

Summer Road Trips!

Rabbi Jonathan Hecht, Ph.D.

It's summertime and here are my annual suggestions for Jewishthemed road trips!



Starting uptown at the Jewish Museum enjoy two exhibits. Florine Stettheimer: Painting Poetry. Stettheimer [1871-1944] "is an icon of Jazz Age New York. Born to a wealthy Jewish family in Rochester, she studied at the Art Students League in NYC and in Europe. Upon her return to the US, she hosted an elite salon attracting many of the artistic vanguard including

Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Marcel Duchamp. View paintings and drawings, costume and theater designs, photographs, ephemera and poetry."

Then check out Charlemagne Palestine's Bear Mitzvah in

Meshugahland, an incredible installation of hundreds of teddy bears and other plush toys influenced by this artist's Brooklyn Jewish roots." Born Chaim Moshe Tzadik Palestine to Eastern European immigrant parents, he has incorporated toys in his art for decades.



Both exhibits run until August 6. If you get hungry, stop at the onsite **Russ & Daughters Restaurant** for lunch and leave time for the museum's fantastic Judaica store. **thejewishmuseum.org**



A bit further south at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, enjoy Irving Penn: Centennial. Penn [1917-2009], was "one of the most important and influential photographers of the 20th century. He was born in Plainfield, N.J. and had a 70 year career. His father, who emigrated from Russia in 1908 and shortly thereafter, changed his name from Chaim Michelsohn to Harry Penn, was a clockmaker and a Sunday." At the Met through July 30. metmuseum.org

Continuing south to the Museum of Arts and Design, enjoy total whimsy at the wonderful exhibit of Judith Leiber: Crafting a New York Story. Learn the story of this illustrious Holocaust survivor, "craftswoman, designer, and businesswoman. The exhibition includes handbags that encompass the history of her eponymous company, from 1963 when Leiber founded the



company at the age of forty-two, through 2004 when she designed

her last handbag. The exhibit explores the significance of the handbag in twentieth-century Western culture, and the centrality of immigrant entrepreneurship in the fabric of New York." It ends August 6. **(madmuseum.org)**

At the Center for Jewish History there are quite a few ex-

hibits to explore including **ZIONIS-**MUS: The German Roots of Zionism, on view until August 31. "Dreams of a refuge from anti-Semitism gained popularity in the context of 19thcentury discrimination against Jews. The Zionist vision was most potent



among the assimilated Jews in Vienna and Berlin. The organization and financial capacity of the early Zionist movement was rooted in German lands. WW I transformed the political landscape of Europe and the direction of the Zionist movement." cjh.org

If you are anywhere near Boston, please make time to stop at The Museum of Fine Arts and see Memory Unearthed: The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross. He was



among the 160,000 Jews confined from 1940-1944 in a poor industrial section of the city. He was responsible for taking official photographs for Jewish identification cards, as well as images used as propaganda photos for the Nazis that promoted the ghet-

to's efficiency. At great personal risk, he also photographed, with the help of his wife, life inside the Lodz Ghetto, including the brutal realities of life under the Nazis. When the Lodz Ghetto deportations began, he buried 6,000 negatives hoping to leave behind a record of the tragedy. More than half the negatives survived and so did Ross and his wife, enabling them to dig up their buried treasure. On view until July 30. **mfa.org**

Have a wonderful and safe summer. Please join us during July and August for Shabbat Services on Friday nights at 7:30pm!