

The objects below are part of the Skirball Cultural Center's permanent collection. They are both household objects related to friendship, family, and hospitality. Take a close look at each image and read about how these items were used to **build community**.



These brass candlesticks were transported from Poland and Russia to Mexico in 1921, and then to the United States in 1945, by a man named Nathan Kirman. They are believed to have belonged to Nathan's mother, who kept them in order to remember the holidays she celebrated with her family.

Do they look the same to you? Sometimes women traded single candlesticks with one another before they emigrated (left their homeland) so they could preserve memories of their friends and families. One candlestick was taken to the new place and one was left behind.

Candlesticks, Warsaw, Poland, early twentieth century

**What object would you take to a new place?  
What object would you leave behind with a friend?**

This silver serving set is called a *tavla de dulce* (pronounced tav-lah de dool-say), which means "table of sweets" in Ladino. Ladino is an endangered language that blends Spanish and Hebrew. Once, Ladino was more widely spoken by Jewish people who lived in Spain, Greece, and Turkey—countries where silver was produced.

In the early 1900s, it was customary for a bride's family to give serving sets like this one to the husband's family. The bride would then use the set to serve sweets like rosewater candy and nuts to guests in her new home.

Tavla de Dulcé, Izmir, Turkey, 1920s



**How do you make others feel welcome?**

The objects below are part of the Skirball Cultural Center's permanent collection. They were brought to the United States by European immigrants fleeing religious persecution and seeking freedom.

For the people who carried them, these objects helped preserve memories of their home and the people they left behind. **Honor memory** by taking a close look at each image and reading about their history.

Originally from Russia, Aron Brull was sent to Romania to live with relatives so he would not be drafted into the Russian Army. He never reached his family, but instead grew up with an adoptive family. In 1905, Aron, his wife Leah, and their son Harold, left Romania for America to escape religious persecution.

Leah, a talented needleworker, brought along many of the hand-embroidered items she made in Romania, including clothing, table linens, and bedsheets. They also brought photographs of their family and friends as reminders of the loved ones they had left behind.

Trunk, Romania, ca. 1890; Clothes and Textiles, Romania, ca. 1900



**What photographs or keepsakes remind you of loved ones?**



In 1938, Marion Stiebel Siciliano, a German teenager from a wealthy Jewish family, was told by her parents that they were going to Italy on vacation. She packed items she thought she might need, such as a tennis racket and accordion. In truth, her family was fleeing the Nazis, who had taken power and begun persecuting Jews.

Marion's mother brought a typewriter so that she could find work as a typist when they arrived in their new country. The Stiebels traveled from Germany to Portugal to France, and then eventually to the United States. Marion kept her items with her so she would always remember the journey from Germany to America.

Suitcases, Tennis Racket and Press, Accordion, Typewriter, Germany, 1930s

**What is an object you keep to remind you of a past experience?**

The objects below are part of the Skirball Cultural Center's permanent collection. They are both traditional items related to Jewish holidays and customs. Take a close look at each object and **seek learning** by reading about their history and meaning in Jewish culture.



Jacob Seasongood and his family left Germany in the 1830s, when the first large wave of Jewish immigrants came to the United States. The Seasongoods settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, purchased a house, and joined a synagogue (Jewish house of worship).

The family brought with them a shofar like the one pictured here. Made from a ram's horn, a shofar is traditionally blown during the Jewish new year and at various synagogue events to call people to prayer. Shofars are usually handmade and make a loud, forceful sound.

Marcus Jonas, Shofar and Case, Oakland, California, ca. 1870

### What occasions or events are special to you? Why?

The light from this oil-burning Hanukkah lamp once illuminated a Moroccan Jewish home during the eight nights of Hanukkah, also known as the wintertime festival of lights.

Until the late 1940s, Morocco was home to over a quarter of a million Jews. Today, most Moroccan Jews and their descendants live in Israel, France, and Canada, as well as in the United States, where they keep their vibrant holiday traditions alive.

Hanukkah Lamp, Morocco, twentieth century



### What meaningful events or traditions do you take part in? What ones might you start?



## Primary Sources

The objects below are part of the Skirball Cultural Center's permanent collection. They are both *tzedakah* boxes. Pronounced "suh-dah-kah," *tzedakah* is the Hebrew word for "Justice."

Traditionally found in Jewish homes, businesses, or places of worship, *tzedakah* boxes are used to collect loose change on the sabbath and other occasions to donate to people in need. But *tzedakah* is a much more wide-reaching term, emphasizing the importance of caring for others and community service. Take a close look at each object and read about how these items are used to **pursue justice**.



When the artist Tony Berlant created this *tzedakah* box, he wanted to highlight the value of Jewish charity— anonymously helping those in need.

By overlaying the brick structure with imagery of a bountiful harvest, Berlant conveys the basic human needs for food and shelter.

Tony Berlant, *Tzedakah Box*, Los Angeles, California, 1994

**What does justice mean to you?**

Iconic blue boxes like this one have been used around the world for decades to collect donations for Israel. Look closely for a map of Israel. Imagine dropping a coin into the metal box and listening to the clink clank of metal on metal.

*Tzedakah Box*, Jewish National Fund Alms Box, New York, New York, ca. 1970s

**What causes do you support? Why?**

