

Call for Artifacts

In November 2010, the National Museum of American Jewish History opened the doors to a new state-of-the-art building in Philadelphia. The largest institution of its kind devoted specifically to exhibiting and educating about the American Jewish experience, the Museum uses historical objects, cutting-edge technology, hands-on interactives, and narrative storytelling to highlight how and when Jews immigrated to America, the choices they faced, the challenges they confronted, and the ways in which they shaped, and were shaped by, their American home.

In conjunction with the exhibition *Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age*, being presented by the National Museum of American Jewish History and Moving Traditions, and as part of a national collection effort on the history and significance of bat mitzvah in America, the Museum is seeking the following bat mitzvah artifacts as donations to the collection:

- Dresses or other clothing worn by a bat mitzvah girl for her service or celebration, with accompanying photo of the bat mitzvah girl in these clothes
- Ritual garb (*tallitot*, *kippot*) especially if handmade for the bat mitzvah
- Cake toppers
- Party decorations such as centerpieces, sign-in boards, placecards, napkins, etc. in good condition
- Invitations
- Certificates
- Menus
- Speeches
- Rabbis' speeches or sermons about instituting bat mitzvah in your congregation
- Newspaper articles or announcements
- Synagogue newsletter articles or announcements
- Letters for advocacy for your bat mitzvah
- Unique or notable gifts received (mini Torah, fountain pen, etc)
- Cards or telegrams received
- Scrapbooks
- Planning documents (caterer's receipts, playlists for band, etc)
- Photographs and photo albums
- Film or audio recording of bat mitzvah service or celebration
- Letters received from the synagogue regarding the bat mitzvah
- Souvenirs/party favors
- Twinning certificate or related objects, including photo of bat mitzvah twin
- Diaries with entries or reflections on your bat mitzvah
- Cassette tape mixes for DJs or written playlists for DJ
- Training/study material/workbooks to prepare for a bat mitzvah, especially if specifically written for girls

The National Museum of American Jewish History's mission is to present educational programs and experiences that preserve, explore and celebrate the history of Jews in America. Our purpose is to connect Jews more closely to their heritage and to inspire in people of all backgrounds a greater appreciation for the diversity of the American Jewish experience and the freedoms to which Americans aspire.