Clickety-clack, mah jongg’s back
It’s hot, it’s fun, it’s here ...

JANUARY 24 — APRIL 22, 2012

Step into the magic world of mah jongg, the ancient Chinese game that took the U.S. by storm. After a Standard Oil executive began importing sets in the 1920s, Abercrombie & Fitch, Milton Bradley, Parker Brothers and others began selling affordable versions, setting a craze in motion. It remains among Asia’s most popular games, while enjoying resurgence across America.

Project Mah Jongg invites you to explore the history, traditions and meaning of this addictive game played with tiles. Colorful and engaging, it includes an array of beautiful early artifacts (including game sets made of bone, Bakelite and bamboo), vintage advertisements, Chinoiserie, and original artwork by contemporary artists including the award-winning Jewish-American designer and television personality Isaac Mizrahi. The exhibition’s only Midwest appearance features an original film, May The Tiles Be With You, by Amy & John Cummings.

Project Mah Jongg was curated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage – New York, and is made possible through the generosity of the National Mah Jongg League. Additional support is provided by Sylvia Hassenfeld and 2wice Arts Foundation. Exhibit design by Abbott Miller, Pentagram.

Make winter fun. Play mahj with friends, take lessons, host a private party, schedule a group tour and enter the first Maltz Tournament February 13, 2012. For more, log on to mmjh.org or call 216.593.0575.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At a recent meeting of the Resource Council of the Center for Engaged Ethics at Hiram College (www.hiram.edu), we learned about unique ways they saturate students in the study of ethics. Their programs make ethics not just theoretical but central to students’ lives through teach-ins, courses, internships, even participation in the Ethics Bowl. Yes, there is an Ethics Bowl, visit http://www.indiana.edu/~appe/ethicsbowl.html.

It reminded me of our Museum’s work, where we look for ways to spread seeds of understanding, bringing people together with different experiences and different points of view. Whether you’re visiting our permanent collections, hearing about religious tolerance throughout history (see Calendar of Events/President’s Day) learning about the east-meets-west Asian roots and American Jewish adoration of the game of mah Jongg or cheering on student essayists in our Stop The Hate: Youth Speak Out! contest, you’re seeing how we view diversity, tolerance, social responsibility and ethical behavior as the base of all our work.

More and more, business and civic groups use the Museum as a living lab for diversity tours and workshops. Every day, students and adults learn about choices made by immigrants, the horrors of war, modern-day genocide and why every voice counts. We regularly host interfaith Shabbat dinners, spirited dialogues, films, lectures and music with roots in the lessons of history. I hope you join us often this season and become part of the dialogue.
**MUSEUM FRIENDS GATHER HERE AND THERE ...**

The Maltz Museum celebrated the harvest festival of Sukkot. A glorious afternoon shared by young and old included cider, donuts, fall fruits and creating sukkah decorations to take home.

Manager of School & Family programs Mark Davidson holds the Lulav (palm branch) traditionally waved by the Jewish people during the holiday of Sukkot.

**THE SHUL BOYS**

The Shul Boys revved over to the Maltz for a brunch, tour and rally this Fall. This spirited group of Cleveland Jewish motorcycle enthusiasts hopes to attract their national convention to Cleveland. The Jewish Motorcycle Association meets in a different city each year and donates to a local organization for Holocaust education.

**GIVE AN EVERLASTING GIFT**

Gifts to the Maltz Museum are a wonderful and meaningful way to honor someone special in your life. To make a gift that memorializes a loved one, commemorates a milestone or celebrates with heartfelt wishes, please call Colleen Barni at 216.593.0583, or visit mmjh.org.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Ticket Prices (unless noted): $10/$8 members in advance; $12/$10 members at the door
Seating is limited; to reserve your tickets call 216.593.0575

JANUARY

FILM AND CONVERSATION: MAH JONGG MEMORIES
Wednesday, January 25  7pm

What’s so special about mah jongg? Bring your favorite stories, photos, and memorabilia from mah jongg games past and present to share after enjoying the short documentary Mah-Jongg: The Tiles That Bind (32 minutes), a light-hearted yet deeply moving portrait of the Asian and Jewish-American women who play this centuries-old Chinese game.

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PERFORMANCE PREVIEW: ANTEBELLUM
Wednesday, February 8  7pm

Join Cleveland Public Theatre director Beth Wood and members of the cast of Antebellum as they talk about and perform selected scenes from this provocative drama that unfolds against the backdrop of a southern plantation, a German concentration camp and the 1939 Atlanta premiere of Gone with the Wind. Don’t miss the drawing for complementary tickets to Antebellum at Cleveland Public Theatre February 23-March 10.

PRESIDENTS DAY
Monday, February 20  2-4pm
Performance  2pm
Free with museum admission

Meet four of America’s most fascinating presidents—George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Delano Roosevelt—as they tell you in person about their life, times and relationship with the Jewish people. Have your picture taken with one or all of these famous men and enjoy some of their favorite desserts – apple pie, peach pie, and sugar cookies! Arts and crafts activities and special “Presidential” scavenger hunts will be held throughout the afternoon.

