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## Miami Beach Photo Exhibit Showcases Holocaust Survivors

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Photographer Rick Nahmias' latest exhibit - [Last Days of the Four Seasons](#), tells a story of survival, compassion, optimism and, ultimately, sweet revenge. The subject of the photographs? Holocaust survivors. But, Nahmias says, the exhibit -- with soundtrack and audio oral histories -- is about something else: "I felt as if I was looking at an hourglass with the last few grains of sand within it."

*Last Days*, at the [Jewish Museum of Florida](#), documents the lives of the few remaining residents of a Catskill Mountains community of bungalows, bought -- rescued, really -- maintained and serving as second homes to, at one point, almost 100

families. The Four Seasons Lodge closed for good in 2008. Its residents were aging and dying, and there just weren't enough people left to keep the crumbling community alive. Thirty years earlier, Nahmias says, its bungalows were in what could have been their last days. However, they, like the survivors who thought they were facing certain death decades earlier, were spared.

"The lodge was started by 10 families vacationing at different colonies in Ulster County," Nahmias says. "They had all been raising their kids, all were survivors. Some knew each other, some didn't."

"In the '70s, those colonies were taking their last breaths."

These families bought the bungalows; others joined them -- and a summer community was born: Card games, Shabbat, community by-laws.

"The Four Seasons was built from the psychological ashes of their lives. The first half of their lives had been ripped away," says Nahmias, who discovered the community as, again, it was taking its last breaths -- as were the Holocaust survivors who had created a paradise there.

Nahmias captures the unbreakable bonds that have been forged over three decades, the love among the residents -- and the loss. "There is one image, just an aqua chair sitting in one of the bungalows," he says. "There's something about the shape of the chair, the way the light falls on it, the color. Even though this is 30 years later, it holds a great deal of meaning."

*Last Days of the Four Seasons*' has a companion film by Andrew Jacobs, and Nahmias' images will be published as a book in 2011.

"Last Days of the Four Seasons - A Photodocumentary by [Rick Nahmias](#): Holocaust Survivors Live Life to the Fullest" runs through Jan. 2 at the [Jewish Museum of Florida](#), 301 Washington Ave., Miami Beach, Fla.; 305-672-5044.



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