



EVENTS ACCOMPANYING:



**35th JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL
PROGRAM OF ACCOMPANYING EVENTS AT THE GALICIA JEWISH MUSEUM
1-5 July 2026**

To download tickets (both free and paid), click [HERE](#).

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY

10.00

How Many Gates Were There in the Ghetto? On the Borders and Addresses of the Kraków Ghetto

Dr. Alicja Jarkowska (Jagiellonian University), Dr. Martyna Grądzka-Rejak (Institute of National Remembrance / Warsaw Ghetto Museum), Dr. Stanisław Szombara (AGH University of Kraków), Katarzyna Boryczka (Jagiellonian University), Aleksandra Kolanko, Cristian Dumitrica

Presentation

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków

We would like to invite you to a meeting devoted to the gates of the Krakow Ghetto — both the official and hidden ones that marked the boundaries of the closed district from 1941 to 1943. During the event, we will trace the routes leading into and out of the ghetto, analyzing their function within this space.

We will examine the history of the Kraków Ghetto through the prism of its passages. We will talk about the main gates, guarded by the police, but also about the less obvious ones: secret points that allowed escape, seeking refuge, or illegal contact with the outside world. This is a

story about everyday life, attempts of survival, and the realities of life on both sides of the wall.

11.00

Did Addresses in the Ghetto Have a Meaning? Józefińska Street and Its Inhabitants (1941–1943)

Dr. Alicja Jarkowska (Jagiellonian University), Dr. Martyna Grądzka-Rejak (Institute of National Remembrance / Warsaw Ghetto Museum), Dr. Stanisław Szombara (AGH University of Kraków), Jakub Jastrzębski (Museum of Podgórze / branch of the Museum of Kraków)

City tour

PL

40 PLN

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18 (starting point)

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University and the Podgórze Museum (branch of the Museum of Kraków)

We would like to invite you to a walk along Józefińska Street, one of the most important arteries of the Kraków Ghetto from 1941 to 1943. Key institutions were located here, such as a hospital, a bathhouse, an employment office (*Arbeitsamt*), the Jewish Socialist Youth Welfare Center (ŻSS), an orphanage, and the headquarters of the Jewish Order Service. During the meeting, we will explore the history of these buildings and the fate of selected residents. We will analyze how the proximity of these institutions affected the daily lives of residents of the surrounding buildings, and whether a specific address facilitated survival or posed an additional threat in the face of displacement.

11.00

Guided tour through the exhibition “Traces of Memory”

Viktoria Mudrytska

Exhibition tour

EN

Space is limited (20 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The permanent exhibition of the Galicia Jewish Museum, “Traces of Memory”, contains a variety of themes, motifs and threads related to Polish–Jewish history and heritage. It also depicts many perspectives and evokes an almost infinite range of possible interpretations.

We would like to invite you to dive into the concept of this exhibition, to slowly and carefully explore “Traces of Memory”, and to discuss these important — and sometimes very difficult — subjects with us.

11.00

Guided tour through the exhibition “Unimaginable. The Void After the Great Synagogues”

Jagoda Wójcicka

Curatorial tour

PL

Space is limited (15 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The exhibition “Unimaginable. The Void After the Great Synagogues” draws attention to the scale of destruction of pre-war monuments of Jewish sacred architecture. The reasons for the annihilation of these remarkable buildings were hatred and violence — hatred toward everything Jewish, as well as violence against people and their material culture. Destroyed and — from today’s perspective — unimaginable, these beautiful, monumental synagogues were never rebuilt after World War II. Bringing together examples from 13 cities across Poland, the exhibition serves both as a commemoration and as an act of education about a heritage lost forever.

12.00

The State of Preservation and the Situation of Synagogues After World War II

Dr. Kinga Migalska

Lecture

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The lecture will focus on the fate of synagogues after World War II, as well as the changes that occurred in terms of their state of preservation and presence in cities and smaller towns. It will also provide an opportunity to reflect on the significance of synagogues in the cultural landscape and on ways to commemorate Jewish communal sites that no longer exist.

15.00

“The Jewish Body in Central and Eastern Europe.” Presentation of the latest volume of “Polin. Studies in Polish Jewry” (#38)

Prof. Eugenia Prokop-Janiec (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), Dr. Zuzanna Kołodziejska-Smagąła (University of Wrocław), Dr. Marek Tuszewicki (Jagiellonian University, Kraków).

