

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jewish Historical Society of Long Island Receives Grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation

East Hills, NY – January X, 2025 – Jewish Historical Society of Long Island is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. This generous funding will support the creation of a groundbreaking exhibit titled *150 Years of Jewish Community on Long Island*. The exhibit will open to the public on June 5, 2025 at the Suffolk County Historical Society Museum in Riverhead, New York.

The exhibit will explore the rich history of Jewish communal gathering on Long Island over the past century and a half, showcasing the evolution from the first congregation established in 1875 to becoming one of the largest Jewish communities in the diaspora with a population of over 300,000 Jews in Nassau and Suffolk counties today. Through rare photographs, artifacts, personal narratives, and interactive displays, *150 Years of Jewish Community on Long Island* promises to offer an engaging and educational experience for visitors of all ages.

“This grant is a game-changer for us,” said Brad Kolodny, president of Jewish Historical Society of Long Island. “It allows us to bring this important story to life and to honor the legacy of our Jewish community over the past 150 years. We are deeply grateful to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for their support and shared commitment to preserving and celebrating local history.”

The exhibit will highlight pivotal moments and key figures in Long Island’s Jewish history, including the establishment of hundreds of synagogues, the development of social and philanthropic organizations, and the impact on Jewish individuals and the community at large. By fostering a deeper understanding of the region’s Jewish heritage, the exhibit aims to inspire a greater appreciation of Long Island’s diverse cultural landscape.

“We are delighted to partner with the Jewish Historical Society of Long Island on this important initiative,” said Kathryn Curran, executive director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation. “This exhibit aligns perfectly with our mission to support projects that preserve and promote the history of Long Island. We look forward to seeing the community come together to experience this meaningful celebration of Jewish history.”

Jewish Historical Society of Long Island and the Suffolk County Historical Society Museum invite the public to mark their calendars for the exhibit’s grand opening on June 5, 2025. Additional details about the exhibit and related programming will be announced in the coming months.

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About Jewish Historical Society of Long Island: Jewish Historical Society of Long Island is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich history of Jewish life on Long Island. Through

research, education, and community engagement, JHSLI seeks to honor the past and inspire future generations.

About the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation: The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation supports organizations that preserve the history, culture, and heritage of Long Island. By funding educational and historical projects, the Foundation aims to ensure that the stories of Long Island's past continue to enrich its present and future.
