

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

BARSKY

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**IVY L. BARSKY NAMED AS GWEN GOODMAN MUSEUM DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AT THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY**

PHILADELPHIA – Ivy Barsky has been appointed as the Gwen Goodman Museum Director and Chief Operating Officer of the National Museum of American Jewish History, announced Museum Co-Chairs George M. Ross and Ronald Rubin and President and CEO Michael Rosenzweig. She will officially join the Museum July 1.

At the Museum, Ms. Barsky will have overall responsibility for Museum operations, including collections, exhibitions, education, programs and visitor services.

In a joint statement, Museum co-chairs George M. Ross and Ron Rubin said, "Ivy Barsky's depth of experience and passion for her work make her a perfect choice as the Museum's new director and chief operating officer. She will bring an important voice as we create new exhibitions and continue to develop our education programs. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we heartily welcome her to the Museum."

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BARSKY/ADD 1

“We are extremely pleased and fortunate to have Ivy joining us. She has had a long and distinguished museum career, and I am very excited about the prospect of working with her,” Mr. Rosenzweig said. “I am confident that she will help us realize our goals of becoming a truly national institution and a vital center of Jewish cultural life.”

Prior to joining the [National Museum of American Jewish History](#), Barsky was Deputy Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York. In addition to supervising programmatic areas of the MJH, including the Auschwitz Jewish Center (the MJH’s affiliate in Oświęcim, Poland), she was project director of the museum’s award-winning new media projects, including the Keeping History Center and the Online Collection.

“The National Museum of American Jewish History has already distinguished itself as a significant presence in the Jewish world and in the museum world. It has an incredibly committed board, talented staff, a powerful core exhibition, and a most poignant place in the Philadelphia landscape. I am deeply honored to be joining the Museum now, at this critical juncture in its short life, and excited about helping move it forward to the next chapter,” Barsky said.

During Barsky’s tenure at MJH she founded its Education Department in 1996, helped shape the content of that museum’s core exhibition, and developed and supervised all education activities, public programs, interpretive strategies, and outreach to schools and adult groups there.

more ...

BARSKY/ADD 2

She was instrumental in the planning of the MJH's major 82,000-square-foot Robert M. Morgenthau wing. As part of that expansion project, she managed the competition that resulted in Andy Goldsworthy creating his only permanent New York City installation, "Garden of Stones."

Barsky was also responsible for overall supervision and leadership of special exhibitions and projects, including "Ours to Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War" (winner of AAM's grand prize for Excellence in Exhibitions, 2004) and the Keeping History Center (permanent interactive exhibition, Phase I, November 2009). She curated "Woman of Letters: Irène Némirovsky and Suite Française" (2008), "From the Heart: The Photojournalism of Ruth Gruber" (2007), and co-curated "Yahrzeit: September 11 Observed" (2002).

Barsky received the New York City Museum Educators Roundtable Award for Excellence in Museum Education (2005) and is also an adjunct professor in Museum Studies at New York University.

Prior to joining the MJH, Barsky spent a decade in art galleries and museums, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia, and P.S. 1 in New York City.

Barsky did her graduate work in the history of art at the University of Pennsylvania and was an undergraduate at NYU.

more ...

BARSKY/ADD 3

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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