Led by: Dr. Alicja Maślak-Maciejewska

Discussion

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków

“Polin. Studies in Polish Jewry” is an annual journal that has been published since 1986 presenting the latest research on Polish Jews. The latest volume focuses on gender and the body in the history of Central and Eastern European Jews. We would like to invite you to a meeting, during which Prof. Eugenia Prokop-Janiec, Dr. Zuzanna Kołodziejska Smagała, and Dr. Marek Tuszewicki will present their articles. During the second part of the event, a discussion will be held about research methodologies on Jewish corporeality and the development of this research in recent years.

18.00

Freedom Smuggler

Maciej Kozłowski, led by: Katarzyna Wójcik, Witold Bereś, Krzysztof Burnetko

Q&A session with the author

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the “Kraków i Świat” magazine

Maciej Kozłowski's story is proof that bridges are built through action, courage, and empathy. From the transfer of “Kultura” through the Iron Curtain and the “Proces Taterników” (“The Tatra Mountaineers’ Trial”), through diplomacy in the US and Israel, to the battle for truth in lustration courts. The result is an intriguing report from the front lines of Polish and global transformations.

This story includes important encounters (Giedroyc, Turowicz, Karski, Kazik “Ratajzer” Rotem), the turbulent adventures of an ambitious alpinist, a smuggler of banned books, and a political prisoner, as well as insightful analyses of contemporary times (e.g., the situation in

the Middle East and 21st-century populism). Plus, a chapter on... football in Kraków, revealing the multicultural roots of Polish sport, but also the hate in the stadiums.

This is also a manual of resilience: how to defend a community against hate speech, how to combine values with pragmatism, how to leverage the power of the European Union. And at the same time, it is a beautiful story about love, family, and friendships that endure throughout the ages.

The meeting will be accompanied by a short music performance by Magda Brudzińska and Adam Niedzielin (piano).

21.30

“Pink Lady”, dir. Nir Bergman, Israel, Italy, 2024, 104’

Open-air film screening

Inauguration of the 12th edition of “The Space of an Image. A Series of Films on Jewish Themes”

HEB, subtitles: EN, PL

Space is limited (90 people). Free tickets apply

Courtyard of the Museum of Engineering and Technology, ul. Wawrzyńca 15

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, the Camera of David Foundation, and the Museum of Engineering and Technology

An unconventional story about discovering and accepting an identity — not one’s own, but that of a loved one. Bati and Lazer are a young married couple of Orthodox Jews living in Jerusalem. They appear to be the perfect couple, but their intimate life is far from happy, and not because of the strict rules imposed by their religion. The puzzle is solved when Bati is horrified to learn one day that Lazer is only attracted to “her soul”, and that he is being blackmailed by Orthodox homophobes. Upon learning the truth, she decides to fight for her husband, hoping to awaken his desire and “cure” him. Thus begins an extraordinary (and at times hilarious!) journey that forces the young woman, who has never had any doubts before, to question one belief and taboo after another. Though critical of the Haredi community, the film avoids an accusatory tone. It remains an intimate story about two people who, despite everything, love each other and who must rebuild their world.

THURSDAY, 2 JULY

10.00

Gates of Knowledge. On the latest research on Kraków Jews

Prof. Łukasz T. Sroka (University of the National Education Commission in Kraków), Prof. Leszek Hońdo (Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków), Dr. Monika Stępień (Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków), Dr. Martyna Grądzka-Rejak (Institute of National Remembrance, Warsaw), Dr. Alicja Jarkowska (Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków), Janina Naskalska-Babik (Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University, Kraków). Led by: Dr. Alicja Maślak-Maciejewska

Meeting

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Jagiellonian University Centre for the Study of the History and Culture of Kraków's Jews

The meeting will provide an opportunity to find out more about several projects devoted to Kraków Jews that have been conducted in recent years. They address topics such as the cemeteries of Kraków and Podgórze, Jewish education in Kraków's public schools before World War I, the everyday life and social realities of the Kraków Ghetto, the Jewish community after 1968 (until the 1980s), the activities of the Association of Cracovians in Israel, and the second generation of Holocaust survivors. The researchers themselves will discuss their findings. During the meeting, there will also be an opportunity to familiarize yourself with their publications and publicly available databases on Kraków Jews.

