

2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: An Epic Journey

2010-2011 Season



Tableau Vivant: The Berberisca Ceremony

On February 6, 2011, the ASF presented a live re-enactment in ceremonial dress and in an authentic Moroccan setting – of the picturesque traditional Noche de Berberisca or Soirée du Henné. The highlight of the evening came with the Bride's entrance, led by singer Vanessa Paloma, and followed by seven beautiful bridesmaids. Moroccan tea and pastries were served.



15th NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

The 15th New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival opened on March 10, 2011 and featured several films focusing on the Moroccan Jewish experience. We honored Moroccan-Israeli actress and filmmaker, Ronit Elkabetz, with the ASF Pomegranate Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts.



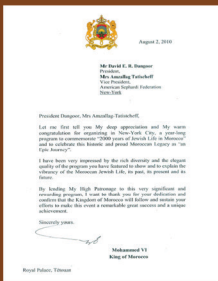
Behind the Scenes: An intimate video visit to Morocco

On January 27, 2011, Peter Geffen presented an evening of experiences and video selections from his travels to Morocco with college students and teachers with his program, Kivunim, a program in international education.



ASF Gala Benefit Dinner

On December 13, 2010, the ASF Gala Benefit Dinner was held at *The Pierre* hotel in New York City. A special honor was bestowed upon His Majesty **Mohammed VI**, King of Morocco during the dinner. It was accepted, on his behalf, by Serge Berdugo, Ambassador-At-Large. The evening's Keynote Speaker was The Hon. Marc C. Ginsberg, former U.S. Ambassador to Morocco.



Letter from the King of Morocco endorsing the High Patronage to the year-long program 2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco



Letter from André Azoulay, Counsellor to the King Of Morocco, confirming the King's High Patronage to ASF's year-long program

Jews of Morocco Program Committee
 Florence Amzalag, Tartscheff, Chair
 Raquel Benatar Laredo, ASF Board
 Stella Levi, ASF Board
 Stanley A. Urman, Ph.D., ASF Executive Director
 Lynne Winters, ASF Director of Programming
 Shelomo Allassa, Special Projects Director

Consulting Scholars:
 Prof. Jane S. Gerber, ASF Advisory Chair
 Prof. Moshé Bar-Asher
 Prof. Daniel Schroeter
 Prof. Nicole Serfaty
 Prof. Norman Stillman

