

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

JULY

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## National Museum of American Jewish History Will Be Open on Monday, July 4

### *Family-friendly Activities Planned for Independence Mall's Newest Museum*

**PHILADELPHIA** – Special self-guided tours exploring Revolutionary War-era artifacts, docent presentations of a letter written by George Washington, and spectacular views of Independence Mall are among the family-friendly activities on tap on Monday, July 4, at the National Museum of American Jewish History. The Museum, located on Independence Mall at Fifth and Market streets, will be open from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Normally closed on Mondays, the Museum is opening on July 4 in order to participate in the city's Welcome America! programs and to allow visitors to the Museum to explore how the Jewish experience is intertwined with American history. Visitors who become a member of the Museum over the July 4th weekend will receive a free Museum t-shirt in addition to other membership benefits.

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## JULY/ADD 1

Museum activities and events include:

- Showings at 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. of the four-minute film, “We have the world to begin againe...,” made for the Museum by Emmy-award winning director David Grubin. The film examines the Jewish community’s embrace of the Revolution and the nation’s founding documents.
- In conjunction with the film, Museum docents will share the motivation behind a letter President Washington wrote to the Jewish community expressing his commitment to religious liberty in America. Washington wrote in his letter, “For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance. ...”
- All visitors will be given a booklet to assist them in exploring artifacts that help to tell the story of Jews and the American Revolution, along with questions to inspire family discussions. On the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, where families can sit and relax, children will be given crayons to color the illustrations and do the puzzles in the booklet. Visitors will also be able to enjoy the Robbi and Bruce Toll Terrace on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, which overlooks Independence Mall and is generally closed to the public.
- Kosher hot dogs and other refreshments for sale on the Sidney and Caroline Kimmel Plaza, just across the street from (and facing) Independence Mall.
- Lunch and snacks for sale on the Museum’s 5<sup>th</sup> floor, with the only view in the city of Independence Mall icons Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell Center, the President’s House and the National Constitution Center.
- Customers who make purchases of \$50 or more will receive a free map of the United States, published in 1913, that has the names of the states in Yiddish and English, in the “Guide to the United States for the Jewish Immigrant.”

“The Museum is a powerful testament to what all free people can accomplish, for themselves and for society at large,” said Michael Rosenzweig, the Museum’s president and CEO. “On July 4, a holiday devoted to celebrating American liberty, we are delighted to welcome visitors to our Museum, where the extraordinary blessings of freedom can be experienced by people of all backgrounds.”

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JULY/ADD 2

The National Museum of American Jewish History, located in the heart of historic Philadelphia, tells the story of American Jews from their arrival in North America more than 350 years ago to the present – exhibiting and interpreting the American Jewish experience in a new \$150 million, 100,000-square-foot, five-story building on Independence Mall. It is the only museum in the nation dedicated solely to telling the story of Jews in America.

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