This is what I know about traveling exhibits. Once, my friend, a goal-oriented man CompleteWithPrinciplesTM (foreshadowing), and I, FreshWithIdealsTM (also foreshadowing), left Tallahassee and went to see a Van Gogh exhibit in D.C. (which came all the way from Europe, somewhere), stopping in North Carolina to pick up a friend who we’ll call Molly because that’s her name. We got there and realized you had to stand in line for tickets—even though it was free—so that, I suppose, the museum didn’t turn into a rave or something with excess crowding, bumping & grinding. We stood in line for 4 hours and did not get tickets. They ran out for the day. Molly had to be back in North Carolina the next day because she had to memorize and recite a poem for class (Ash, Snow, or Moonlight the whole time in line (which I rather liked)), so what to do. Some scalpers came along, selling some tickets they picked up for $10-$20. CompleteWithPrinciplesTM and FreshWithIdealsTM just would not do this. We drove Molly all the way back to North Carolina and left her house at 3a.m. to drive back to D.C. to stand in line again. Was it worth it? Well, she lent me her Cat Stevens CD, and dodging-deer-in-the-dark while CompleteWithPrinciplesTM slept is a fond memory. I like driving and night-time. And afterwards, I liked Cat Stevens and Virginia to boot.

This exhibit? You don’t have to wait in line for or get tickets (we rather like the library like a rave but with, say, calm studious music like Enya or the Clash).

It features the life and work of Emma Lazarus who wrote the poem, “The New Colossus,” that is engraved on the Statue of Liberty. She lived the lines, “Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,” denouncing Anti-Semitism, promoting Zionism, and training and educating refugees. Lazarus, a tireless advocate for justice as well as a progressive poet, worked to keep that liberty alive, and—no joke— I’m excited to see the exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display from July 7th – August 19th on the 3rd floor of the library. The informative panels include photographic reproductions of historical images and original works by Lazarus. View this exhibit during regular library hours, and/or join us for either or both of two presentations/receptions we will host on the topic. Refreshments will be provided.

Opening Reception: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
John C. Pace Library 3rd floor
Guest Speaker: Mr. Dean DeBolt, UWF Special Collections Librarian
"Statue of Liberty and Emma"

Poetry Recitation and Dramatization by Ms. Donna Quinn
“The Mixed Message on the Statue of Liberty”
Presented by the Pensacola Jewish Federation
Thursday, August 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm on the John C. Pace Library 3rd floor

For more information, please contact Blythe Webster at 850.857.6163 or bmarshall@uwf.edu

Emma Lazarus: Voice of Liberty, Voice of Conscience was developed by Nextbook, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Jewish literature, culture, and ideas, and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The national tour of the exhibit has been made possible by grants from the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Righteous Persons Foundation, the David Berg Foundation, and an anonymous donor, with additional support from Tablet Magazine: A New Read on Jewish Life.