11.00

Photography of Kazimierz – A Walking Seminar

Jason Francisco

Photographic city tour

EN

40 PLN

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18 (starting point)

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

Kazimierz, Kraków's historic Jewish district, has been extensively photographed over the last 150 years. Join photographer and writer Jason Francisco, who has worked extensively in Kazimierz for the last three decades, on a walking seminar studying the historical photography

of Kazimierz in situ, much of which is not well-known to the public. This is an opportunity to consider the paradoxes of place, as well as the profound continuities and discontinuities that shape collective memory. It is also an opportunity to learn to read the visual world critically for the sake of new imagination.

11.00

Guided tour through the exhibition “Traces of Memory”

Sylvia Papier

Exhibition tour

PL

Space is limited (20 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The permanent exhibition of the Galicia Jewish Museum, “Traces of Memory”, contains a variety of themes, motifs and threads related to Polish-Jewish history and heritage. It also depicts many perspectives and evokes an almost infinite range of possible interpretations. We would like to invite you to dive into the concept of this exhibition, to slowly and carefully explore “Traces of Memory”, and to discuss these important – and sometimes very difficult – subjects with us.

12.00

The Gate to the Temple and the Heavens. The Symbolism of the Synagogue as a Heritage Object

Marta Eichelberger-Jankowska, Katarzyna Suszkiewicz

Workshop

PL

Space is limited (30 people). Registration required

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning

During this workshop, we will examine the roles a synagogue plays in Jewish life, what its interior and architectural elements symbolize, and what they allude to.

A synagogue is sometimes perceived as a gateway to heaven due to its function as a house of prayer. Furthermore, it also serves as a gateway to understanding the history of the Jewish people from ancient times to the present day. Each synagogue building can be treated as a gateway to the history of the community that built and used it. Within its walls lies a story

about people and their identities, their sense of belonging, and their local and historical ties. The architectural design, materials, and interior design will serve as clues in our investigation.

15.00

Chris Schwarz Memorial Lecture

Teaching About the Holocaust: The Gate Connecting Poland and South Africa

Jakub Nowakowski

Lecture

PL, EN

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The programme will examine Holocaust and genocide education through two contrasting yet meaningfully interconnected contexts: Poland and South Africa. Although separated by geography, language, and historical experience, both societies emerged in the late 20th century from oppressive political systems — communism and apartheid — and entered fragile democracies while confronting urgent questions of memory, responsibility, and reconstruction. Their educational landscapes provide a compelling lens through which to explore the conference themes of context, connection, and (dis)continuity.

In Poland, Holocaust education develops within a broader landscape shaped by absence, loss, and tensions of memory. It is marked by the difficult negotiation between acknowledging historical entanglement and complicity, and the persistence of heroic national narratives.

In South Africa, discourse on the Holocaust has become a framework through which a post-apartheid society has sought to articulate and process its own history of racial oppression. In this context, Holocaust references have functioned as a bridge for discussions about apartheid, genocide in Africa, and the dangers of dehumanising language — allowing for the expression and reinterpretation of local experiences of injustice through a global historical prism.

By bringing these two cases into dialogue, the presentation considers how Holocaust education can operate as a space of connection across time and place: linking distinct histories of violence, offering comparative tools for understanding contemporary injustice, and revealing both the possibilities and limitations of universalising historical narratives. This comparative perspective highlights not only the continuities between past and present, but also the ruptures that shape how societies remember, teach, and transform their histories.

17.00

“Intersections. Papercuts by Anna Wencel”

Exhibition opening

PL, EN

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

What can be depicted by a papercut? Symbols, ornaments, and floral motifs are the most popular types of patterns. But can a papercut say something about more complex issues? About presence and absence, heritage and history, tradition and memory? Anna Wencel, the author of the works presented in a new temporary exhibition at the Galicia Jewish Museum, attempts to answer this question. “Intersections” features several dozen original contemporary papercuts. The exhibition's title is closely linked to the positioning of Anna Wencel's work at the intersection of various cultures, at the nexus of tradition and modernity, contemporary art and crafts.