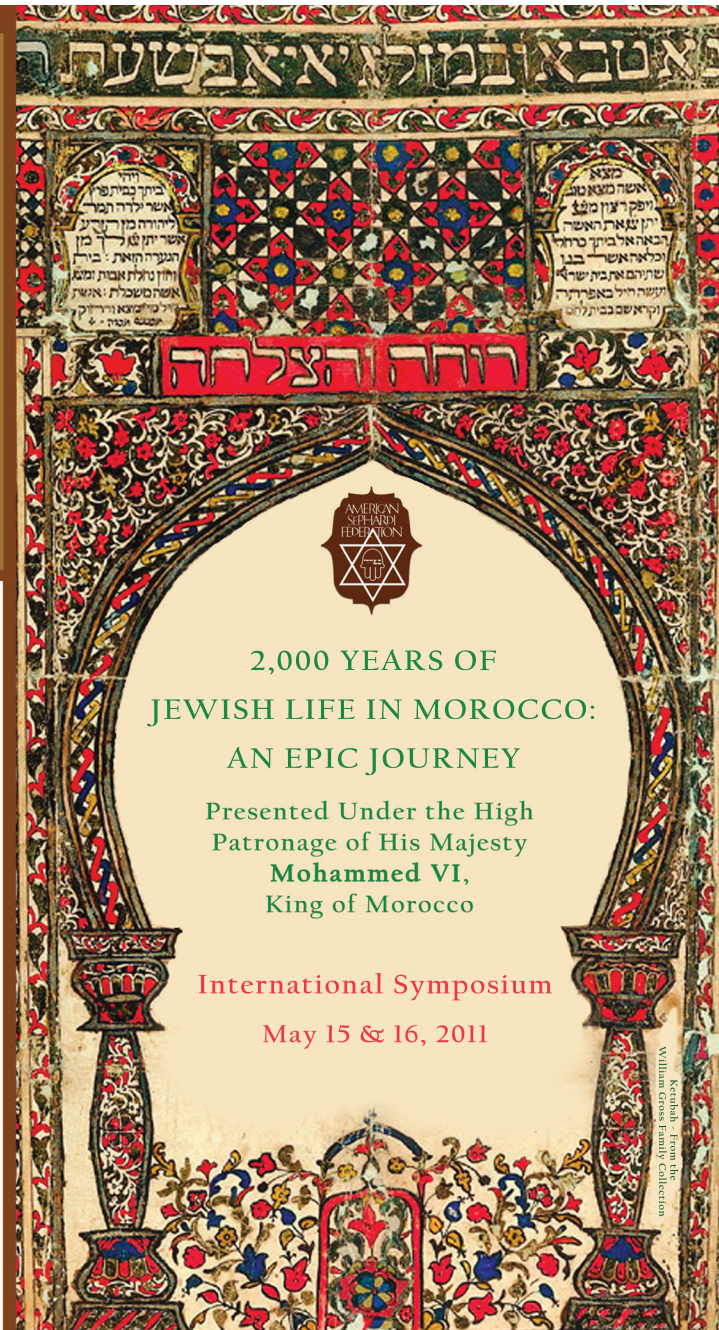


MISSION OF THE ASF
 The mission of the **American Sephardi Federation (ASF)** is 'to preserve and promote the rich cultural traditions, spirit and history of all Sephardic communities as an integral part of the Jewish experience and heritage.'

ASF was founded in 1973 and is one of five founding partners at the **Center for Jewish History**. In conjunction with its publications division, Sephardic House (who merged with ASF in 2002), the ASF has supported the publication of numerous books on Sephardic Jewry in countries including, Spain, Portugal, Iraq, Morocco, Turkey, Greece and Afghanistan.

The **ASF National Sephardic Jewish Library** focuses exclusively on Sephardic and Mizrahi topics, and the **ASF/Leon Levy Gallery** is devoted to the exhibition of Sephardic history, art and artifacts. The annual **NY Sephardic Jewish Film Festival** and other cultural events, provide the general public with engaging and educational programming. To become a member of the ASF, go to info@americansephardifederation.org or call 212.294.8350 x7.

AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION
 15 WEST 16TH STREET
 NEW YORK, NY 10011



2,000 YEARS OF JEWISH LIFE IN MOROCCO: AN EPIC JOURNEY

Presented Under the High
Patronage of His Majesty
Mohammed VI,
King of Morocco

International Symposium
 May 15 & 16, 2011

AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION

Korban - From the William Gross Family Collection

Looking Back: Jewish Life in Morocco



'LOOKING BACK: JEWISH LIFE IN MOROCCO'

An Exhibition by the American Sephardi Federation

UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF HIS MAJESTY MOHAMMED VI
KING OF MOROCCO

Created by Shelomo Alfassa



OPENING OCTOBER 14, 2010

At the Center for Jewish History 15 West 16th Street New York, NY 10011



This exhibition launches a year-long program on Jews of Morocco made possible through the generous support of the Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation and the New York Council for the Humanities



This exhibition provides an overview of the presence and flourishing of Jews in the ancient and modern Kingdom of Morocco. It is presented through the implementation of artistically designed textual displays, documents, pull quotes, non-photo images, historic photos, captions, replications of historic documents, and other visuals which portray the life of Jews living throughout this North African country.

The exhibition opened on October 14, 2010 with a keynote address by Dr. Norman A. Stillman, the 'Schusterman-Josey Professor and Chair of Judaic History' at the University of Oklahoma. This event opened the ASF's year-long program, '2000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: An Epic Journey.'

This exhibition has been funded in part by the New York Council for the Humanities.



Dr. Norman Stillman was the exhibition's Opening Night keynote speaker.



The exhibit opened to a sell-out crowd



Shelomo Alfassa, the exhibition developer with Dr. Norman Stillman the keynote speaker.



Florence Amzallag-Tatistcheff, ASF Vice President & Chair, Cultural Programs

AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION

WELCOME

The *American Sephardi Federation* is proud to present '2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: an Epic Journey,' under the High Patronage of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco. We wish to express our immense gratitude to His Majesty to have bestowed this highest honor upon ASF.

With vision and passion we have undertaken to celebrate the vibrant Moroccan Jewish community from antiquity, a two millennia history to the contemporary worldwide Diaspora. We have invited scholars from Morocco, France, Israel, Canada & the United States, who will lecture on the philosophy, the culture, the traditions, the literature, the music and the arts as well as the contributions of Moroccan rabbis to universal Jewish thought. That is the page we wish to inscribe in the universal book of world cultures, where it belongs. During our decade-long presence at the *Center for Jewish History*, ASF has commemorated our many Sephardic communities from the old world and in the new. Regardless of place, our common passion for our glorious patrimonies remains a strong unifying golden thread, one that never loses its glow.

—Florence Amzallag-Tatistcheff, ASF Vice President & Chair, Cultural Programs

The American Sephardi Federation wishes to honor the memory of a great scholar of Moroccan Jewry, Professor Haim Zafrani (1922-2004).

