

Alaska Jewish Museum Spring 2026 Newsletter

Greetings Members!

Winter is still upon us here in Alaska. The ground is white and the temperature ranges from single digits to the mid-twenties. But Spring is on the horizon – as well as some very interesting projects!

We are taking our virtual exhibit, **From Purchase to Prosperity: The Jewish Founders of the Alaska Commercial Company**, to another level with a virtual follow-up called “Alaska Commercial Company: The Gerstles and the Slosses – Up Close and Personal,” that will act as a complement to the former. In this project, Alaska Jewish Museum Curator Leslie Fried will be communicating with some of the many descendants of the Gerstle and Sloss families to record their recollections of the amazing ancestors who were the Jewish founders in 1867 of the oldest company in Alaska which is still operating more than thirty stores in the state. In addition to recordings of stories and personal anecdotes, this virtual presentation will include photographs, documents, timelines and family trees.

The Museum is also very excited to let you know that on Monday, April 13 at 5:30pm, we will be screening the acclaimed documentary **Four Winters** followed by a conversation with filmmaker Julia Mintz and Shlomo Bobrow, a survivor from the Polish partisans during the Holocaust. This will be held in Anchorage at the Wilda Marston Auditorium at Loussac Library. In early we will provide a link to the ticket purchase site on the Museum website’s homepage.

This film tells the story of the Jewish partisans who fought the Nazis and their collaborators during World War II, surviving against all odds within the forests of eastern Europe. The film pushes back against widespread narratives of Jewish passivity during World War II and serves as an inspiring reminder of individuals' power in the face of authoritarian threats.

“All I owned was a rifle, a leopard coat and my camera,” says Faye Schulman, whose clandestine photographs of Jewish partisans living in the forests of Eastern Europe documented their efforts to disrupt the Nazi killing machine by blowing up bridges, derailing trains, and smuggling Jews. The image of Schulman with an ammunition belt slung over her fashionable shoulder is only one of many jaw-dropping moments in Julia Mintz’s riveting documentary. Some of the last surviving partisans tell stories of cold, hunger, and fear, but also of their capacity for courage, altruism, resourcefulness, and barbarism. Maybe you think you’ve heard it all before. You haven’t.

