

Join us on an extraordinary journey and an ongoing conversation...



4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks celebrates the continuing journey of the Jewish people as seen through the arts. The exhibit was developed by the Mizel Museum in collaboration with artist and designer Scott Lyon and includes among many elements: rare objects, the work of renowned photographer Zion Ozeri, fine art from artists from around the world, and the Community Narratives Project, a compilation of digital stories. We welcome you to join us on your own path of discovery while you are here.

Jewish culture values unlimited questions and understandings. The Jewish conversation stretches over 4,000 years as Jewish people have interpreted and re-interpreted the central texts that define their tradition. We invite you to refer to this guide and "map of commentaries" of ancient and contemporary Jewish wisdom during your visit, or for reflection later down the road. >



◀ THE JOURNEY BEGINS

How will our travels change us?
 What gives us courage to go through that door?
 A prayer for the journey.
 For the journey we take in this fragile flesh.
 A finite number of years and we will reach
 The unknown, where it all began.
 Every life, every day, every hour is a journey.
 In the travel is the discovery, the wisdom, the joy.
 Every life, every day, every hour is a journey.
 In the travel is the reward, the peace, the blessing.

Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

Go so far away that you stop being afraid of not coming back. Eve Ensler

The teachings of Torah are splendid sparks - glowing particles providing light for the seeker of knowledge and illumination for our ethical choices. Yet the teachings of Torah are also fragments revealing a multitude of angles, features and surfaces. With each face new meanings to be explored and revealed. Today after thousands of years of studying and interpreting Torah, the adventure continues. It is an enterprise without end.

Rabbi Harvey J. Fields

Sands of Time ▶ The clay medallions buried in the sand illustrate seminal stories from the Torah, leading up to slavery in Egypt and redemption from slavery. ☞



What is hateful to you, never do that to another. That is the entire Torah; all else is commentary.

Hillel

For Noah, the ark was an unfortunate but necessary solution to a global crisis. Even when all signs were grim, he maintained his faith, greeting every challenge with further innovation. So too must we continue to strive for a better tomorrow, educate others about environmental issues, and believe that our actions, on every level, can make a difference. When we step outside after a rainstorm and see the rainbow in the sky, we remember God's promise to Noah, and we know that we are not alone in our efforts.

Shimshon Stuart Siegel

Noah's Ark ▶ In biblical Judaism, a great flood is found in the familiar story of Noah and the ark. Judaism offers the story in the context of the struggle between good and evil. ☞



It is a Tree of Life to those that hold fast to it, all who uphold it may be counted fortunate. Its ways are ways of pleasantness, and all its paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:17-18

Tree of Life ▶ The Tree of Life or Etz HaChayim in Hebrew, is a universal symbol found in many cultural and spiritual traditions around the world. In the Torah and from Jewish commentaries, the Tree of Life is a symbol of the life-giving source that sustains and nourishes us, and frequently refers to the Torah itself. The Tree of Life also represents the cosmology of mystical Judaism (Kabbalah). ☞



Jewish time is not linear it is cyclic - revisiting the past over and over again as if time were unchanging. Jewish time spirals. We seek to spiral out, not down, returning to the same challenges but from an ever-widening perspective.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Turn the Torah, turn it again and again, for everything you want to know is found within it. Pirke Avot, Ethics of the Fathers, 2:25

◀ SANCTUARY This sanctuary room has served a Jewish congregation for many years, and the Torah seen through the decorative ark is an integral part of worship services. In this room, you will travel through Jewish Time. The yearly cycle of Jewish holidays draw their significance from many sources - the rhythms of nature, religious traditions, folk customs and key historical events in the life of the Jewish people. ☞



One can say that the festivals act as lodgings for travelers making their way through the year. These festival inns are special accommodations not solely for rest or retreat from the world, but also places to halt and take our bearings to make sure we are traveling and not just going around in circles. These are inns not for sleeping but rather for awakening from obliviousness.

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld

Truth isn't always beauty, but the hunger for it is.

Nadine Gordimer

The artist must penetrate into the world, feel the fate of human beings, of people, with real love. There is no art for art's sake - one must be interested in the whole realm of life.

