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Author Luna Kaufman Reflects on Her Powerful Memoir

at the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

New York, NY—This season, the **Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust** continues to present thought-provoking book programs in its intimate third-floor salon. On **Tuesday, June 2 at 12:30 p.m.**, Holocaust survivor and civic leader **Luna Kaufman** will be interviewed by **Susanna Kokkonen**, director of the Christian Friends of Yad Vashem about ***Luna's Life: A Journey of Forgiveness and Triumph*** (CometQ Communications, LLC, 2009).

Tickets to this program are \$5 general, free for members, and are available online at www.mjhnyc.org or by calling the Museum box office at 646.437.4202.

Luna's Life is more than a memoir. Reflecting upon the inspiring people and events throughout her life, Kaufman teaches readers the truest and most profound meaning of forgiveness and reconciliation despite unimaginable circumstances. Luna grew up with her parents and sister in Krakow, Poland. She and her mother were the only two family members to survive the Plaszow and Leipzig camps. After the war, she lived under Communist dictatorship before she was able to emigrate to Israel in 1950, escaping the strong anti-Semitic sentiment of post-war Poland. It was then that she married her husband, Alex. Luna made the journey to America several years later, where anti-Communist and bureaucratic immigration regulations at first made her ill-at-ease in her new home. But, ever indefatigable, Luna had made her choice, "There was only one solution to justify my decision: set out to make the best of the rest of my life."

Luna has marked her life in America with optimism and public service, serving as her Temple president, as president of New Jersey State Opera, as a volunteer press coordinator at the 1980 Olympics, and many other roles in state and local government and initiatives, many aimed at Holocaust commemoration and education. She is to this day a tireless champion of Jewish-Christian understanding, promoting Holocaust education and Judeo-Christian relations. Inspired by her dear friend, the late Sister Rose Thering, a Dominican nun, she continues to spread awareness of the atrocities of the past to ensure a future in which genocides no longer occur.

Luna Kaufman survived three concentration camps and cancer. She was the president of the New Jersey State Opera, the first female president of Temple Shalom in Plainfield, NJ, and chair of the Sister Rose Thering Endowment at Seton Hall University's Jewish Christian Department. She was recently given an honorary doctorate from Seton Hall. Ms. Kaufman serves as a Gallery Educator at the Museum.

About the Museum of Jewish Heritage

The Museum's three-floor Core Exhibition educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. Special exhibitions include *Woman of Letters: Irène Némirovsky and Suite Française*, extended through August 30, and *Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges*, opening May 1. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall. It is also home to Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*, as well as James Carpenter's *Reflection Passage*, Gift of The Gruss Lipper Foundation. The Museum receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and is a founding member of the *Museums of Lower Manhattan*.

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