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## BEING JEWISH AT CHRISTMAS

Music, magic and more will be part of the entertainment at the Museum's annual Being Jewish at Christmas program, being held Thursday, December 25, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Providing the music for the day of family fun will be the Sally Mitlas Orchestra, playing Israeli, Sephardic and traditional Jewish music, and Hankus Netsky and the Old-Town-Old-World Klezmer Ensemble. Magician Mark Spencer Goldstein and the Segal Puppet Theatre also will be performing throughout the day. Returning for the second year will be the Mitzvah Factory, a project of Lubavitch of the Main Line.

Tickets for BJAC are \$4 per person, with children three and under admitted free. The program, which includes refreshments, is free for Museum members. For more information, call 215-923-3811.

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# MUSEUM EVENTS

## FILM FESTIVAL

The Museum's sponsorship of the 2003-2004 Jewish Film Festival at the Gershman Y continues on Sunday, January 18 with the film, "Keep on Walking, Joshua Nelson: The Jewish Gospel Singer." Following the film will be a performance by Nelson and the Jubilee Choir.



The program begins at 7 p.m. at the Gershman Y, 401 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, and is being held in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. For more information, visit the Gershman Y website at [www.gershmany.org](http://www.gershmany.org) or call the Gershman Y at 215-446-3027.

### UPCOMING FILMS IN THE SERIES INCLUDE:

- New Filmmakers Program:  
Short Films. Saturday, March 13, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 14, 2 p.m.;  
Monday, March 15, 7 p.m.
- American Masters:  
"Arthur Miller, Elia Kazan and the Blacklist: None Without Sin."  
Saturday, April 17, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 18, 4 p.m.;  
Monday, April 19, 7 p.m.
- "Symphony of Six Million." A 1932 film that examines the American Jewish immigrant experience in New York in the early years of the 20th century. Saturday, May 1, 8:30 p.m.;  
Sunday, May 2, 2 p.m.; Monday, May 3, 7 p.m. ★

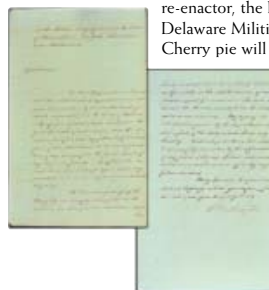
## DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

The award-winning film documentary "Strange Fruit" will be shown free of charge at the Museum in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Sunday, January 18 and Monday, January 19. Both screenings will begin at 1 p.m. The 57-minute-film by Joel Katz is the first to explore the history and legacy of the Billie Holiday classic, the lyrics of which were penned, surprisingly, by a Jewish schoolteacher from the Bronx. ★

## PRESIDENTS' DAY CELEBRATION

"The liberality of sentiment towards each other, which marks every political and religious denomination of men in this Country, stands unparalleled in the history of nations," President George Washington wrote in 1790 to historic Congregation Mikveh Israel, and congregations in Charleston, New York and Richmond. The congregations had written to congratulate the new president following his inauguration. That pronouncement and his letter will be celebrated on Monday, February 16, 2004 at noon, during the Museum's annual free celebration of George Washington's Birthday and Presidents' Day.

Participating in the program will be a George Washington re-enactor, the Fifes and Drums of the Delaware Militia, and historic re-enactors. Cherry pie will be served. The celebration is co-sponsored by Mikveh Israel, which shares its location with the Museum and has the letter from President Washington in its collection. ★



GEORGE WASHINGTON LETTER,  
PHILADELPHIA, 1790.  
(Collection of Congregation Mikveh  
Israel) (Photo by Will Brown)

## MUSEUM TO PRESENT "TRILOGY"

The Painted Bride Art Center and the Museum are presenting the Philadelphia premier of "Trilogy," Saturday, March 6, 2004 at the Center. Events surrounding the premier include a program at the Museum, Sunday March 7. "Trilogy" is a tribute to James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, the three civil rights workers murdered in Mississippi while assisting African Americans with registering to vote. The piece is by the composer and trumpeter Hannibal. Watch the Museum's website, [www.nmajh.org](http://www.nmajh.org), for further details about a series of programs surrounding the premier. ★



## CAMPAIGN REACHES \$50 MILLION MARK

With a \$5 million gift from Ed Snider, Chairman of Comcast-Spectacor, the National Museum of American Jewish History announced December 16, 2003 that it has reached the halfway mark in the campaign to raise \$100 million for a new building on Independence Mall in Philadelphia.

Mr. Snider's gift follows a \$25 million lead gift by philanthropist Sidney Kimmel announced last fall, and more than 12 other gifts of \$1 million or more from supporters of the Museum.

