

THE  
**JewishMuseum**  
OF MARYLAND

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **JEWISH MUSEUM OF MARYLAND WINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

BALTIMORE - MAY 1, 2009 The Jewish Museum of Maryland is pleased to announce that its video-documentary, *Lives Lost, Lives Found*, has won the 2008 GOLD MUSE AWARD for Best Video. Now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the MUSE competition recognizes outstanding achievement in museum media. The competition is sponsored by the Media and Technology Standing Professional Committee of the American Association of Museums.

“The award is a wonderful tribute to all of the German Jewish refugees who were so generous in sharing their stories, and made it possible for us to capture their memories for future generations,” said film co-producer Deb Weiner, Research Historian at the Jewish Museum of Maryland. “It is gratifying for us to be recognized for a work of this sort.” *Lives Lost, Lives Found* is a 16-minute documentary about Jews who fled Nazi Europe and came to Baltimore in the 1930s and 1940s. It features vivid still photography, moving images, first person narrative, cutting-edge graphics, and an original musical score.

“Our initial goal was to extend the life of our 2004 exhibition, *Lives Lost, Lives Found: Baltimore’s German Jewish Refugees, 1933-1945*, beyond its limited run in our gallery, but we ended up with much more: a documentary that stands on its own as a concise yet dramatic portrayal of an important historical event,” added co-producer Anita Kassof, the Museum’s associate director. “The DVD offers a compelling glimpse into a critical era in Jewish history, with special attention to the local ramifications.” The documentary appeals to all ages, she noted. “Middle and high school students participating in the Museum’s Holocaust education program relate particularly well to the personal stories.”

The Muse Award judges lauded the *Lives Lost, Lives Found* documentary for the “rich aesthetic” that pervades all aspects of its production. “The subtle strength of the motion graphics help to bring to life the struggles and triumphs of a community trying to recover from the trauma of World War II,” they said. The Museum worked with videographers Christopher Smith and Jay Perry to bring the story to life. “Chris and Jay did a fantastic job of translating our ideas onto the screen,” Weiner observed.

The MUSE Awards competition received nearly 200 applications from a wide variety of museums in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia. Entries included audio, cell phone, and interactive handheld tours, interactive kiosks and multimedia installations, podcasts, blogs, games, websites, online collection and image databases, videos, and e-

mail marketing campaigns. MUSE Award winners were named from 11 distinct categories.

“It is an honor and privilege for AAM's Media and Technology Standing Professional Committee to host the MUSE awards. The quality and diversity of entries has been exceptional. The ingenuity and creativity of the people who conceptualize and build these projects, never ceases to amaze me,” said Nik Honeysett, Chair of AAM's Media & Technology Committee

Thirty-eight judges – museum and media professionals from across the county – were involved in selecting the winners. Winning entries were expected to demonstrate outstanding achievement in content quality; interface design; functionality; production quality; visual appeal; the user's experience; and the intent to which new directions were charted or old challenges resolved through technical innovation. A complete list of judging criteria and MUSE Award winners can be found on the Media and Technology website: <http://www.mediaandtechnology.org/>

The Jewish Museum of Maryland is dedicated to the interpretation of the Jewish experience in America with special attention to the collection, preservation, and study of Jewish life in Maryland. The Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums, and is an agency of the ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. The Jewish Museum of Maryland is located at 15 Lloyd Street in downtown Baltimore. The phone number is (410) 732-6400. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for students with I.D. and \$3 for children under 12. The Museum is open Tuesdays – Fridays, and Sundays from noon – 4. Visit our website at [www.jewishmuseummd.org](http://www.jewishmuseummd.org).

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