

## FOR USE IN TOUR PUBLICATIONS, MUSEUM CATALOGUE

### **From Haven To Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America**

Since the dawn of its discovery, America has been a haven for the world's oppressed and persecuted. In 1654, a century after Christopher Columbus landed his ships on the shores of what was then the New World, the first Jewish settlers, 23 refugees from Portugal, arrived in New Amsterdam to establish a community. Since then, hundreds of thousands of Jewish immigrants from across the globe have made America their home.

Created by the American Jewish Historical Society, in cooperation with the Library of Congress, the touring exhibition "From Haven to Home: Jewish Life in America" chronicles the American Jewish experience — focusing on America as "Haven," the Jewish immigrant's refuge from persecution in countries abroad — to America as "Home," the creation of permanent Jewish communities in the United States.

Proudly presented by the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, the exhibit will open to the public May 6 and run through August 30, 2009, at the Detroit Historical Museum.

The exhibition covers the entire range of Jewish experience in America through more than 200 reproductions of American Judaic treasures from the collections of the Library of Congress, augmented by a selection of important loans from other institutions. Michigan's Jewish story, from the Upper through the Lower Peninsulas, is also featured. Among the items featured in the exhibit are:

- A letter from the Hebrew Congregation of Newport, R.I. to President George Washington, and his letter in response;
- A copy of the hand-written version of Emma Lazarus' poem "The New Colossus," which is inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty and captures the struggles newly arrived immigrants faced as they arrived on our shores;
- An image of the Detroit/Ontario Underground Railroad Memorial statue, located along the Detroit Riverfront, which eloquently reminds visitors of the Jewish community's role in Detroit's historic contributions to the Underground Railroad, and artifacts from across Michigan including memorabilia from the Faygo Company, historic war uniforms and ceremonial items dating back centuries.

Docent-led tours of the exhibit are available through the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan, [www.michjewishhistory.org](http://www.michjewishhistory.org) or 248-432-5517. The Detroit Historical Museum is open Wed – Fri.....