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Around *the community*

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM LAUNCHES INITIATIVE

Jewish community Chai-Lights

AJN STAFF

THE Sydney Jewish Museum (SJM) has launched an exciting initiative aimed at connecting and engaging with the broad community.

"Chai-Lights" is a new crowd-sourced image and video platform that celebrates diverse, contemporary Jewish life in Sydney. It's a digital exhibition space where individuals and organisations can upload photos, videos and stories that reflect the vibrancy, diversity and everyday moments of the community.

The platform lives online while the museum is currently closed for redevelopment. However, from 2027 onwards as the expanded museum opens, these stories can form part of future exhibitions on Jewish life and culture.

It's secure, opt-in and easy to use – an opportunity for individu-

als and communal organisations to celebrate and share colourful communal stories.

SJM senior curator Shannon Biederman said Chai-Lights is an "uplifting, easy way for us all to connect".

"Photos and videos that show moments of joy, resilience, tradition and connection will help shape future exhibitions in our community's museum. We want to bring meaning and heart to our shared experiences."

The site already showcases images of Jewish art, food, artefacts, ritual, religious observance, sport, music and more.

SJM head curator Ros Sugarman said: "Every photo or video uploaded to Chai-Lights captures who we are and what we carry forward. By sharing them, we're not just preserving memories, we're actively shaping the living story of



Baking across generations on Chai-Lights.

our Jewish community."

The SJM will be holding 10 fundraising events between September 7-15 which will go towards helping the museum expand its educational programs, illuminate the positive aspects of Jewish life, culture, art and history and fill the new Centre for Contemporary Jewish Life with meaning. At a time when anti-semitism is rising, the fulfilment of this mission is more urgent and



Sharing bar mitzvah celebrations on Chai-Lights.

needed than ever.

The events will feature a hard-hat sneak-peek at the building works, a guided tour showcasing the vision of the museum with a preview of the expansion plans. Talks will illuminate the museum's critical role in combating antisemitism and building a more tolerant Australian society through innovative and creative ways.

Attending one of the events is a commitment to being part of a landmark project that will ensure our Jewish story is preserved and told for generations to come.

To book for one of the fundraising events, visit sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au

To contribute to Chai-Lights, visit chai-lights.sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au

JNF THANKS PAST PRESIDENT STEVEN SALAMON

A leader through historic challenges

AJN STAFF

JNF Australia has thanked former national president Steven Salamon for overseeing some of the most significant global and communal challenges in recent memory during his presidency.

From navigating the COVID-19 pandemic to responding to the tragic aftermath of the October 7 atrocities in Israel, Salamon's leadership has been defined by resilience, vision and unwavering commitment to Israel and the Jewish people.

Salamon began his presidency in 2021, just as the world was coming to grips with the long-term impacts of COVID-19. At a time when uncertainty was high and face-to-face engagement was limited, he ensured that JNF remained not only operational, but impactful. Under his guidance, the organisation continued to deliver on its core mission of supporting Israel's development and strengthening its



Former JNF Australia president Steven Salamon.

communities, despite widespread economic pressure. Salamon also enabled JNF to maintain its critical project work and sustain donor engagement during a time when many charitable organisations struggled to stay afloat.

However, the true test of leadership came in the wake of the October 7, 2023 terror attacks. The brutal invasion devastated the Gaza Envelope region in Israel's south, which is home to many communi-

ties that JNF has long supported through environmental upgrades, vital infrastructure, classrooms, shelters and community spaces.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, Salamon mobilised JNF's resources, ensuring that emergency aid reached affected communities without delay. Whether it was food, trauma support, or temporary housing, he made certain that JNF was there.

Salamon also maintained close communication with the communities JNF has supported for so many years, offering not just financial help, but solidarity and reassurance during a time of deep trauma and loss.

After passing the baton to Pam Krail, the foundations that Salamon has helped strengthen will serve JNF for many years to come.

To support JNF Australia's vital projects to support those on the ground in Israel, visit jnf.org.au



Rabbi Dovid Slavin (pictured in the second row on the left) was invited to the launch of the Christian Alliance Council of NSW.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE CHARITY LAUNCH

Rabbi Slavin proud to attend

RABBI Dovid Slavin from Our Big Kitchen was the only rabbi in the room after he was invited to attend the official launch of the Christian Alliance Council of NSW.

The event was hosted by Minister for Multiculturalism Steve Kamper and distinguished guests included NSW Premier Chris Minns MP, NSW Opposition Leader Mark Speakman and former prime minister Tony Abbott, alongside political leaders across the spectrum and representatives from key charities and organisations.

"We have been proud to support many of the charities represented in the room," Rabbi Slavin told *The AJN*.

"I was moved when the Premier expressed gratitude to Our Big Kitchen."

Please make a donation in memory of your loved one to Cancer Council, and give the gift of hope for generations to come.

For more information please
visit cancercouncil.com.au/inmemory
or call 1300 780 113