TICKET INFORMATION

	General Admission	ASF Members & Students with ID
Sunday, May 15th Includes Continental Breakfast, Coffee service & Buffet Lunch	\$ 65	\$ 55
Monday, May 16th Includes Continental Breakfast, Coffee service & Buffet Lunch	\$ 65	\$ 55
Sunday & Monday Package	\$120	\$100

To purchase tickets visit: asf.CharityHappenings.org

For more information or to order by phone,
please call: **212.294.8350 Ext. 0**

Please purchase your tickets by Tuesday, May 10, 2011 to insure your place at the buffet lunch. Dietary laws observed.

AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION at the *Center for Jewish History*
15 West 16th Street New York, NY 10011 212.294.8350 Fax 212.294.8348
www.AmericanSephardiFederation.org info@AmericanSephardiFederation.org

Symposium Schedule

Sunday, May 15, 2011 (DAY 1)

- 9:30am Continental breakfast
10:00am **Welcome & Introduction to the Symposium**
David E.R. Dangoor, ASF President
H.E. Aziz Mekouar - Moroccan Ambassador to the U.S.
10:30am **2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: A Visual Journey**
Sonia Fellous, School of Paris V Sorbonne, Paris
11:00am **Session (1) 'From Antiquity to Today'**
Berber, Arab and Sephardi: The Diversity of Jewish Life in Moroccan History
Daniel Schroeter, University of Minnesota
Foreign Influences in the 20th Century
David Bensoussan, University of Quebec, Montreal
1:00pm **Buffet Luncheon**
2:00pm **Session (2) 'Evolution of Jewish Life'**
The French Jewish 'Alliance', the American 'Joint' and the Jews of Morocco
Yaron Tsur, Department of Jewish History, Tel-Aviv University
Moroccan Jews and the Law: Halakha, Shari'a and Consular Protection in the 19th Century
Jessica Marglin, Princeton University
Coffee Break
3:00pm **Session (3) 'Moroccan Jews and the Arts'**
Moroccan Jewish Literary Creativity
Yaelle Azagury, Freelance Cultural Reporter
Liturgy, Piyutim and Andalusian Music
Dina Sabbah, Ethnomusicologist, Montreal
Jews and Art in a Muslim Land
Vivian Mann, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York
5:00pm Conclusion of Day 1

Monday, May 16, 2011 (DAY 2)

- 9:30am Continental breakfast
10:00am **Welcome**
Florence Tatistcheff, ASF Vice-President
Session (4) 'Tribute to Professor Haïm Zafrani'
The Passion of a Scholar for his own Cultural Heritage
Nicole Serfaty, University of Paris
10:30am **Session (5) 'Morocco and Its Jews: History and Social Memories'**
Between History and Memory: Jews in Moroccan Muslim Narratives
Aomar Boum, University of Arizona
The Role of some Jewish Diplomats and Financial Advisers throughout the History of Morocco
Nicole Serfaty, University of Paris
11:30am **Session (6) 'Contributions of Moroccan Rabbis to Universal Jewish Thought'**
Old Wisdom for New Times: Insights from the Moroccan Rabbinic Tradition
Rabbi Marc D. Angel, Founder, The Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals
Elijah Benamozegh: The Kaballah and Interreligious Discourse
Clémence Boulouque, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York
12:30pm Lunch
1:30pm **Session (7) 'Contributions of the Moroccan Jewish Diaspora'**
Moroccan Jewry in the Diaspora: A Visual Passage
Sonia Fellous, School of Paris V Sorbonne, Paris
The Literature of Exile: The Origins in Marcel Benabou's Family Epic
Robert Elbaz, University of Haifa
The Moroccan Diaspora in Israel
Yafit Lev-Aretz, University of Pennsylvania
The Moroccan Diaspora in the Americas
David Bensoussan, University of Quebec, Montreal
3:30pm Coffee break
3:50pm **Session (8) 'Jews in Morocco Today: Preserving the Link'**
A roundtable discussion to include current efforts to preserve Jewish sites in Morocco
Invited guests: Serge Berdugo, Ambassador-At-Large for the Kingdom of Morocco;
Arlette Berdugo, author; Jacky Kadosh, President of the Jewish communities of Marrakesh and Essaouria; and Rabbi Rafael Benchimol.
Moderated by Stanley Urman, Ph.D., ASF Executive Director
5:00pm Closing Remarks: Florence Tatistcheff-Amzallag

All sessions and speakers are subject to change

2,000 Years of Jewish Life in Morocco: An Epic Journey is a year-long program made possible through the generous support of the **Edmond J. Safra Philanthropic Foundation**. ASF is grateful for the assistance of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the UN, and the Consulate General of The Kingdom of Morocco in New York.