



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAMS
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY**

**LIVE MUSIC, PROVOCATIVE AND TIMELY DISCUSSIONS, FOOD ADVENTURES AND
MORE PACK THE MUSEUM'S FALL PROGRAM SCHEDULE!**

PHILADELPHIA, PA – September 5, 2012 – From interpretive music by one of the hottest indie music bands on stage today, to an “of-the-moment VIP panel discussion on religion and politics shortly before the election, to a journey through the history of Jewish cooking in America, the National Museum of American Jewish History has a jam-packed slate of diverse and engaging programming this fall that illustrates the rich history of American Jews, introduces audiences to cutting-edge Jewish thought and culture, and explores themes that transcend cultural boundaries – all in ways sure to please visitors of virtually every age and interest!

Topping the list is the last chance to see and experience the fascinating history of the foundation of religious freedom in America, as the Museum's first special exhibit winds down toward its conclusion on September 30 -- **TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION: George Washington and Religious Freedom** – highlighted by Washington's original letter to the Jewish community of Newport, RI celebrating the first President's commitment to religious freedom for ALL Americans.

In addition, visitors to the Museum can now access the first floor **at no cost**, including both the Museum Shop and Pomegranates Café, as well as the *Only in America*® Gallery/Hall of Fame exhibit located right in the center of the architectural gem's ground floor – without paying an admission fee. *Only in America*® Gallery/Hall of Fame features brilliant films and artifacts that illustrate the lives and accomplishments of such distinguished Jewish Americans as Leonard Bernstein, Louis Brandeis, Albert Einstein, Mordecai Kaplan, Estée Lauder, Emma Lazarus, Golda Meir, Jonas Salk, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand, Henrietta Szold, and Isaac Mayer Wise.

The Individual Special Programs For This Fall Include:

THE SWAY MACHINERY

SEPTEMBER 20

7:30 PM

A perfect way to kick off the Jewish New Year, indie music lovers will have an extraordinary opportunity to celebrate the Rosh Hashanah holiday with **THE SWAY MACHINERY in their Philadelphia debut -- the hottest Brooklyn-based band that's taking the indie music world by storm!** Their production, *Hidden Melodies Revealed* is a joyful, transformative, multi-media concert event celebrating Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which infuses the power of the Cantorial music tradition into a unique experience that blurs the line between rock show and religious ritual.

(more)

101 South Independence Mall East, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2517 (215) 923-3811

ADD/1 National Museum of American Jewish History Announces Sway Machinery Performance Event

A collective that performs a cosmopolitan synthesis of sound inspired by Ashkenazi Jewish spiritual composition, blues, afro-beat, and rock, **THE SWAY MACHINERY**'s lead singer, **Jeremiah Lockwood**, believes that in the work of the master Cantors of the Golden Age of Cantorial music there is a model for contemporary creative artistry. One hears in the voice of the Cantors a deeply assured spokesperson for the community, telling a story that is both of the moment and beyond the realm of legendary **Cantor Jacob Konigsberg**, Lockwood's grandfather. Strongly influenced by both family heritage and Jewish identity, this project seeks to reclaim the deep roots of Ashkenazi Jewish spiritual music, reinventing/reinterpreting something traditional to make it meaningful for today, keeping that legacy alive and vital for a new generation.

The group's noted musicians have played in such acclaimed bands as **Anibalas**, **Arcade Fire**, and **Balkan Beat Box**. Making their first appearance in Philadelphia this season, they have performed *Hidden Melodies Revealed* to SRO crowds in Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. For more information and clips of the group's work, visit www.swaymachinery.com.

Tickets: \$10 for Members and students with valid ID; \$12 for non-members. All tickets are \$18 on the day of the event. Seating is general admission.

Special Offer

Young Friends of NMAJH are hosting a meet & greet with The Sway Machinery from 6-7 pm.

