

## JEWISH MUSEUM of FLORIDA

301 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139-6965

Phone: 305-672-5044 Fax: 305-672-5933 Website: www.jewishmuseum.com

Open Tuesdays-Sundays 10 am to 5 pm; Closed Mondays & Civil & Jewish Holidays;  
Museum Store and Bessie's Bistro Closed on Saturdays

Admission: Adults/\$6; Seniors/\$5; Families/\$12; Group Admission: \$5 per adult, \$2.50 per child.  
Members and children under 6/ Always Free; Saturdays/Free. Group Tours: 305-672-5044, ext. 3176

### EXHIBITION SCHEDULE 2011 - 2013

#### **MOSAIC: JEWISH LIFE IN FLORIDA CORE EXHIBIT: Ongoing**

More than 500 photos and artifacts depict the Jewish experience in Florida since 1763, reflecting a thematic presentation of immigration, community development, discrimination, earning a living, acculturation and identity. Personal artifacts, films, photos, timeline and contemporary art, attract a universal audience by telling the universal story of immigration as the example of the acculturation process of every family and provide an engaging, up close museum experience. The Museum is housed in two former synagogues that served the first congregation on Miami Beach. The primary building is a restored 1936 Art Deco building with a copper dome, marble bimah and 80 stained-glass windows. The second is the original 1929 shul. The skylighted Bessie's Bistro connects the two buildings



**Dzialynski Pocket Watch.**  
*This pocket watch with Hebrew numerals was owned by George Dzialynski (1857-1937), the first known Jewish boy born in Florida. The Dzialynski family still lives in Jacksonville.*

#### **WOODEN SYNAGOGUES OF POLAND & THE FLORIDA CONNECTION THROUGH MARCH 18, 2012**

Since the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Jews lived in Poland the homeland for 80% of American Jews. During World War I and World War II, 3.5 million Jews lived in the Polish Republic in *shtetls* (small Jewish towns or villages in Eastern Europe) and built wooden synagogues that represent Jewish folk art. During World War II, the Nazis wiped out the Jewish population and destroyed these early 17th & 18th century wooden synagogues that were monuments of Jewish culture.

Englishman Peter Maurice studied and made models of 10 of these synagogues as he was coping with an incurable illness. Before his death, he searched worldwide for the best "home" for his passionate handwork. After visiting our Museum, he donated his models to us. To tell the expanded story, we made a Florida connection, using photographs and artifacts from Floridian Jews whose origins are from Poland.



**Model of Wooden Synagogue in Gombin, Poland, built in 1710.**

#### **MAX MILLER: FINAL MOURNER'S KADDISH: 333 DAYS IN PAINTING THROUGH MAY 13, 2012**

In this exhibit, the artist's grief provides the inspiration for a vivid, moving, and cathartic account of his year spent saying *Kaddish* (the Jewish prayer of mourning), for his father. The 50 vibrant watercolors depict the synagogues that Miller visited in New York, Vermont, Ohio, and Florida, along with the artist's commentary, based on his thoughts, feelings and experiences with those he met during this pursuit. While honoring the Jewish tradition of memorializing a parent, he came to learn a great deal about his father and their shared heritage.

*This exhibition by Max Miller originated at the Yeshiva University Museum in New York City and is Sponsored by New York Foundation for the Arts.*



**Cuban Hebrew Congregation, Miami Beach, Florida.**

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN LITHUANIA & THE FLORIDA CONNECTION**

APRIL 3 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

This exhibition of paintings and prints by English artist Naomi Alexander records the last remnants of Jewish heritage to be found in the country of Lithuania. Alexander, who is of Lithuanian origin, was invited to be artist in residence at the Europas Parkas Sculpture Museum in Vilnius, Lithuania. She traveled the country to create artwork depicting her impressions of the people and their communities. To tell the expanded story, the Museum will make a Florida connection using photographs and artifacts from Floridian Jews whose origins are from Lithuania.



*Interior of a home, Ziezmariai.*

**MEL FINKELSTEIN: PICTURING THE MAN BEHIND THE CAMERA**

MAY 22 – OCTOBER 14, 2012

This exhibition examines a lifetime of work by acclaimed photojournalist Mel Finkelstein. From the late 1960s to late 1980s, when readers rifled through the *Daily News* to see “what happened in New York yesterday,” more often than not, their view of the city and themselves came through the lens of Mel Finkelstein. This collection of photos from the 1950s-1980s focuses on iconic symbols from our cultural past, giving a sense of this larger-than-life man and his world of time, place and celebrity.



*Mel Finkelstein & Kim Novak, 1960.*

**PROJECT MAH JONGG**

OCTOBER 16, 2012 – MARCH 17, 2013

The game of mah jongg is a true cultural hybrid. With roots in china, it made a lasting impression on American audiences in the 1920s and became closely linked with the experience of Jewish women beginning in the 1930s. This exhibit explores the fascinating history of the game and its impact on cultural identity, fashion and style. It is a story of immigration and migration, cultural borrowing and inventive adaptation.

*Exhibition created and circulated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, New York.*



*“Floating” games of mah jongg, such as this, were common on Miami Beach.*

**FROM HOME TO HOME: Jewish Immigration to America**

OCTOBER 30, 2012 – JANUARY 27, 2013

This fun-filled exhibition brings to life the topics of **Immigration, American History, American Jewish History and Diversity** through 28 interactive modules. Students, children and families will experience the immigration story based on themes relating to all cultures: Why Move,? Where to Go,? What to Take,? New Beginnings, Helping Each Other, Change and Influence.



*What to Take to America?*

**MIAMI MOSAIC: PORTRAITS BY INEZ HOLLANDER**

FEBRUARY 5 – MAY 5, 2013

These portraits by Miami artist Inez Hollander represent a cross-section of people in her community, depicting a myriad of images and characters that constitute the “Miami Mosaic.” In creating this series, the artist assumes the role that Jewish people have historically occupied, as a chronicler and storyteller in the Diaspora.



*Alex as a Bride.*