



American Friends of the Jewish Museum Hohenems Special Report - 2013 Year in Review

We hope you will enjoy this special report to summarize the Jewish Museum Hohenems' successes of the year 2013. Your generous support helps to sponsor events and exhibits such as these.

Wishing you happy holidays and a wonderful new year!

- The officers and trustees of the American Friends of the Jewish Museum Hohenems

An initiative of the Jewish Museum Hohenems was successful: The Austrian Museum of Ethnography in Vienna honored their Jewish researchers and sponsors from 1900-1938 with a memorial plaque next to the entrance. The moving ceremony on March 1, 2013 was attended by many visitors and also by Christian Goldstern and other members of the family of Eugenie Goldstern, the Jewish ethnographer of Alpine folklore, who was murdered by the Nazis in Sobibor in 1942. She not only worked for the museum for many years, but also left her important collections to the museum, before anti-Semitism and racism ended their collaboration – and her life.



On April 21, 2013, 300 visitors attended the opening of "Family Affair. Israeli Portraits," with photographs by Reli Avrahami and interviews by Avner Avrahami. For ten years the Avrahamis portrayed Israeli families for the weekly supplement of Haaretz, the liberal newspaper of Israel, a fascinating study in the diversity of the Israeli society. Shown at left, Ada Rinderer with her family, visiting the exhibition: two family portraits in one. Photo: Dietmar Walser

The multicultural youth theatre troupe MOTIF from Bregenz, formed by children of Turkish immigrants and "natives" from Vorarlberg, realized a courageous project, with the support by the museum. Arthur Miller's "Playing for time," his successful confrontation with Auschwitz and the history of its "Jewish girls orchestra" was performed in a breathtakingly intensive production. In preparation, the young actors traveled to Auschwitz and other sites, met with survivors, and worked on the project for months. On May 24, 2013, the troupe presented some scenes to members of our association in the Museum's attic.



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At left, Sari Nusseibeh, philosopher, Dean of the Arab Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, and former representative of the PLO in Jerusalem, met a full house when he spoke about his personal experiences with the “peace process,” his hopes and illusions, on July 2, 2013. He became a good friend of the museum.



Always a very special event: the “Summer University for Jewish studies” in Hohenems, organized by the universities of Munich, Basel, Salzburg, Zurich and Vienna. This year, 70 students and scholars enjoyed an intensive program focused on material heritage, from artifacts in museums, to hidden *genisoth*, from documents in the archives to lost libraries and their fate. Above: A hands-on workshop with objects and archivals from the museum’s collection, led by Itai Tamari of Munich University. At left: Enjoying the old Rhine river, and learning about the past escape routes into Switzerland.



Restoration is complete: The old Jewish poorhouse (and former residence of the Burgauer family) in the Jewish quarter of Hohenems is now beautifully restored, due to the efforts of Markus Schadenbauer. The building will serve as a private residence, but with the ground floor as a shop, open to the public. With this landmark, the visual appearance of the Jewish quarter is substantially improved again. Markus Schadenbauer was also responsible for the restoration of the quarter’s old Jewish school and *mikvah*.



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The Festival of Israeli Literature was organized jointly by the Jewish Museum Hohenems, and Omanut, the Zurich association for Jewish art, and took place in Hohenems and Zurich, on September 28-29, 2013. Hundreds of visitors attended the readings and lively discussions with Nir Baram (at right with Karen Roth-Krauthammer and Gabriele Bösch), Tomer Gardi, Sayed Kashua, Lizzie Doron, Eshkol Nevo and Assaf Gavron. Writers from Vorarlberg (among them Monika Helfer and Michael Köhlmeier) met with their colleagues and read their works in German. Photo: Dietmar Walser



The Annual Conference of the Association of European Jewish Museums was held in Hohenems and Munich from November 16-20, 2013. More than 85 representatives of European Jewish Museums (and guests from the US and from Israel) attended. Lectures, workshops, panel discussions, and presentations formed a rich and diverse program. There were also guided tours and excursions through the Jewish museums in Munich and Hohenems, through the Jewish quarters, to the Hohenems cemetery, to other Museums in Munich, to the Swiss Jewish Museum in Basel, and to the Braginsky collection in Zurich. Photo: Dietmar Walser

COMING SOON: March 23 - October 5, 2014
The First Europeans. Habsburg and other Jews
– a world before 1914.

In a period in which the European Union faces a severe crisis it seems appropriate to reconsider the development of this political and economic entity. Although it traces its origins back only to the 1950s and was established not so long ago in its current form in 1993, ideas for an European framework can be seen in the activities of different social and economic networks in the Holy German Empire of German Nations in the Habsburg Monarchy. The exhibition "The first Europeans" will therefore focus on the role of Jews as an important group to forerunners of the idea of Europe. At right: Hanukkah lamp from the Wertheimer family, one of the most prominent Jewish families in the Habsburg empire, created by Thomas Tübner in Halberstadt, 1713 (Jeselson Collection, Zurich).



**Be sure to check out the new fresh look of the Jewish Museum Hohenems website!
Coming in January 2014... <http://www.jm-hohenems.at>**