\$10 Members in advance, includes reception and concert/\$18 day-of

\$20 Non-members in advance, includes reception and concert/\$26 day-of

RELIGION & POLITICS: FAITH, DEMOCRACY, AND AMERICAN PUBLIC LIFE

OCTOBER 17

6:30 PM

Since the founding of the Republic, Americans have struggled with the relationship between religion and public life, a complex issue particularly apparent in this fraught presidential election year. A distinguished panel moderated by **Jane Eisner**, Editor-In-Chief of *The Jewish Daily Forward*, will tackle this timely subject, exploring the intersections between religion and politics in American life. Light reception to follow.

Panelists include:

--**John J. Dilulio**, Frederic Fox Leadership Professor of Politics, Religion, and Civil Society, Faculty Director & Co-Chair of the Director's Advisory Group, Robert A. Fox Leadership Program, University of Pennsylvania; Former Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

--**E.J. Dionne, Jr.**, Senior Fellow, the Brookings Institution; Opinion Writer, *The Washington Post*; Professor, Georgetown University.

--**Sarah Barringer Gordon**, Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

Tickets : \$8/ Free for members and Penn students & faculty with valid ID

Presented in partnership with the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Pennsylvania

This program is part of an ongoing program series presented by Penn's Jewish Studies Program and the Museum that seeks to explore and draw between key themes of the American Jewish experience and broader dimensions of American history and culture. Supported by the Arlene and Stanley Ginsburg Foundation. Sponsored by University of Pennsylvania's Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, The Jewish Daily Forward and the National Constitution Center.

(more)

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ADD/2 National Museum of American Jewish History Announces Fall 2012 Programming

JUST A PINCH: A BRIEF AND UNOFFICIAL HISTORY OF JEWISH COOKING IN AMERICA **OCTOBER 24**

6:30 PM

The Joy of Cooking may be a staple on your kitchen shelf, but what about the esteemed cookbooks from Crisco, Hebrew National Hot Dogs, and Molly Goldberg? Do these delicious tomes also occupy a coveted spot in the land of brisket-stained, flour-crust-ed, dog-eared recipes?

“Don’t be chicken about chicken ...With fantasy and spicing you can make this familiar dish exotic and enticing...” excerpt from *Manna About Town*, published by Planter’s Peanut Oil, ca. 1965

Get a special peek into cooking-related ephemera held in the Museum’s vast collection through images not regularly available to visitors, with readings by **special guests**, as you join us on this savory journey through Jewish cooking in America. Vintage recipes come to life at the light reception immediately to follow.

Tickets: \$12/ \$8 Members and students with valid ID

This program is a part of **What is Your Food Worth?**, a two-year project exploring the rich relationship between American Jews and food presented by the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University, The Gershman Y, NMAJH, and Congregation Rodeph Shalom. Visit www.whatisyourfoodworth.com for additional programs and information.

Check the Museum website often as new programs are added regularly. Advanced registration is recommended for all programs, as walk-in availability may be limited. Registration/entrance will not be accepted without payment. No refunds will be given one week prior to the program. Attendee substitutions may be made. Ticket prices are for program-only admission. Museum admission is not included but is not required to attend public programs unless otherwise stated. Please allow several minutes to go through security upon your arrival. Any questions, please view the Public Programs FAQ on the Museum’s website, www.nmajh.org.

About the National Museum of American Jewish History

The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the 350-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all heritages to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

For more information on upcoming exhibits and special programs, please visit the Museum website at www.nmajh.org. Museum hours are Tues –Fri 10am - 5pm and Sat & Sun 10 am - 5:30 pm. For more information about the Museum exhibitions, including the final weeks of **TO BIGOTRY NO SANCTION: George Washington and Religious Freedom** exhibit or to set up interviews and/or media tours, please call Nina Zucker Associates at 610.667.0706 or 610.457.4387 or nina@ninazucker.com or Ilana Blumenthal at 215.391.4662 or iblumenthal@nmajh.org.

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