20.00

“Not All of Me Will Die”, dir. Joanna Grudzińska, France, Poland, 2022, 77’

Film screening

PL, subtitles: EN

Free admission

Jewish Culture Festival tent, ul. Józefa 36

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the Camera of David Foundation

Zuzanna Ginczanka was shot to death in 1944 at the age of 27, just as she was gaining recognition in Polish literary circles. Joanna Grudzińska begins from this tragic death and interweaves scenes from contemporary Poland into the story of Ginczanka's life, taking viewers on a journey back into Nazi barbarism, the intellectual flowering of the 1930s, the fears of an impending war, to times of adolescence as a rebellious teenager grapples with becoming a woman.

FRIDAY, 3 JULY

10.00

Imagined Synagogues

Jessica Szczepańska

Workshop & city tour (children's event)

PL

Space is limited (15 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

What is a bimah? What is the purpose of the Aron Ha-Kodesh? And what connects the Statue of Liberty to the New Synagogue in Wrocław? We would like to invite children to a workshop accompanying the exhibition "Unimaginable. The Void of Great Synagogues." During the workshop, we will creatively introduce young children to what synagogues are and the role they have played and continue to play in the lives of cities and towns. We will also embark on a unique walk in the footsteps of Kraków's synagogues using our map from the "KEF is Fun!" exhibition. How many synagogues will we find? Let's explore together!

11.00

From Map to Mappa. Jewish Life in Kraków From the Day Before Yesterday Till This Morning

Bartosz Wencel

City tour

EN

40 PLN

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18 (starting point)

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

Jewish life has existed in Kraków almost since the city's foundation. It was then confined to nearby Kazimierz for several hundred years, which became the center of the Jewish community's social, religious, and economic life. From the mid-19th century, as full citizens of Kraków, Jews could settle in any part of the developing city, to which Kazimierz belonged now as a district. Many believe that World War II destroyed Jewish life in our city, that it never recovered – but this is not true, as you will discover during a walk through places important to Jewish citizens of Kraków, both centuries ago and today, as described in the guide "MAPA: Contemporary Jewish Places and Stories."

11.00

Curatorial tour through the exhibition "Intersections. Papercuts by Anna Wencel"

Jagoda Wójcicka

Curatorial tour

PL

Space is limited (15 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The temporary exhibition "Intersections" at the Galicia Jewish Museum features original, contemporary papercuts by Anna Wencel. They feature elements characteristic of Jewish papercuts, references to Polish and Ukrainian folk traditions, and inspirations from other cultural backgrounds. The exhibition subtly combines artistic and educational dimensions, serving as a backdrop for stories about cutouts, symbols, and their diverse meanings.

12.00

Cut Out. Papercutting Workshop with the Artist

Anna Wencel

Workshop

PL

Space is limited (20 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

Is creating papercuts difficult? How long does it take to make one? How do you design your own pattern? Is it better to cut with scissors or a knife? This workshop at the Galicia Jewish Museum is an opportunity to meet the creator of works featured in the new temporary exhibition "Intersections. Papercuts by Anna Wencel," learn the answers to these questions, and create your own unique papercut.

15.00

Helena Rubinstein: From the Gates of Kazimierz to the New World

Kinga Banasik

Lecture

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The lecture will focus on the story of Helena Rubinstein, one of the most influential women of the 20th century and a pioneer of the global cosmetics market. Particular attention will be paid to previously unknown Polish themes in her biography: her youth spent in Kraków and the ties to her birthplace that she maintained throughout her life. Rubinstein's relationship with the Polish–American community and how she built her image among Polish emigrants in the US will also be discussed. A key element of the lecture will also be the story of Helena Rubinstein's sisters, who helped create the company's foundations as a family business, significantly contributing to its international success. The meeting will explore lesser-known aspects of Helena Rubinstein's story, the brand she created, and the thriving enterprise she established.

17.00

Czarne in Galicia: "Nasi Niemcy" (Our Germans)

Maciej Falkowski, led by: Jolanta Drużyńska

Q&A session with the author

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Czarne Publishing House

"Post-German" is a word that automatically brings to mind the western regions of Poland or Warmia and Mazuria. Few people realize that many villages formerly inhabited by Germans can be found in Mazovia, the Lublin region, or Małopolska. German colonists were drawn east by the Silesian Piast dynasty, Kazimierz the Great, and the Teutonic Knights, Russians, Prussians, and Austrians, as well as Polish estate owners and administrators. The newcomers founded villages and towns, transformed fallow land into fields and orchards, drained marshes, and battled flooding rivers. They introduced innovations, opened factories, and developed industry. Many, especially Catholics, did not retain their German identity and eventually polonized.

