

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Yael Eytan
215.923.5978
773.551.6956 (c)
yeytan@nmajh.org

Ilana Blumenthal
215.391.4662
267.294.8425 (c)
iblumenthal@nmajh.org

**It's Cold Outside, But the List of Winter Public Programs at
the National Museum of American Jewish History is Hot**

As the weather gets colder, visitors to the National Museum of American Jewish History can warm up their creative sides through a vibrant assortment of programs, events, and exhibitions. With activities ranging from book clubs, performances and family days to a hi-tech installation and a course on calligraphy, there is something at the Museum for everyone throughout the winter.

DECEMBER

Words Off the Page: An Evening with Jewish American Poets

Wednesday, December 10

7:00 pm

\$10/\$8 Members

Join us for a special evening with prominent poets featured in *The Bloomsbury Anthology of Contemporary Jewish American Poetry*. The event includes readings from **Elizabeth J. Coleman, Lynn Levin, Hila Ratzabi, Jason Schneiderman, and Hal Sirowitz**, and a discussion moderated by *Anthology* co-editor, **Deborah Ager**.

Dessert reception with book sale and signing to follow.

Second Sunday Family Activities

Sunday, December 14 • 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free with Museum admission

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Join us for family-friendly activities that involve interactive gallery exploration, story time, and arts and crafts. Activities are developed with multigenerational groups in mind and are fun for children and adults alike. Most appropriate for ages 5 and up. Play corner is available for younger children (adult supervision required).

Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Day

Monday, January 19 • 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Free

Join us for a day filled with family-friendly activities in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Take a self-guided tour of our permanent exhibition or listen to a docent presentation. Express yourself with a drop-in art project led by Fleisher Art Memorial. Watch a hip hop performance that explores cross-cultural understanding?). Examine history outside of the galleries with episodes of the award-winning PBS documentary series, *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement* (USA, 1986-1990), and enjoy Family Story Time with younger kids.

Opening Event for *Liat Segal: Scattered Light*

Wednesday, January 28

5:00 – 8:00 pm

Free, registration required



Photo by: Arnon Fisher

Meet **Liat Segal**, a cutting-edge Israeli artist whose high-tech installation *Scattered Light* (opening January 27) was commissioned especially for the Museum and weaves together history and technology using historic text and visitor reflections.

During the opening event, investigate this unique piece of art and gain firsthand insights about the intersections of Jewish history, art, and technology from the artist herself.

One Book, One Philadelphia Thematic Tours

Becoming American

From January 22 through March 10, every Tuesday at 11:30am and 2:30pm.

Free with Museum admission

Learn about What was the immigration experience like for those who arrived in America from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century? Join us on a tour that brings to life the various stages of many immigrant experiences: leaving home and traveling a great distance, arriving in a new land, learning a new language and customs, deciding where to live and work, and learning how to adjust to a new social and cultural environment.

In partnership with *One Book, One Philadelphia*.

Curated Cocktails

Thursday, January 29

6:00 – 8:00 pm

\$12/Free for Young Friends Members

Join the Young Friends of NMAJH for a cocktail party in celebration of the Museum's new installation, *Liat Segal: Scattered Light*. The artist will be visiting from Israel both to install her work and mingle with Young Friends.

FEBRUARY

The Jewish Doctor: A Brief History

Sunday, February 1 at 4:00 pm

Free, registration required

A lecture by **Professor John Efron** of UC Berkeley about the cultural history of Jewish medicine.

In partnership with the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania

Second Sunday Family Activities

Sunday, Feb. 8 • 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Free with Museum admission

Join us for a family story time and an art project featuring the Free Library of Philadelphia's *One Book, One Philadelphia* children's selection, ***Locomotive***, by Brian Floca, followed by a self-guided Museum tour. Explore various forms of transportation as they developed and changed through history and discuss some of the reasons why we travel.

Presidents' Day at NMAJH

Monday, February 16 • 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Free

Celebrate Presidents' Day at the Museum and explore how American leaders impacted history, American society, and the American Jewish community. Examine the original letter written by George Washington in 1790 to the Jewish community of Newport, Rhode Island declaring the importance of religious freedom, and write your own letter with a quill pen. Join us for a fun and educational day of interactive touring, storytelling, and presidential arts and crafts projects!

One Book, One Philadelphia Book Club

Free when you mention a code word "ONEBOOK" at the admission desk

Tuesday, February 24

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Shirley Brown, Co-Director of the *Philadelphia Writing Project*, will facilitate a discussion of this year's *One Book, One Philadelphia* main selection, *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline.

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/onebook/obop15/index.cfm>

FEBRUARY

'Twas the Night with the Idelsohn Society

Wednesday, February 25

7:00 pm

\$12/\$10 Members

Don't miss the Museum's new exploration of holiday music, *'Twas the Night Before Hanukkah*, before it's packed up for the season, and join our collaborators and Idelsohn Society for Musical Preservation co-founders

David Katznelson (Grammy-nominated producer) and **Josh Kun** (Author and Professor, USC Annenberg School) for one last hurrah. **Courtney Holt** (Chief Strategy Officer, Maker Studios; former executive, Myspace Music and MTV



Photo courtesy of the Idelsohn Society for Musical Preservation

Networks Music & Logo Group) is also expected to participate. These industry insiders and music mavens will share their own stories and passion for Jewish music in an energetic onstage conversation about all things (and anything) musical.

MARCH – SAVE THE DATE!

Young Friends: Purim Ball

Saturday, March 7

Members' Quarterly Book Club

Sunday, March 8

Members' Curator Tour

Tuesday, March 10

Solomon Schechter's Life and Legacy: American Transformations (1902-1915)

Monday, March 16

Free, registration required

A symposium on the impact of this seminal figure in American Jewish life, featuring a keynote by acclaimed author **Dara Horn**.

Presented by the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, in partnership with St. John's College, Cambridge University



Photo by: Mario Manzoni

2nd Annual Freedom Seder Revisited

3rd Annual Freedom Seder Revisited

Wednesday, March 25

Women in American Jewish History Thematic Tours Throughout March

Check NMAJH.org for details.

Check nmajh.org for dates and times

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Museum is offering a docent-led tour specifically exploring the changing roles of women throughout 360 years of American Jewish history, and the contributions they have made to Jewish and American life, including the stories of Abigail Franks, Rebecca Gratz, Henrietta Szold, Emma Goldman, and Betty Friedan.

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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 backgrounds 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.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. NMAJH is closed most Mondays, including federal holidays and some Jewish holidays. Museum admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for

children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID. On Wednesdays from May 7 through the end of October, the Museum will stay open until 8:00 pm. Admission after 5:00 PM is pay-what-you-wish. For more information, visit NMAJH.org or call 215.923.3811.