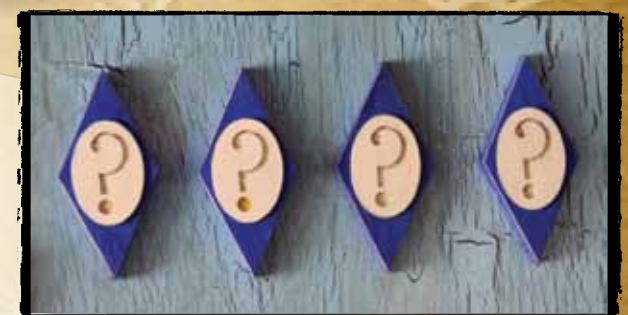
Marc Chagall

Beauty Reststop ▼ The billboard along your path brings attention to the centrality of *Hiddur Mitzvah* - the beautification of sacred objects, some of which you will see throughout this room. Through the ages, Jewish culture has greatly valued the creative process and the role of the artist to illuminate human experience. ☞



Passover ▶ Passover is the single most widely observed Jewish practice in the world, and if you stop to think about it, that really makes sense. Passover is a roadmap to liberation, both personal and global, and who doesn't want, and deserve, to be free? At the end of the day that's what Pesach is all about - the fact that each of us deserves to be liberated from whatever Egypt in which we find ourselves. And we all have at least one.

Rabbi Brad Hirshfield



Light of Torah ▶ The spice box is a Jewish ritual object in which sweet smelling spices are kept, reminding the Jewish people of the sweetness of Shabbat. The larger-than-life spice boxes showcase artifacts associated with the Torah and the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Known as the Days of Awe, these are times of remembrance, repentance and renewal. Next, we enter the Season of Our Joy - centered on the fall pilgrimage festival of Sukkot. The season is complete with the holiday of Simchat Torah, the moment when communities joyously conclude the reading of the Torah and begin it again. ☞



I came so far for beauty, I left so much behind. Leonard Cohen

Art destroys silence. Alicia Suskin Ostriker

◀ Chanukah It is important to note that Chanukah (dedication) doesn't celebrate the chutzpah (audacity) of war, but the chutzpah of faith; trusting in a power greater than ourselves, and acting for G-d even when failure seems inevitable.

Rabbi Rami Shapiro

Sukkot is a time of voluntary simplicity and human interdependence - a week-long meditation in nature as we pray, dine, and some even sleep in a sukkah, a fragile hut permeable to the elements. By personal invitation we build the inner circle of support of our lives as we welcome guests during a joyous week of gratitude for abundance and harvest.

Rabbi Goldie Milgram



◀ Sukkot You shall rejoice in your festival and you shall have nothing but joy!

Deuteronomy 16:14-15

Look not on my mistakes, but on hopes of my heart.

Psalm 51

▼ Yom Kippur Spicebox



The giant spice boxes and the Aron Kodesh (Holy Ark) are the heart of the exhibit. To me, the Jewish world starts and centers around the Torah, so these giant spice boxes hold the museum's collection of Torah objects. I love the play of the purpose of a spice box with such important objects. The smell of spices remind one of the sweetness of Shabbat - and these objects dress the sweetest thing of all - the Torah.

Scott Lyon, Artist, 4,000 Year Road Trip: Gathering Sparks



◀ Rosh Hashana On the first day, the day of the world's birth, the whole world was in a state of pure potential. Contemplating that newborn world, we feel in awe at the fact of creation. On Rosh Hashana we are reminded that today is a first day. We still contain within us the awesome and godly potential of creation. The potential is in our hands.

Rabbi Jeremy A. Schwartz

◀ Shabbat The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space... It is a day on which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation, from the world of creation to the creation of the world.

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel



The end is contained in the beginning. Midrash

The Journey Continues

EXILE, MOVEMENT & RESILIENCE ▶

This room explores the dispersal of the Jewish people all over the world resulting from forces of expulsion and brave choices to uproot and adapt. In connection to this theme is the Museum's Community Narratives Project, profiles of members of the Denver Jewish community through the medium of digital storytelling. These storytellers document a slice of their expansive lives, revealing the Jewish context of their history and humanity. The global sweep of these stories represent a microcosm of the Jewish Diaspora — an intersection between the personal and the historical. ✦



Sona Benjannin

The new ones and the old ones
There's no telling how many there are
To remember them
I took this road
To tell a story
For myself and those like me

Los nuevos y los pasados
No ha cuentas cuanto son
Por tenerlos en memoria
Este camino tomi
De hazer una historia
Por mi y por quen como mi

Ladino Folksong,
Shalom Alechem Senores

All of my novels are democracies. Amos Oz



Benuch Mamantz

Shtetl ▶ From the heart of the shtetl (small town), here is timeless Yiddish wisdom for your journey:

You can't ride in all directions at one time.
When you look to the heights, hold on to your hat.
The smoothest way is sometimes full of stones.

