Message from the Director

For the Museum, Fiscal Year 2003—our 10th Anniversary Year—was an extraordinary one, marked by many special events and memorable occasions. But we are mindful that while we as an institution had so much to celebrate, we did so in a world facing increasing uncertainty, continued violence, and rising antisemitism. It is clear that in such a world, the Museum’s message has never been more pertinent nor more urgent. We wish it were not so, but it reminds us of the crucial importance of our work.

Amidst the many challenges of the past year, the Museum was privileged to sponsor several singular events—an American Mosaic which featured individuals from all over the nation whose lives have been changed by the Museum; our exhibition of Anne Frank’s original writings for the first time in the United States; and most recently our Tribute to Holocaust Survivors in which 7,000 individuals—survivors, liberators and rescuers, along with their children and grandchildren—convened for this historic occasion—perhaps one of the last times this wartime generation will come together.

In our first decade, over 20 million have confronted these timely lessons. They are simple, stark, and important: evil is not eradicable; indifference has consequences; freedom requires responsibility. Inspired by the survivors, challenged by our times, and gratified by the continued high demand for our programs, the Museum will continue in Fiscal Year 2004 to bring these lessons to millions more.

Sara J. Bloomfield
Director