

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett



Wednesday, October 17

Stahl Center Distinguished Lecture

7 PM The Role of Museums in Perilous Times: What's Happening in Poland?
Golda Meir Library, 4th floor conference center

Thursday, October 18

NOON Beyond Living Memory: The Future of Holocaust Museums
Kohl's Garden Galleries, Milwaukee Public Museum

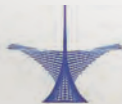
Faye Sigman "Woman of Valor" Lecture

6:15 PM Curating Between Hope and Despair: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews
Milwaukee Art Museum, Lubar Hall



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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018, 7PM, FREE

Stahl Center Distinguished Lecture

The Role of Museums in Perilous Times: What's Happening in Poland?

Golda Meir Library, 4th floor conference center. Free and open to the public.

Recent efforts in Poland to dictate how the history of the Holocaust should be told have placed museums in the crosshairs of historical policy and the politics of history. As institutions of public history and sites of informal learning, museums can play a vital role in presenting difficult histories that are authoritative, without being authoritarian. To fulfill that role, they must create a zone of trust, and model civil discourse, open debate, and critical approaches to history. What stories are museums in Poland telling and how free are they to tell them? This talk will focus on how POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews is meeting these challenges.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 12 PM, FREE

Beyond Living Memory: The Future of Holocaust Museums

Kohl's Garden Galleries, Milwaukee Public Museum. Free and open to the public.

Living witnesses to the Holocaust play a central role in Holocaust education, whether in Holocaust museums, commemorations, or visits to Holocaust sites. Notwithstanding the many diaries, memoirs, and sound and video recordings of survivor testimony, the impact of encounters with living survivors is unparalleled. However, a period without living witnesses to the Holocaust is fast approaching. How are Holocaust museums preparing for that day? This talk will explore how POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews presents the Holocaust in a shifting political context.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 6:15 PM

Faye Sigman "Woman of Valor" Lecture

Curating Between Hope and Despair: POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Milwaukee Art Museum, Lubar Hall. Free admission with this postcard or MAM membership.

Facing the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes on the site of the Warsaw ghetto and prewar Jewish neighborhood, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews completes the memorial complex. At the monument we honor those who died by remembering how they died. At the museum we honor them—and those who came before and after—by remembering how they lived. This lecture explores the creation of POLIN Museum and its multimedia narrative exhibition a journey of a thousand years, and its potential to be an agent of transformation that can move an entire society forward.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is University Professor Emerita and Professor Emerita of Performance Studies at New York University and Chief Curator of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Her books include *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage*; *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864–1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki); *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust* (with Mayer Kirshenblatt), and *Anne Frank Unbound: Media, Imagination, Memory* (with Jeffrey Shandler).

She was honored for lifetime achievement by the Foundation for Jewish Culture, received the Mlotek Prize for Yiddish and Yiddish Culture, honorary doctorates from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, University of Haifa, and Indiana University, and the 2015 Marshall Sklare Award for her contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry. She was decorated with the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland for her contribution to POLIN Museum. She was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She serves on Advisory Boards for the Council of American Jewish Museums, Jewish Museum Vienna, Jewish Museum Berlin, and the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow. She also advises on museum and exhibition projects in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Israel.

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