announced at Queens Hall, Parliament House on Thursday last week.

Public Record Office Victoria administers the funding for the annual Victorian Community History Awards, which recognises the contributions made by Victorians to the preservation of Victoria's heritage. The awards are presented by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Kate Prinsley, Executive Officer at the Royal Historical Society of Victoria says, "*Mameloshn* won through the high quality of its various elements, the excellence of its design and implementation and the strong community involvement in its development and production. The exhibition gives a comprehensive account of the broader history of the Yiddish language, while still being firmly anchored in the Yiddish-speaking community in Victoria."

"The central focus of the exhibition is 'the Jewish streets' of Carlton and St Kilda, which is evocatively recreated in documents, artefacts, photographs, books and films. Deeply moving, historically coherent and brilliantly presented, this exhibition is of lasting importance and significance."

Exhibition Curator Anna Epstein says "The exhibition tells the story of one amongst many migrant communities, and there could not have been a more passionate and committed exhibition committee as the one I was fortunate enough to work with on *Mameloshn*. I couldn't have maintained the fire to mount this dynamic and complex exhibition without this extraordinary group of people, young and old, who continually amaze me with their commitment and dedication to Yiddish language and culture and always remind me why it is so important to preserve this story. And so I accept this award on their behalf."

[>> Read more news online](#)



1000 Pound Bend Cafe turns Little Lonsdale Street into a Yidishe Gas

Hipsters at groovy CBD cafe have been exposed expressing their infatuation with the Yiddish language. Polaroids of the staff at 1000 Pound Bend adorn the wooden panels across the bar. Sebastian Henderson, responsible for this indie photographic exhibit says "I've always been a bit obsessed with Yiddish and east New York Jewish culture, and all the comedians - Larry David, Seinfeld, Woody Allen. Their integration of the language is amazing. I just loved the idea of getting everyone to pose with the word *schlep* in front of them."

INFO

Tuesday – Thursday
10am – 4pm
Sunday 10am – 5pm

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Image top:
Self-portrait, Zahava Gutnick-
Pinson, The Babel Project

EXHIBITIONS



Mameloshn – How Yiddish Made a Home in Melbourne Runs until Sun 11 March 2012

Curated by Anna Epstein in consultation with a dynamic Yiddish committee including writer Arnold Zable, historian Andrew Markus and Freydi Mrocki. *Mameloshn* - How Yiddish made a home in Melbourne documents the journey of Eastern European Jews who came to Melbourne to recreate their lives. With over fifty percent of the exhibition from the Museum's Collection, *Mameloshn* will showcase the complexities, the controversy, the theatre, music and politics of the Melbourne Yiddish community, and the lasting contribution of a language and culture that has been woven into what is now multicultural Melbourne. A story of migration and integration, *Mameloshn* is at once a universal and distinct social history tale.

NEWS



Celebrating Sir Zelman Cowen's Birthday

Earlier this month, we celebrated the 92nd birthday of Museum Patron Sir Zelman Cowen with a sneak peek into the redevelopment of the Australian Jewish History Gallery to be renamed in Sir Zelman's honour. The exhibition will incorporate latest technologies and museum design that focuses on participatory engagement. The Jewish Museum Collection is made up of nearly 20,000 objects, a large proportion being donated from members of the Australian Jewish community. The gallery is scheduled to reopen at the end of May 2012 and will feature a contemporary Australian Jewish section.

Image top: *Mameloshn* Installation, Jewish Museum of Australia
Image bottom-left: *Sir Zelman Cowen receiving certificate*, Jewish Museum of Australia

Image bottom-right: (*Detail*) *Hagar and Ishmael in the Wilderness* 1798, John Singleton Copley



Rebecca Forgasz speaks at Limmud Oz Fest Fri 25 – Sun 27 Nov 2011

Rebecca Forgasz, Museum Director is running two sessions this month at Limmud Oz Fest, an informal and fun Jewish festival of learning. The first session, **Tricksters, victors & (m)others: new perspectives on biblical women** will explore a selection of historical and contemporary artworks that offer a range of perspectives - provocative, critical, empowering and inspiring - on biblical women. The second session, **The meaning of things: history, memory & museums**, looks at examples of objects from the Jewish Museum of Australia's collection and considers their potential to connect us with, and even reinvent, Jewish memory. Participants are encouraged to bring along an object - precious or ordinary - that means something to them.