Around a million Polish citizens of German nationality lived within the borders of the Second Polish Republic. For most of them, their centuries-long presence was ended by World War II and the post-war policies of the Polish state. Today, this history is primarily evidenced by forgotten Protestant cemeteries, as well as buildings and farms, canals, willow rows, and terps.

Maciej Falkowski searches for such traces. He discovers iron houses in the Pyzdry Forest, remains of Olęder settlers along the Vistula River, descendants of the Walddeutsche in the Podkarpacie Region, and the Bambers in Poznań. He tells the stories of Protestants, Moravian

Brethren, and Mennonites. He strives to save from oblivion the world of those who were forced to leave Poland after 1945, and describes the fate of those who chose to stay and became an integral part of Polish society.

19.00

Kabbalat Shabbat. Progressive Shabbat service

Cantor Ryfka Foremniak, Anna Hajduk-Rynkowicz (piano)

Religious Service

PL, EN, HEB

Free admission, space is limited, registration required: kontakt@orhadasz.pl

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by Or Hadash – The Progressive Jewish Community of Kraków in cooperation with the Galicia Jewish Museum

We would like to invite you to the Friday religious service, which begins the holy day of Judaism: Shabbat. The Kabbalat Shabbat service is mainly based on singing prayers. The service will be led by Ryfka Foremniak, cantor of Or Hadasz – the Progressive Jewish Community of Kraków, accompanied by Anna Hajduk-Rynkowicz on piano.

20.00

“Midas Man”, dir. Joe Stephenson, United Kingdom, 2024, 112’

Film screening

EN, subtitles: PL

Space is limited (60 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the Camera of David Foundation

The true story of The Beatles told from the perspective of their brilliant manager. Brian Epstein excels in selling records at the family shop, but dreams of something more. In just a few years, driven by his pure love for music and an unwavering faith in his own intuition, he will catapult the unknown band of youngsters to the very top. The Beatles depicted in this film are in their period of playing dirty rock'n'roll in Liverpool basement clubs and a charming bunch of rascals. They need someone just like the fatherly Epstein to introduce them to the world at large. In the process, this King Midas of the entertainment industry — an elegant dandy with the makings of a playboy — will himself begin to indulge in life a bit too greedily. The film, a colourful journey through the sometimes swinging, sometimes depressingly conservative and homophobic '60s, faithfully recalls the subsequent milestones of the Fab Four's career and the atmosphere of Beatlemania that swept the globe.

SATURDAY, 4 JULY

10.00

Intersections and “Shinethroughs”. How Are Papercuts Created?

Anna Wencel

Meeting with the artist

PL, EN

Entry: with the museum entry ticket

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

What do we imagine when we think of papercuts? Polish or Ukrainian regional paper ornaments? The traditional Jewish Mizrach with a menorah? What if we mixed it all up and added city street grids, buildings, bridges, forests, rivers, intricate ornaments, near-realistic representations, and abstract compositions? In the “Intersections. Papercuts by Anna Wencel” exhibition space, you'll have the opportunity to meet the artist and observe the process of creating new paper cutouts.

11.00

Gate – Toyer – Sha’ar, or What Does Kazimierz Hide Behind the Door?

Bartosz Wencel

City tour

PL

40 PLN

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18 (starting point)

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The most interesting things always lie behind some gate, door, or gateway. Kraków's Kazimierz is no exception. Life has always unfolded and continues to unfold in courtyards and backyards, and Kazimierz is the best proof of this. Gates and the stories behind them, as well as their symbolic meaning, will be the main theme of this guided tour.

11.00

Curatorial tour through the exhibition “Intersections. Papercuts by Anna Wencel”

Jakub Wydrzyński

Curatorial tour

ENG

Space is limited (15 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The temporary exhibition "Intersections" at the Galicia Jewish Museum features original, contemporary cutouts by Anna Wencel. They feature elements characteristic of Jewish cutouts, references to Polish and Ukrainian folk traditions, and inspirations from other cultural backgrounds. The exhibition subtly combines artistic and educational dimensions, serving as a canvas for stories about cutouts, symbols, and their diverse meanings.