CONVERSATION: FOOD AND THE CHOSEN PEOPLE
Wednesday, February 22  7pm

The old joke goes Jewish history can be distilled down to “They tried to kill us, we survived, let’s eat!” so no wonder some of Cleveland’s best known chefs have Jewish roots! Join a lively conversation with Chef Sergio Abramof (Sergio’s and Sarava), Chef Michael Herschman (Lopez SouthWestern Food Kitchen) and Chef Doug Katz (Fire Food and Drink) about food, family and tradition. Moderated by Joe Crea, Food Editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

FAMILY FUN DAY
Sunday, February 26  1-4pm
See the Chinese Lion Dance!  2pm
Free with Museum admission

Spend the afternoon playing Chinese Checkers, card games, Scrabble, making art, and visiting the special exhibition Project Mah Jongg! See Coiling Dragon Kung-Fu School perform the Lion Dance.
MARCH
PLAY READING: A BRIEF HISTORY OF MAH JONGG
TWO PERFORMANCES!
Wednesday, March 7  7pm
Sunday, March 18  2pm
$12/$10 members in advance
$14/$12 members at the door
See the world premiere reading of a one-act play written especially to accompany Project Mah Jongg! Noted Cleveland playwright Faye Sholiton revisits an era when four friends shared gossip, offered advice and kept secrets over the tiles. 22 years after their game abruptly ended, they reunite to understand why.

MUSIC: THE MELODIES OF MAH JONGG
Wednesday, March 21  7pm
$12/$10 members in advance
$14/$12 members at the door
Immerse yourself in the uniqueness of Chinese culture as the Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble presents an intimate evening inspired by the fanciful images on mah jongg tiles—the four seasons, winds, flowers and dragons—played on traditional Chinese instruments interspersed with selected readings (in Chinese and English) of evocative poems from China’s classical antiquity.

APRIL
FILM: SHANGHAI GHETTO
(95 MINUTES)
Wednesday, April 4  7pm
In the years between 1938 and 1941, nearly 20,000 European Jewish refugees fled to Shanghai, China seeking a safe haven when other borders remained firmly closed. This fascinating documentary reveals uncommon views of Chinese and Jewish life through evocative images, rare home movies, newsreels and recollections of former refugees. After the film, Harry Abraham shares his experience as a child refugee in Shanghai.

MUSIC: CONCERT FOR YOM HASHOAH
Wednesday, April 11  7pm
$12/$10 members in advance
$14/$12 members at the door
City Music Cleveland illustrates the devastating effect of the Holocaust through the work of six composers. From those who emigrated as the Nazis rose to power, to those who fled as the war broke out, to those who tragically perished in concentration camps, this moving chamber concert celebrates the creative artistry that survives and mourns the works that might have been.

HOURS
Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday & Sunday ..........11am - 5pm
Wednesday ..................11am - 9pm
Saturday .....................Noon - 5pm
Monday ..........................Closed
Museum open daily for group tours and private events beginning at 9am and on Mondays.
MaltzMuseum.org

DROP-IN TOURS OF OUR PERMANENT COLLECTION
Wednesdays and Sundays at 2pm
Groups of 10 or more, please schedule in advance.
(groupsales@mmjh.org)
For FREE admission every day, exclusive events and reduced program fees, become a Maltz Museum member today!
To purchase tickets or become a member, please call 216-593-0575 or email info@mmjh.org

It’s MAHJ MANIA at the Maltz
Bring your friends to see the exhibit with discounts on groups of 15 or more, or a $20 Players Pass for special savings with membership advantages and playing table rentals throughout the show.

January 22, 2012  6-9pm
Mad for Mah-Jongg Private Opening and Chinese New Year’s Eve Celebration.
Be the first to see this one-of-a-kind national exhibition. Taste delectable food and specialty cocktails provided by Pearl of the Orient, and win unbelievable prizes in a Chinese Raffle.

January 23, 2012  6-8pm
Fun and Games – Everybody’s a Winner.
Bring the whole family for a sneak peek at Project Mah Jongg. Enjoy fabulous Chinese food and play awesome games through out the Museum. Come one, come all.

February 13, 2012  12:30-4:30pm
Prizes, Exhibition Tour & Dinner 5-7:30pm
The First Maltz Museum public maj jongg tournament to test the skills of new and experienced players, and win fabulous prizes. Have a ball and sign up now.
Registration is limited.

February 15, March 14, April 17 2012
10am-2pm
Mah Jongg Cross Cultural Exchange
Travel by bus to Li Wah (one Cleveland’s most famous and delicious Chinese restaurants) in Asia Plaza for a game of majh in the back room and a delicious lunch. Purchase tickets now for a trip that’s sure to be a blast.

Coming Spring 2012
Stay tuned for details about the ...
Mah-J-Tini Evening at the Maltz in cooperation with Cleveland Jewish News.
Go back in time to the Catskills, where maj jongg made it big … with an evening of moonlight, music, majh munchies and the ever famous mah-j-tini. Dress up like Mad Men and Mahj Mavens and mix it up!

Visit mmjh.org for additional programs and event details and costs or call 216.593.0575

The Maltz Museum is generously supported by:

Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble
Old Shanghai

Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble

(TEAR HERE)
IT MIGHT BE COLD OUTSIDE, BUT IT’S HOT IN THE MUSEUM STORE!

The Museum store, open whenever the Museum is, will be “mahj central” this winter. Treat yourself to the bottomless mahj mug made exclusively for the Maltz. This beautiful limited edition ceramic mug holds plenty and gets you free coffee refills whenever you come to Project Mah Jongg throughout the run. Choose from bracelets, beautiful mahj sets, pins, colorful mezuzot, magnets, books, coasters, dinnerware, eyeglass holders and more! Support the Museum, celebrate mahj and indulge yourself! There is no admission fee to shop in the Museum store, with plenty of close-in parking and free gift-wrapping … it’s THE place to be this Winter.