Venue: Rutherford Park Retreat, Blampied, Victoria
Information & bookings: www.limmudozfest.com



The Babel Project

Runs until Sun 11 Mar 2012
Gross Gallery

Inspired by the famous biblical story of the unfinished Tower of Babel, the Jewish Museum of Australia and its partner organisations present a multicultural arts program and exhibition, *The Babel Project*. Photographic artist Georgia Metaxas worked with 36 participants from a rich variety of cultural backgrounds from the four compass points of Melbourne, who were all invited to explore their commonalities through photography. The result is a powerful multimedia, soundscape installation that audiences can watch, listen to and experience.

After being exhibited at The Substation, Hume Global Learning Centre and Cardinia Cultural Centre, *The Babel Project* is now open for viewing in the Gross Gallery at the Jewish Museum.

Participant Profile #1

Name:

Zahava Pinson-Gutnick

Age:

25

Occupation:

Visual Art student at RMIT University

Culture/Religion:

Jewish Orthodox

Country of Origin:

Australia

Current suburb of residence:

East St. Kilda

Marital status:

Married to Reuven Pinson from New York

Children:

Two year old baby boy Shua (Yehoshua)

My breakfast consists of:

A bowl of cereal and milk and a fresh fruit (banana/apple/orange)

My favourite book is:

Man's Search for Meaning by Victor E. Frankl

I most regret:

I try not to look back and regret the past, just look forward to the future

I am most proud of:

My family; my husband and my baby boy

I hope one day:

To have a healthy and happy family, and to do something meaningful with my artwork

The most wonderful aspect of my culture/religion/ life is:

Keeping Shabbos (Sabbath); a holy day of rest, free of all the week's worries and distractions; I can really spend quality time with my family and friends.

The most challenging aspect of my culture/religion/ life is:

Trying to do the right thing by G-d, my family and my community, whilst staying true to myself.



Image top: Babel Installation, Jewish Museum of Australia
Image bottom: I, Zahava Pinson-Gutnick



Programs

Wanderers and Dreamers

Sun 20 Nov

Times: 5:30pm, 8pm

(Doors will open 20 minutes before each performance)

Venue: Jewish Museum of Australia

Cost: \$30 / \$25 Members

Places limited - Bookings essential:

8534 3600

The Jewish Museum of Australia celebrates **Mameloshn** and a wonderful year of Yiddish culture in Melbourne, with two exclusive performances of **Wanderers and Dreamers**. Featuring stories performed by Melbourne writer Arnold Zable, and interwoven with the vibrant music of Freydi Mrocki and David Krycer, *Wanderers and Dreamers* features the romance, music, laughter and tears of Yiddish theatre in Australia. Based on Arnold Zable's book by the same name, the tales trace the extraordinary journeys of the many performers and colourful characters who throughout the last century, brought Yiddish theatre to distant Australia from all corners of the globe.



Museum Travel Tours

Medieval Spain

8 - 23 May 2012

Contact Paul Forgasz at travel@jewishmuseum.com.au to obtain a registration form.

There are limited spots left on the tour.

After two years running, the Jewish Museum of Australia's highly acclaimed 16 day study tour of Jewish medieval Spain will return in May 2012. Lecturer in Jewish history at Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and in the Jewish Museum of Australia's short course program, Paul Forgasz, will be leading the tour. As you visit particular sites you will re-live significant historical moments; step into the shoes of the great medieval Spanish Jewish poets, statesmen, scientists, philosophers and mystics; and enter the vast cultural and intellectual storehouse of this once thriving centre of Jewish civilisation. The itinerary has been designed so as to enable you to experience the story of the Jews of Spain as an unfolding chronological narrative.



Museum Walks

Mansions of East Melbourne

Sun 13 Nov

Meet at the corner Clarendon Street and Wellington Parade (Hilton Hotel side)

Cost of each Walk: \$15 per person
Bookings essential: 8534 3600

For your comfort, we suggest you bring an umbrella, sunscreen, water and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Stroll through graceful Victorian thoroughfares to revisit the grandeur of early Melbourne. See the former home of Sir John Monash, academic, engineer, war hero; the Freemasons Hospital; Bishopscourt, the former home of Sir Benjamin Benjamin, politician and Mayor of Melbourne; Chandos; the site of Cliveden Mansions (now the Hilton Hotel); 'Little Pardon' Queen Bess Row and more.