



A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 19, 2014

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**MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE—A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST
CELEBRATES LEGACY OF FOUNDING CHAIRMAN ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU
AND WELCOMES NEW CHAIRMAN BRUCE C. RATNER**

NEW YORK (June 19, 2014) – Tonight, the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust gathered to celebrate the legacy of its founding Chairman, Robert M. Morgenthau. Honored speakers including the District Attorney of New York County, **Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.** and others paid tribute to Mr. Morgenthau’s dedication and accomplishments in the 32 years of his tenure as he steps down from this leadership role and becomes Chairman Emeritus. Upon this transition, Bruce C. Ratner assumes the role of Chairman of the Museum.

Mr. Morgenthau has served as Chairman of the Board since 1982, one year after Mayor Koch created a Task Force on the Holocaust. The Museum, which is located in Battery Park City, opened in 1997. The Robert M. Morgenthau Wing opened in 2003. The Museum’s mission is to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

“As our name suggests, the Museum of Jewish Heritage is a living memorial, a celebration of the Jewish people’s history,” said Robert M. Morgenthau. “I’m so honored to have been part of the Museum’s creation and its on-going vitality, and look forward to remaining involved for many years to come.”

Mr. Morgenthau added, “I’m thrilled to welcome Bruce Ratner as Chairman. Bruce has long been a friend to me and the Museum. And most important, he understands that teaching about 20th and 21st century Jewish history and the Holocaust in a way that is meaningful to a large and diverse community is critical to the Museum’s future and its commitment to the principles of education and social justice.”

Bruce Ratner, the Executive Chairman of Forest City Ratner Companies, said, “The Museum of Jewish Heritage, the building and the programs, will long stand as a monument to how the Morgenthau family has worked endlessly on behalf of the Jewish people – before and after the

Holocaust. I strongly believe that Bob's sense of justice and the power of the law are derived directly from his involvement with these issues. As he has explained, 'What makes the Holocaust such a unique event in history is that the civil police and government officials were involved.' The Museum of Jewish Heritage reminds us that we must always be vigilant and that we must all be prepared to say never again."

Dr. David Marwell, the Director and CEO of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, said, "Robert Morgenthau had a clear vision for the Museum from the very start and helped shape it into an important educational institution, and a vital place of memory. It was Bob's belief that the Museum should not only relate the tragic history of the Holocaust, but should also celebrate Jewish life by exploring its variety and richness. He succeeded in creating an institution that has earned its place in the cultural landscape of New York City and its reputation as a crucial stop for all who believe that we must understand the past in order to navigate the future."

Mr. Ratner explained that he looks forward to working with Mr. Morgenthau and other board members to help further the Museum's mandate to share the experience of the Jewish people and the Holocaust with as diverse an audience as possible. Mr. Ratner's family, like many Jewish families, was affected by the Holocaust. "After the war, my mother committed herself to resettling survivors, finding homes and apartments. She, most of all, would remind us, 'Never Forget.' In that spirit, and her memory, I'm humbled and excited to take on the role of Chairman of this vital institution."

Mr. Ratner has served on the Board of Trustees since October 1996. He was the co-chair of the Building Committee, and his firm provided pro-bono construction project management for the Museum's expansion, the Robert M. Morgenthau Wing, which opened September 15, 2003.

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

The Museum, which opened its doors September 15, 1997, tells the story of 20th and 21st century Jewish history from the perspective of those who lived it. Created as a living memorial to the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust, the Museum honors them by celebrating their lives. In the Museum's Core Exhibition, personal objects, photographs, and original films illustrate the broad tapestry of Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust. Special exhibitions complement the Museum's mission of preserving memory while highlighting the richness of Jewish heritage. Edmond J. Safra Hall presents world-class cultural programs which welcome a wide range of speakers, performers, and films. Innovative education programs reach thousands of students and teachers across the country. The Museum's international presence is enhanced by the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oświęcim, Poland; JewishGen, the premier web portal for Jewish genealogy; and the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). Home to contemporary spaces like the *Pickman Keeping History Center*, *Garden of Stones* by Andy Goldsworthy and James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, the Museum stands as a beacon of hope for this generation and those to follow. www.mjhnyc.org.