

# PROJECT MAH JONGG



*Women playing mah jongg in the Catskills, c. 1960  
Collection of Harvey Abrams.*

*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 twice Arts Foundation. Exhibit design by Abbott Miller, Pentagram.

*Assorted mah jongg tiles  
from various decades Courtesy of  
Ruth Unger, President, National  
Mah Jongg League. Photograph  
by James Shanks Photography.*



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](http://mmjh.org) or call 216.593.0575.

## Sponsored By



*Leisure-class ladies playing a floating game of mah jongg, 1924  
Courtesy of Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.*



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



At a recent meeting of the Resource Council of the Center for Engaged Ethics at Hiram College ([www.hiram.edu](http://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 HAPPE



*The Cleveland Orchestra, in partnership with Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, presented a patriotic concert at Public Square in downtown Cleveland in commemoration of 9/11. Seven winners read their "Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out!" essays. Andrea Bestor, 2010 1st place winner reads passionately to the crowd.*



**Essay Contest with \$100,000 in Scholarships & Prizes.  
You can help stop hate and discrimination!**

### SAVE THE DATES:

**Entry Deadline:** January 24, 2012 for 11-12th grades

**Awards Ceremony:** April 22, 2012 1-3pm

SEVERANCE HALL • REINBERGER CHAMBER HALL • 1101 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND

Diverse groups come to tour the Museum from near and far for memorable, enriching experiences. Topics vary from **Stop the Hate!** to **Building a City to Let Me Entertain You**. Remember, discounted admission prices are available for groups of 15 or more. Call 216.593.0575 or go to [mmjh.org](http://mmjh.org) for details.



Harold Anderson of Superior Elementary School (left) visited the Museum with David Schafer, MMJH Director of Development.

June Sallée Antoine, sister to Charles Sallee Jr. (featured in *Hardship to Hope*) joined her husband Albert (center), Cleveland Institute of Art President and CEO Grafton J. Nunes (left) and Director of the Reinberger Galleries Bruce Chechefsky (right) for a guided tour.



# NINGS...

## MUSEUM FRIENDS GATHER HERE AND THERE ...



(left-right) Teresa Beasley, Brent Ballard, Marcia Wexberg of sponsor Calfee Halter, Judi Feniger and Dr. Michael Williams of CSU enjoy the opening of *Hardship to Hope: African American Art* from the Karamu Workshop.



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.



Shaker Rotary Club said thumbs up after their Maltz Museum tour.



## 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.



The Maltz Museum arranged a visit to some of Cleveland's most outstanding public art, the WPA era murals. Art historian Sabine Kretschmar led a tour of the **Elmer W. Brown** mural at **The City Club** of Cleveland, refurbished Brown murals at **Cleveland State University's** new student center, and the exceptional work at the **Cleveland Public Library**.



## 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](http://mmjh.org).

Award-Winning author, film-maker and journalist Peter Godwin and internationally recognized human rights lawyer and CWRU Inamori Ethics Prize Winner Beatrice Mtetwa spoke to over 220 guests at the Maltz Museum. (left-right) Tanya and Beatrice Mtetwa with Debra Adams Simmons, Editor, Plain Dealer.



# 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.



### 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.

### FAMILY FUN DAY

Sunday, February 26

See the Chinese Lion Dance!

1-4pm

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**.



## 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.



### 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*.



*Chef Sergio Abramof*



*Chef Michael Herschman*



*Chef Doug Katz*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## 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 mah 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 mahj 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 ...

### Mahj-Tini Evening at the Maltz

in cooperation with *Cleveland Jewish News*. Go back in time to the Catskills, where mah jongg made it big ... with an evening of moonlight, music, mahj munchies and the ever famous mahj-tini. Dress up like *Mad Men* and *Mahj Mavens* and mix it up!

**Visit [mmjh.org](http://mmjh.org) for additional programs and event details and costs or call 216.593.0575**

## 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.



*Cleveland Chinese Music Ensemble*

### 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](http://MaltzMuseum.org)

## 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.



*Old Shanghai*

After the film, **Harry Abraham** shares his experience as a child refugee in Shanghai.

### MUSIC: CONCERT FOR YOM HASHOA

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.

*The Maltz Museum is generously supported by:*



### DROP-IN TOURS OF OUR PERMANENT COLLECTION

Wednesdays and Sundays at 2pm

Groups of 10 or more, please schedule in advance. ([groupsales@mmjh.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@mmjh.org)





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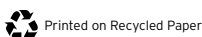
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## VISITOR INFORMATION

### 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.

### CLOSED

Passover - Saturday April 7 and Friday April 13

### ADMISSION

Maltz Museum members and children under 5 ..... FREE  
Adults ..... \$12  
Seniors 60+ and Students ages 12+ ..... \$10  
Children ages 5-11 ..... \$5  
Ticket Packs of 35 or more ..... \$7 per ticket  
Includes access to entire museum, including special exhibitions

e: info@mmjh.org p: 216.593.0575 w: MaltzMuseum.org

### TOURS

Group Tours are available by advance reservation daily,  
including Mondays. Admission includes a guided tour of  
the permanent collections or special exhibition led by  
knowledgeable docents, no-wait access to the exhibitions  
and a 10% discount to the Museum Store.

- Advance reservation required for groups of 10 or more.
- Special discounted rates for groups of 15 or more.  
Adults: \$8; Seniors/Students: \$6
- School groups are \$3/student  
(1 teacher/chaperone per ten students admitted free)

Contact groupsales@mmjh.org or call 216.593.0575  
to schedule a tour.

## REFLECTIONS NO. 23, WINTER 2012

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# FROM THE SHELVES OF THE MUSEUM STORE



**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.