12.00

Israel 2026: Politics, Society, Economy

Dr. Karolina Zielińska, Jakub Katulski, Dr. Jerzy Wójcik, led by: Dr. Ewa Węgrzyn

Discussion

PL

Space is limited (80 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University and The Herzl-Thon Center for Israel Studies and Polish-Israeli Relations in Kraków

The debate "Israel 2026: Politics, Society, Economy" is a permanent part of the Festival program at the Galicia Jewish Museum. Each year, the most important political challenges will be discussed, including social tensions, directions for reform, and the role of leaders like Benjamin Netanyahu. Participants will also address Israel's increasingly difficult relations with regional partners and the West, as well as armed conflicts and numerous accusations of human rights abuses. The social section will focus on the diversity of Israeli society and the relations between its groups. The final section will explore why the Israeli economy is still considered one of the most innovative in the world.

14.00

Guided tour through the exhibition "Unimaginable. The Void After the Great Synagogues"

Jakub Wydrzyński

Curatorial tour

EN

Space is limited (15 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The exhibition “Unimaginable. The Void After the Great Synagogues” draws attention to the scale of destruction of pre-war monuments of Jewish sacred architecture. The reasons for the annihilation of these remarkable buildings were hatred and violence — hatred toward everything Jewish, as well as violence against people and their material culture. Destroyed and — from today’s perspective — unimaginable, these beautiful, monumental synagogues were never rebuilt after World War II. Bringing together examples from 13 cities across Poland, the exhibition serves both as a commemoration and as an act of education about a heritage lost forever.

15.00

Cut Out. Papercutting Workshop with the Artist

Anna Wencel

Workshop

PL

Space is limited (20 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

Is creating cutouts difficult? How long does it take to make one? How do you design your own pattern? Is it better to cut with scissors or a knife? The workshop at the Galicia Jewish Museum is an opportunity to meet the creator of works featured in the new temporary exhibition “Intersections. Anna Wencel's Cutouts,” learn the answers to these questions, and create your own unique papercut.

16.00

Czarne in Galicia: “Emirat to my. Jak talibowie odbijali Afganistan” (The Emirate is Us. How the Taliban Retook Afghanistan)

Jagoda Grondecka, led by: Jakub Katulski

Q&A session with the author

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Czarne Publishing House

In the summer of 2021, as the Americans leave Afghanistan after twenty years, Jagoda Grondecka is on the ground. She covers the Taliban's armed march on Kabul and their return to power, the panic among residents, the flight of Afghan soldiers, and the collapse of the republic's structures. She speaks with Taliban members and visits the abandoned Bagram

base, where the abandoned equipment reminds us of the Americans' sudden retreat. She follows the dramatic attempts to evacuate civilians and the crowds trying to reach the airport.

Her reporting is based on an analysis of the fall of the Afghan republic: the corruption of elites, the impunity of warlords of the Northern Alliance, and nighttime special forces raids on alleged enemies of the regime. This is how the story of the Taliban's return to power began.

18.00

“The Big Boss”, dir. Tomasz Wolski, Poland, The Netherlands, France, 2025, 88’

Film screening

EN, FR, subtitles: PL

Space is limited (100 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the Camera of David Foundation

“The Big Boss” is a feature-length documentary spy thriller set in the 1960s and 1970s. The film's protagonist is Leopold Trepper, the legendary head of the Red Orchestra spy network, which was active during the Second World War. Although he played a key role in the history of espionage, after the war he became persona non grata in Poland: he was tracked by the secret police, repressed, and accused of treason. His dramatic fight for the right to leave the country becomes a symbol of a struggle of an individual against an oppressive system. The film was created exclusively from archival footage obtained from over 20 sources from around the world. The daring editing typical for Tomasz Wolski, reveals the mystery layer by layer and leads the viewer through a tense, almost cinematic, narrative in which historic facts appear as taken out of a spy thriller.

“The Big Boss” is a story about the mysteries of the 20th century but also about bravery, treason, and the relentless will to survive. It is also a universal story about fighting injustice and about how solidarity can change the course of history.