"Today is a major milestone. It marks the halfway point in our quest to turn a dream into bricks and mortar and glass," said Museum Chairman D. Walter Cohen.

"I thank Sidney Kimmel for making the lead gift, and those of you who have already joined him in creating the new National Museum of American Jewish History. It is a wonderful thing when any ethnic group can immigrate to a foreign country, work hard, worship freely and reach a level of success it otherwise might have never known," said Mr. Snider. "For American Jews, the United States has provided, and continues to provide a fertile environment for education and experience, and our story should have a home we can proudly call our own. When we say 'only in America,' it is with reverence – for only in America could we have found such opportunity, acceptance and freedom."

Mr. Snider's own family history is a testament to the opportunities offered by America. During the Museum's 25th anniversary celebration, Mr. Snider shared the story of how his ancestors were able to prosper despite humble roots. Ansel Schnider arrived in 1900, obtaining passage to San Francisco after serving in the Russian army. Hard luck caused by the San Francisco earthquake prompted him to move to St. Louis, then to Kansas City. He sponsored five nieces and nephews in America, including Yankel (Ed Snider's grandfather), who became a fruit peddler. Yankel's sons, Sol (Ed Snider's father) and Louis became grocers and parlayed early success into a chain of supermarkets.

Mr. Snider, a longtime supporter of Museum programs whose association with the NMAJH goes back to its founding, said, "So many of these people didn't even know exactly where they'd end up – but this they did know, they were coming to America, the Golden Land. They came so bravely – with such hopes and dreams. And those of us who live here today do so thanks to their courage. "So this building, where we can bring our children, and our children's children, isn't just for those of us lucky enough to have been born here. It's a place that preserves a heritage and a history that probably started elsewhere."

Mr. Snider is a leading national philanthropist and one of the true giants of the sports and entertainment industry, and his successes have been recognized by his peers. He was elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988 and has been elected to the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the Flyers Hall of Fame. In February of 2001, he received Temple University's First Annual Sports Leadership Award presented by The Fox School of Business and Management. In December 1999, he received the Anti-Defamation League's prestigious Americanism Award. He is also a Benefactor of the Sol C. Snider Entrepreneurial Center of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Other Board memberships include Board of Overseers of the Wharton School, Institute for The Objectivist Center and the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"We have been blessed by the generosity of people who believe in the vision for a new National Museum of American Jewish History," said Museum Trustee George M. Ross after receiving the Snider gift. "Everywhere we travel in the country to tell the story of our plans, we are met with enthusiasm and support," continued Mr. Ross, who also serves as Co-Chair of the NMAJH Capital Campaign with Museum President Myles H. Tanenbaum. "It continues to be a very uplifting experience."



ED SNIDER

## CONTENTS

MUSEUM CAMPAIGN	1
EXHIBITION	1
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	2
COLLECTIONS	3
SHOP	3
PROGRAMS	4



ESCAPE, 2000

### EXHIBITION TO FEATURE THE ART OF INEZ STORER

Inez Storer's painting "Freedom" depicts the ship that carried her relatives from Hamburg, Germany to Dover, England. "Allotment" is about the Nazi edict that allowed refugees to take only eight knives, forks and spoons.

These are recent paintings by the noted California painter and printmaker. But then, it was only recently that Ms. Storer found out about her hidden past. She is the daughter of a Jewish mother who fled Germany in 1927. Ms. Storer has 29 previously unknown cousins who are also children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors.

(continued on page 2)



ALLOTMENT,  
2000



HISTORIES,  
1996

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



D. WALTER COHEN

When Senator Joseph Lieberman spoke at the Museum's 2001 *Only in America* Gala, he noted that his achievement as the first Jew to run for vice president of the United States "did not occur in a vacuum. I stood on the shoulders of all who had gone before me in America, and particularly in the Jewish American community."

As the Museum reaches the halfway point in our \$100 million campaign, we, too, recognize that we have reached that goal on the sturdy shoulders of many devoted individuals.

Sidney Kimmel gave our Museum and campaign a tremendous jump-start with his magnificent \$25 million gift. Recently, Ed Snider made a gift of \$5 million, which enabled us to reach the halfway mark in our campaign. In between those major gifts were many others from our Trustees and other loyal donors, which sustained the campaign and allowed us to keep our momentum.

Mr. Kimmel, Mr. Snider, and our other generous contributors, no doubt, acknowledge the strong shoulders of those they stood on to achieve their successes, most significantly their parents and grandparents, along with their respective mentors. These men and women struggled and sacrificed, and in many instances emigrated, so that their families could pursue the American Dream.

The gifts we gratefully recognize today are testament that their children not only pursued, but also achieved, the American Dream. The gifts their ancestors gave them are what compel us to build the new National Museum of American Jewish History, so that their legacies are honored on Independence Mall, the birthplace of American freedom.

