

***Jewish Lives*: Six-part book series launches to recognise the lives of remarkable British Jews**

[www.jewishlivesproject.com](http://www.jewishlivesproject.com) / [www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk) / [@jewishmuseumLDN](http://www.twitter.com/JewishMuseumLDN)



London, 24 May 2018 –***Jewish Lives*** is a new project telling the stories of the remarkable Jewish men and women who helped to shape British society. Led by Jewish Museum London with the support of the Kirsh Charitable Foundation, the project takes the form of a six-part book series, an interactive digital platform, and a visual display at the Jewish Museum London. Each book will focus on the contributions of individual Jews to a different sector, including arts, public service and commerce.

*Jewish Lives* launches on Thursday 24th May with the publication of the first three volumes – **Arts**, **Public Service**, and **Commerce** – of the six-part series. Following the first three editions, a further three books will be published, focusing on Thought, Science, and Sport.

***Jewish Lives. Arts*** focuses on the huge contribution of over 250 Jewish figures to arts and entertainment, and includes biographies of artists, photographers, actors, directors, broadcasters, comedians, musicians, writers, songwriters and performers.

Featured artists include:

* **Gerry Anderson**, pioneering puppeteer who created the Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet and more
* **Ruth Prawer Jhabvala**, writer, the only person to have won both the Booker Prize and an Oscar for writing
* **Lucian Freud**, painter
* **Peter Sellers**, actor and flawed comic genius
* **Amy Winehouse**, singer and songwriter

Authored essays in the book include **Marina Fiorato** on female Jewish writers, **Nathan Abrams** on Jews in pop culture, **Naomi Games** on design, **Julia Weiner** on art and **Jo Kerr** on architecture.

***Jewish Lives. Public Service*** explores the contribution of Jews to British public life, be it as philanthropists, soldiers, lawyers, politicians on all sides of the house, suffragists who campaigned for women’s’ voting rights, or SOE agents who risked their lives during the Second World War.

Featured public servants include:

* **Rose Heilbron**, Britain’s first female judge
* **Sir Hersch Lauterpacht**, a lawyer who developed the concept of crimes against humanity
* **Krystyna Skarbeck**, SOE agent honoured with OBE, George Medal and Croix de Guerre
* **Lenora Cohen**, suffragette and bodyguard to Emmeline Pankhurst
* **Lionel de Rothschild**, first practising Jew to sit as a member of parliament

Authored essays in the book include **Daniel Finkelstein** on political pioneers, **Prof William D Rubinstein** on Jews and the legal profession, and on Jewish philanthropists, **Clare Mulley** on Jewish female SOE Agents of WWII, and **Roz Currie** on Jewish women and the fight for the vote.

***Jewish Lives. Commerce*** looks at the extraordinary contribution of British Jews to the commercial sector, and includes biographies of bankers, business men and women, financiers, hoteliers, publishers, industrialists and manufacturers.

Figures featured in this edition include:

* **Brian Epstein**, legendary manager of the Beatles
* **Rachel Beer**, the first woman to edit a Fleet Street newspaper
* **Jack Cohen**, retailer who founded Tesco
* **Nathan Mayer** Rothschild, founder of the famous banking dynasty
* **Joseph Lyons**, pioneer of mass catering and creator of ‘Lyons Corner Shops’

Authored essays in the book include **Professor William Rubinstein** on Jewish banking, **Nathan Abrams** on the entertainment industry, **Elizabeth Selby** and **Emmanuelle Dirix** on different aspects of high street retailing and **Derek Taylor** on the crucial role played by Jewish financiers in supporting Britain’s military campaigns.

To accompany the release of the books, Jewish Museum London also launches an interactive digital platform ([www.JewishLivesProject.com](http://www.JewishLivesProject.com)) telling the story of all the men and women covered in the books, alongside many others. Members of the public will be invited to nominate further Jewish lives for inclusion.

**Abigail Morris, Director of Jewish Museum London**, said:“In considering the extraordinary contribution of British Jews to the fields of culture, public service and commerce, we are not only celebrating individual Jewish lives but exploring specific Jewish values.

“For example, the importance placed on questioning in Judaism can lead to a proliferation of artists as much as of lawyers. Similarly, the concept of *tikkun olam –* or, healing the world – which draws Jews to engage in material culture, is as close to business leadership as it is to charity and politics.

“We look forward to further input from the public via the Jewish Lives digital platform, and continuing to enrich the living memory of people who have helped shape Britain, and indeed the world.”

*Jewish Lives* is published by Jewish Museum London. Each issue is priced £25, available to purchase in our museum shop or online. More information is available at [www.JewishLivesProject.com](http://www.JewishLivesProject.com)

**ENDS**

Press contact:

**jewishmuseum@brunswickgroup.com**

**+44 (0) 207 343 8180**

**VISITOR INFORMATION:**

Website:         [jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk/)

Twitter:          [@jewishmuseumLDN](http://www.twitter.com/JewishMuseumLDN)

Instagram:     [@jewishmuseumLDN](http://www.instagram.com/jewishmuseumLDN)

Facebook:      [facebook.com/jewishmuseumLDN](http://www.facebook.com/JewishMuseumLDN)

Address:        Jewish Museum London
                       Raymond Burton House

                        129 – 131 Albert Street

                        London NW1 7NB

Tube:              Camden Town

Opening Times:        Daily 10am – 5pm (Friday: 10am – 2pm)

Museum admission (includes entry to exhibition and all permanent displays)

Adults - £8.50\*

Concessions - £6.50\*

Children (5-16) - £3.50

Under 5s – free

Family ticket (two adults and up to four children) - £18

\* Includes £1 voluntary donation

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**About Jewish Museum London**

Our mission at the Jewish Museum London is to surprise, delight and engage all people, irrespective of background and faith, in the history, identity and culture of Jews in Britain. Our exhibitions, events and learning programmes encourage a sense of discovery and aim to provoke questions, challenge prejudice, and encourage understanding.
<http://jewishmuseum.org.uk/>