

NEW YORK POST, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2001

Holocaust museum reopens

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A museum honoring victims of an unspeakable atrocity reopened yesterday in the shadow of the Twin Towers ruins.

The Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City — just six blocks from the World Trade Center — opened yesterday for the first time since the terror attacks.

Manhattan DA Robert Morgenthau, the Holocaust-memorial museum's chairman, said staffers "are determined ... to bring our message of memory, hope and renewal to our community, our nation, and our world."

Those attending the event included Gov. Pataki, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and City Council Speaker Peter Vallone.

"It is our choice to open this museum," Clinton said. "It is our choice in choosing hope over despair."

At a separate press conference, Clinton urged visitors to enjoy the restaurants and other businesses of lower Manhattan. "All of downtown is open," she re-

minded everyone.

Meanwhile, motorists got some welcome news.

City officials shortened by one hour the Monday-through-Friday ban on Manhattan-bound single-occupant cars using bridges and tunnels south of 63rd Street. Starting Monday, the restriction will be in effect from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m.

At ground zero, where workers continued their grim search, there was word of a multimillion-dollar treasure-trove in the wreckage.

The Bank of Nova Scotia said about \$200 million of its gold and silver lay buried in a vault below the rubble of 4 World Trade Center.

"All of ground zero is extremely secure," bank spokeswoman Diane Flanagan said.

"We have every reason to believe [the gold and silver] is safe and intact. And we have every reason to believe it is fully recoverable."

Besides the legions of cops who keep onlookers away from the site, the bank hired its own security personnel.

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