We are extremely grateful for our presence on this sacred location which enables us to pass on the story of our predecessors to our children and our children's children. ★

## TWO NAMED TO MUSEUM STAFF

Ari Kelman, Ph.D. has been named Historian for the Museum, in conjunction with a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Pennsylvania. He is charged with coordinating research for the core exhibitions being planned for the new Museum. Ellen Smith has been named Chief Curator, responsible for the research, documentation, interpretation, and development of material to be exhibited, announced Gwen Goodman, NMAJH Executive Director.

"Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in New York," based on Dr. Kelman's dissertation, will be published in 2005 by the University of California Press. He has written on a variety of historical and contemporary subjects for numerous publications. His doctorate was awarded from the American Studies program at New York University in May 2003.

Dr. Kelman is a Lecturer for the American Jewish Experience in the Jewish Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania. He has also taught about American Jewish culture at New York University, the Jewish Community Center of Manhattan, and Park Avenue Synagogue.

Ms. Smith is the Associate Director of the Gralla Fellows Program for Religion Journalists at Brandeis University and previously served as Curator of the American Jewish Historical Society. She has published more than two dozen books, articles, and catalogs, and curated more than 30 exhibitions, including recent shows on Seattle Jewish women, the American Yiddish theater and early American Jewish portraits. In addition, she was the Co-editor, with Jonathan Sarna, Chief Historian for the Museum, of "The Jews of Boston." She was Chief Historical Consultant to the 1996 WGBH television Emmy Award-winning production of the same name.

From 1995-2000, Ms. Smith was one of 12 invited scholars participating in the Henry Luce Foundation "Visual Culture of American Religions" project. She consults nationally on exhibition and historic site interpretation projects and teaches American Jewish history at Northeastern University. ★



ARI KELMAN, PH.D.



ELLEN SMITH

## FRIENDS CIRCLE EVENT FEATURES SCULPTURE GARDEN

Norman Wolgin (left) and Ernest Scheller Jr. admire a sculpture during a recent program sponsored by the Friends Circle of the Museum, a private tour of the world-renowned sculpture park and museum Grounds For Sculpture. Founded by celebrated sculptor J. Seward Johnson Jr., Grounds For Sculpture was established in 1992 in Hamilton, NJ to promote greater understanding and appreciation for contemporary sculpture. Among the sculptors whose works are on display at the site are American artist George Segal, Israeli artist Itzik Ben-Shalom, and Polish artist Magdalena Abakanowicz.



Enjoying lunch at Rat's Restaurant, inspired by the 19th century village of Giverny, France and located on the Grounds For Sculpture are Joan Denenberg (left) and Sheri Resnick. For more information about the benefits of Friends Circle membership, call Molly Cogan at 215-923-5986.

## ART OF INEZ STORER (continued from page 1)



TEMPTATIONS, 1997

"Freedom," "Allotment," and a third painting, "Journey," about the voyage of her relatives from England to America, form a series she painted in 2000 "after finding out that I was Jewish," Ms. Storer said. The paintings will appear as part of a retrospective, "Theatrical Realism: The Art of Inez Storer," to be shown at the Museum beginning March 14, 2004. The exhibition was organized by the de Saisset Museum in Santa Clara and contains more than 30 paintings from 1960 to the present. The NMAJH is the only East Coast venue for this exhibition.

Ms. Storer's current work continues to reflect issues of identity. "It's about borderless people who are shoved from one country to another, always leaving things behind. I felt like that as an American growing up in Santa Monica. I felt completely dispossessed."

The exhibition closes June 27. In Philadelphia, Ms. Storer is represented by the Snyderman Gallery. ★

## DONOR LIST

The National Museum of American Jewish History wishes to thank the following for their ongoing generous support of the Museum's education and public programs.

- ★ The Independence Foundation
- ★ The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
- ★ The Philadelphia Cultural Fund
- ★ Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

## TAMARA BASKIN'S WORK POPULAR AT MUSEUM SHOP

As a self-taught artist, Tamara Baskin has many sources of inspiration for her art.

While living with her family in New Hope, PA, she began painting acrylic on canvas after viewing the work of artists there and thinking to herself, "I can do that." Working as an employee in a florist shop prompted her to start developing distinctive arrangements of dried and silk flowers. Then came a venture in ceramics, but she didn't like the accompanying messiness. Browsing through a magazine, an article about glass fusion intrigued her and she learned enough technique to make mezuzot as her first pieces of Judaica.