Me ken foren oif alleh yariden of ain mol.
Az du oif hoicheh zachen, halt tsu dos hill.
Der gleichster iz ful mit shatiner.

No cry of distress can be greater than that of one person... The whole world cannot be in more distress than one soul.

Ludwig Wittenstein

The universe is made of stories, not atoms. Muriel Rukeyser



Itamar Kibani

◀ **Israel** Art and culture in Israel is vibrant with experimental theater, visual art, film, dance and an exceptional literary tradition. Our collection is merely to whet your appetite while on the road. The slideshow features the work of world-renowned Israeli photographer Zion Ozeri. ✦

The Holocaust in its enormity defies language and art, and yet both must be used to tell the tale.

Elie Wiesel

The suffering and the testimonies, when told by Holocaust survivors, are a song, a hymn of praise, a testimony to the eternity of the Jewish people and the greatness of their spirit.

Rabbi Israel Spira of Bluzhov



Deborah Howard

◀ **Holocaust** Local artist Deborah Howard addresses the enormity of the Jewish Holocaust by creating portraits of Holocaust Child Survivors. The immediacy and intimacy in these faces speak volumes in capturing what she calls very real people who have lived extraordinary lives and also very ordinary lives. ✦

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Anne Frank

Don't stop after beating the swords into plowshares, don't stop! Go on beating and make musical instruments out of them. Whoever wants to make war again will have to turn them into plowshares first.

Yehuda Amichai

To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Everyone must come out of his Exile in his own way.

Martin Buber

The West is not a place. It's a state of mind.

Jack Weil

▶ THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The final stop is a celebration of place (Colorado) and sacred space (Tikkun Olam). Here is where you can travel through historical Jewish Colorado, and deepen your understanding of Jewish Denver through our Community Narratives Project. The expanding collection of digital stories highlights the personal themes of immigration, continuity and community, which you can view on our iPads. The Mizel Museum library is replete with interesting titles through which to browse. ✦



I lift my eyes up to the mountains
From where does my help come?
My help is from the One
The maker of heavens and earth.

Psalim 121

Gathering Sparks ▶ One of the most cherished concepts in Jewish tradition is *tikkun olam* or repair of the world. This idea which has become well-known in this century, comes from the teachings of Rabbi Isaac Luria who lived in Safed in northern Israel in the sixteenth century. The concept proposes that everyone has their own unique spark and hand in shaping the destiny of the planet. ✦

Love and kindness, generosity and caring, ethical and ecological responsibility, awe and wonder at the grandeur and mystery of the universe — make that the New Bottom Line and you have the blessing of Tikkun Olam for the 21st century.

Rabbi Michael Lerner



Beth Krensky

You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

Pirke Avot
Ethics of the Fathers

▶ OUR GLOBAL MATRIX

This visual presentation by photographer Zion Ozeri is a global trip through the Jewish lifecycle. Ozeri's work explores a personal search for connection in a world impacted by exile and loss. His photographs consider the forces that have kept the Jewish people together throughout the millennia, and reflect on what binds Jewish people to their faith and to one another. Ultimately, his work asks viewers to ponder universal questions about what unites people in their common humanity. ✦



Zion Ozeri

Presented By Fidelity Investments



Museum Hours

Mon/Tues/Wed

Thursday

Friday

Sunday

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

9:00 am - 8:00 pm

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

11:00 am - 4:30 pm

Call us to schedule a tour for your group or class. Tours can be customized to explore specific themes and enhance curriculum.

Admission

Adults \$7

College Students and Seniors \$4

Youth ages 6-18 \$3

Children under 5 Free

Contact

400 S. Kearney Street, Denver CO 80224

303-394-9993 | mizelmuseum.org

The Mizel Museum is located at the corner of South Kearney Street and East Dakota Avenue in Denver, four blocks west of Monaco Parkway and one block south of Alameda Avenue.

Sponsors



Dear Curious Traveler On The Road Of Life:

We're so glad you embarked on the 4,000 year road trip. We invite you to the continuing conversation at the 4,000 year that room at mizelmuseum.org. Find your way to the exhibit conversations page where you can share your thoughts, ideas, questions, poems, stories and quotes. Also here you can find citations for the gallery guide quotes, in case you want to delve deeper. See you soon,
The Mizel Museum



Above: © 2009 Yeeli Ben Harrouche
Detail: Les Faces Castries De Jerusalem, Acrylic and Oil, Private Collection of Ira



4000 YEAR ROAD TRIP
GATHERING SPARKS
an exhibit of the
MIZEL MUSEUM

Gallery Guide

A 'MAP OF COMMENTARIES' FOR YOUR JOURNEY

