



## Alaska Jewish Museum Fall / Winter 2022 Newsletter

### Greetings Members!

This has been a very busy year for the Museum! Our new virtual exhibit which we are now calling **“From Purchase to Prosperity: The Jewish Founders of the Alaska Commercial Company,”** is almost completed. We hope to have it uploaded to the website by the end of January. This exhibit explores the little-known background stories of the founders of the Alaska Commercial Company, and how the ethics of Judaism played a major role in the running of ACC outposts in the Alaska Territory. While there existed no organized Jewish effort to purchase Alaska from the Russians, the merchants of California contributed their voices to opening the region. One company, whose major stockholders were Jewish merchants, Louis Sloss and Lewis Gerstle, did lobby for a monopoly on Alaskan fur seal skins beginning in 1868. They succeeded in 1870 and this trade formed the foundation of the wildly successful Alaska Commercial Company. The exhibit includes narrative, photos, 3D imagery, and film!!

We were very excited and honored to be included in two events that you will find in the events section of this website. One is the inclusion of our curator Leslie Fried in the ceremony of the Induction of Ruth Gruber into the Jewish Hall of Fame via Zoom. The other is the inclusion of the Alaska Jewish Museum in the new exhibit at the Shanghai Museum of Jewish Refugees, entitled **“The Past Is in The Present: The Future Is Still in Our Hands.”** The exhibition’s stated aim is “to present some of the most prestigious and original museums around the world dedicated to Jewish culture, history (especially the Holocaust), and art, to the Chinese audience.”

Lastly, the Anchorage International Film Festival (AIFF) 2022 has chosen our sponsored film “Where Life Begins” for their narrative feature competition. In 2019, our sponsored submission “Those Who Remained” won the Best Narrative Feature Award!

As Chanukah approaches, we want to wish our viewers the very best!