20.00

“Nuremberg”, dir. James Vanderbilt, USA, 2025, 148’

Film screening

EN, subtitles: PL

Space is limited (100 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the Camera of David Foundation

It is 1945. The whole world is watching as the trials of Nazi war criminals are beginning in the German city of Nuremberg. Robert H. Jackson, the lead American prosecutor, is all too aware of the difficult task he faces. He knows that the main defendant, Hermann Göring, is both ruthless and brilliantly intelligent, making it extremely difficult to obtain incriminating testimonies. A young psychiatrist, Douglas Kelley, is tasked to befriend Göring, establish a relationship with him, and gain information that would have a key impact on the outcome of the trial. Kelley is not fully aware of how difficult this task will be: his patient is a cynical manipulator who is also purely evil and determined to save his own skin.

SUNDAY, 5 JULY

11.00

Helena Rubinstein: Myth and Truth

Viktoriia Mudrytska

City tour

UA

40 PLN

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18 (starting point)

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

During the walk, we will discover the fascinating story of Helena Rubinstein, a woman who created a world-famous cosmetics empire.

We will learn where she was truly born and where she grew up, where she worked and studied, who her parents were, and where they were buried. Along the way, there will also be many interesting insights into life in Kazimierz at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.

11.00

Curatorial tour through the exhibition "Unimaginable. The Void After the Great Synagogues"

Jakub Wydrzyński

Curatorial tour

EN

Space is limited (15 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum

The exhibition “Unimaginable. The Void After the Great Synagogues” draws attention to the scale of destruction of pre-war monuments of sacred architecture. The reasons for the annihilation of these remarkable buildings were hatred and violence — hatred toward everything Jewish, and violence against people and their material culture. Destroyed and — from today’s perspective — unimaginable, these beautiful, monumental synagogues were never rebuilt after World War II. Bringing together examples from 13 cities across Poland, the exhibition serves both as a commemoration and as an act of education about a heritage lost forever.

12.00

Preserving Memory

Ceremony

PL, EN

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

Organized by: the Galicia Jewish Museum, Michael H. Traison Fund for Poland, and the Jewish Culture Festival thanks to the support of: Michael Traison, Howard Pianko, and Friends of Jewish Heritage in Poland

This year marks the 29th edition of “Preserving Memory”, the ceremony honoring Poles preserving Jewish heritage in Poland.

Since the establishment of this unique award on the initiative of Michael H. Traison in 1998, several hundred non-Jewish Poles have been honored for their work preserving Jewish memory in Poland. This is an effort to recognize the selfless work of dedicated people who often work alone, on their own initiative, to ensure that Poland’s Jewish heritage will be remembered. Their heroic stories are a testament to their selfless devotion.

15.00

“Tratwa z pomarańczami” (Raft with Oranges)

Maciej Hen, led by: Ishbel Szatrawska

Q&A session with the author

PL

Free admission

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Filtry Publishing House and Yidisher Kunst-Institut

In this autobiographical story, Maciej Hen reminisces about the early Communist era in Poland. He paints a picture of everyday life through the eyes of a child. This boy, from a Warsaw intelligentsia family, reads books, listens to the Beatles, dreams of becoming an artist, and experiences his first love. At the same time, he discovers his Jewish identity and grapples with rising antisemitism, which will lead to the events of March '68. We observe how distrust and fear slowly creep into the protagonist's world as Jews are forced to “apply for emigration.”

17.00

“The Property”, dir. Dana Modan, Poland, Israel, 2025, 108’

Film screening / Q&A session

HEB, PL, EN, subtitles: PL, EN

Meeting with filmmakers after the screening: the film director, Dana Modan and one of lead actors, Andrzej Seweryn. Led by: Dr. Edyta Gawron

Space is limited (80 people). Free tickets apply

Galicia Jewish Museum, ul. Dajwór 18

This is an accompanying event organized by the Galicia Jewish Museum in cooperation with the Warsaw Jewish Film Festival and the Camera of David Foundation

Regina and her granddaughter Mika embark on a journey to Poland to reclaim their family property seized during World War II. However, their quest quickly unravels. Regina unexpectedly decides to abandon the mission entirely, leaving Mika lost and confused. To complicate matters further, an irritating distant relative keeps appearing at every turn. Just as Mika finds herself falling for a charming tour guide, Regina seizes the opportunity to pursue her own hidden agenda: finding her long-lost love, from whom she was separated seventy years ago.

Based on the graphic novel by Rutu Modan, “The Property” stars beloved actress Rivka Michaeli and has been nominated for 4 Israeli Academy Awards.



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland

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