The Israeli-born Ms. Baskin thus found the medium in which she now makes her mark. Known for her vibrant designs, she is a leader in the intricate techniques of fused glass. Her work is unique, according to Museum Shop Co-Manager Elaine Silverman. The individually crafted works in bright primary colors are sought as elegant pieces that celebrate Jewish life.

An extensive selection of Ms. Baskin's work can be viewed on [www.judaicashop.net](http://www.judaicashop.net), the Museum Shop's website. ★

## MUSEUM SOON TO SEEK OBJECTS OF FREEDOM

In the coming months, the National Museum of American Jewish History will be asking its members and friends for help in identifying new stories and materials about the history of American Jews and American freedoms. "It's a great privilege to share our stories with the American people," said Ellen Smith, the Museum's Chief Curator. "We hope to use some of these stories in our new Museum, the only museum in America that will be dedicated to the history of the American Jewish people."

"We will be looking for materials – objects, documents, photographs, oral histories, artwork, video, and film – that help us tell 'freedom' stories in Jewish America," Ms. Smith continued. "From the 17th century to our own times, we want stories that explore how Jewish faith and life unfold amid the challenges and promises of American political, cultural, and religious freedoms."

Recently, Ms. Smith picked three artifacts from the Museum's collection to help demonstrate that American and American Jewish freedom stories come in all sizes and shapes, "from valuable pieces of antique silver to important small artifacts set aside in your house and in your memory. Consider these few examples from the Museum's collections which help tell the stories of American Jews in the 18th, the 19th and the 20th centuries – and that evoke the experiences of a man, a young woman, and a Jewish community."

In the next newsletter the Museum will provide additional information about the objects it is seeking and how to contact the Museum to make donations.



### Cann, Myer Myers (1723-1795), Silver

New York City's Myer Myers was an 18th-century leader in New York's Jewish community and one of the premier silversmiths in Colonial America. He produced over 380 known pieces in his long career. Of them, only 11 were pieces of Judaica. This "cann" (drinking vessel) is the most typical 18th-century form produced by Myers and his shop. But are objects like these truly silent on Myers' Jewishness? Might we read them as signs that Myers – and so many American Jews before and after him – felt confident in the broad commercial and secular and even social world of America: so confident that his Jewish affiliations and leadership, and the public practice of his faith, could shine as brightly as these other great works of Myers' lifetime.

### Postcard, Portland, OR, Temple Beth Israel, erected 1888

In America, one could be Jewish in public. Immigrants wrote home about this wonder. Jews came to America for the opportunity. By the 19th century, even American synagogue buildings proclaimed this freedom. Ten commandments, lions of Judah, Hebrew letters, and Jewish stars in large rose windows proclaimed "Jewishness" to everyone on the street. America's religious freedoms not only enabled Jewish practice and identity here to evolve in an extraordinary variety of forms, but to grow in the open.

### "Silent No More" pin, early 1970s

Never underestimate what is in your attic or in the back of your sock drawer. Great museums display great objects like this "Silent No More" pin. Worn by a young woman who traveled to the Soviet Union in the early 1970s with a few rubles in her pocket to call home in case of arrest, this pin helped break the silence surrounding the persecution of Soviet Jewry. It gave voice to previously voiceless American Jewish youth, important leaders of the early Soviet Jewry movement. The pin sounded a visual and emotional yell by American Jews for rescue of their Soviet brethren. And the pin gave a rare "one voice" to American Jews of many backgrounds and political stances. The silence on Soviet Jewry was broken politically and spiritually by women and men sometimes armed with little more than the small shield of a pin. ★



## COLLECTIONS DONORS

The Museum expresses deep appreciation to the following who have donated personal artifacts and other items of historic interest from May 2003 through September 2003 to the permanent collection.

Electric kitchen clock with Hebrew letters, ca. 1950s, and two souvenir matchbooks from the Continental Hotel, donated by Sylvia Pomerantz.

Magazine, "Your Child; The Magazine of Jewish Parents," Summer 1971 vol. IV, no. 3-4 published by the United Synagogue of America, donated by Miriam Shapiro.

Kipah made by donor, a New York City ambulance worker, in memory of September 11, donated by Jai R. Zion.

Female Hebrew Benevolent Society organizational minutes, 1971-present, donated by the Female Hebrew Benevolent Society.

Multilingual Hires Root Beer promotional pamphlet, ca. 1920s and pin-backed button, donated by David Zipkin.

Collection of four dresses: gown made for the donor's mother before she emigrated from Poland just before World War II; dress made for the donor's mother when she lived in New York City; dress worn by the donor's mother at donor's wedding; and the donor's wedding gown, crinoline, and veil, donated in memory of Frances Jelinek by Judith Gerstl.

Two record albums, confirmation certificate, and program and class photograph, donated anonymously. ★

