"Artists are the people in our society who are thinking about the new ideas of our time." PAGE 2

Jewish museums reflect on 1917, when seeds of anti-immigration sentiment were sown.
BY GERALDINE FABRIKANT | PAGE 38

From Chicago to the nation's capital, exploring what it means to be an American.
BY HILARIE M. SHEETS | PAGE 6

Women's history unfolds in New York amid the glow of Tiffany lamps.
BY ELIZABETH A. HARRIS | PAGE 4

In a tumultuous era, some museums rush to embrace the political, while others deliberately retreat.
BY GRAHAM BOWLEY | PAGE 2
1917, Still Reverberating Today

A show explores how, a century ago, three events had a powerful impact on Jews around the world and on immigration.

By GERALDINE FABRIKANT

PHILADELPHIA —Sometimes an exhibition, planned years in advance, arrives at a moment when its subject is particularly resonant. That is true of "1917: How One Year Changed the World," an exhibition for the American Jewish Historical Society in Philadelphia and later this year at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York. Organized by the two institutions, which are collaborating on an exhibition for the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and later this year at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and later this year at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York. Organized by the two institutions, which are collaborating on an exhibition for the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia and later this year at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York.

The exhibition is also a strong reminder of the little-known story in American Jewish history. It highlights the little-known story of a Jewish war hero, Sgt. William Shemin, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama in 2015 —97 years after he was killed in action. His story offers a reminder of the contributions of Jewish soldiers in the United States during World War I.

The exhibition also features items related to the Balfour Declaration, a document that was signed in 1917 by Britain and the Ottoman Empire. The declaration recognized the rights of Jews to return to Palestine and to settle in the country. The restrictions were not overtly aimed at Jews, but because the quotas from countries with large Jewish populations were tightened, fewer Jews were able to enter the United States. The Balfour Declaration, meanwhile, expressed Britain's support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

The war and the revolution resulted in strict limits on immigration to the United States, and the quotas were reduced to a trickle. By the time the war ended in 1918, the number of Jews who had entered the United States as a result of the quotas was less than 1% of the number of Jews who had entered the United States as a result of the quotas of the previous decade. The restrictions were not overtly aimed at Jews, but because the quotas from countries with large Jewish populations were tightened, fewer Jews were able to enter the United States. The Balfour Declaration, meanwhile, expressed Britain's support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

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A Muslim cultures show at the Children's Museum of Manhattan is designed to both educate young visitors and prevent bias.

By JANET MORRISSEY

As terrorism fears have mounted and Westerners have become more interested in the Muslim world, the Children's Museum of Manhattan is doing its part to help foster the rising curiosity. Its exhibition “America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far” showcases the history, art and traditions of Muslims, with the belief that education will bear fruit long after the fear has subsided.

“People really want to dig in and get a better understanding from a trusted source about Muslim cultures,” said Andrew S. Ackerman, the museum’s executive director. “And the curious people are exposed to diversity, the better, he said.

“Diversity is a key word,” added Madelene Geswaldo, a teacher at the Manhattan School for Children, brought her kindergarten class that visited the museum last year like this one has,” said Mr. Ackerman, recalling that more than 250,000 people have seen the exhibit since it opened.

“I’ve been here 26 years and I can’t remember another exhibit that had a sustained heavy attendance over a period of a year like this one has,” said Mr. Ackerman, noting that more than 250,000 people have seen the exhibit since it opened.

He said he knows of only a handful of exhibits this year that have reduced prejudice, violence and misunderstanding.

The show has been so popular since its opening in February that it has been extended another year, and plans are underway to find a larger home for it in 2018.

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“This is timely at a moment of great fear and anxiety among our community — all of us are feeling it,” said Mr. Rashid. “The exhibition offers a chance to understand and engage with this issue.

“More than six years of planning and research went into designing the show and rounding up all the artifacts, artwork, music and props. The museum consulted hundreds of people, including Muslims from all walks of life, as well as historians, scholars, and mosque leaders to ensure accuracy and authenticity.

“Opening the exhibition helped to dispel myths and stereotypes about Islam. When the exhibition opened, the timing couldn’t have been better. The anti-Muslim rhetoric that dominated President Trump’s election campaign, as well as global terrorist attacks, had fueled anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant sentiment in the U.S. and around the world. The exhibition helped to humanize the culture and showcase its richness as a religion.

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“One reason it’s so popular is that it’s interactive. Children can wrap themselves in Senegalese fabrics, smell spices, roll a rug, or appreciate the fragrances of fruit. One fruit, the durian, emits such a putrid smell that it has been banned from many countries.

“The show is divided into five areas, where visitors can press buttons to hear such instrument and create their own music. Glasses are filled with ancient artifacts, such as a 700-year-old Egyptian candlestick, as well as contemporary Turkish ceramics and beads — each with its own story to tell.

“The global marketplace area features samples of colorful fabrics, beads and spices, rolled up in a rug or opened to show in a multilevel dhow, a boat used to transport goods. They can create a small version of a Pakistani truck or sit atop a barge and play an Egyptian camel.

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