

# Only in America®



Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

## Museum Plants New Exhibit in Concourse



The Museum's new exhibit space animates the concourse level.

A new presentation of seven dramatic, large-format images from photographer Tal Shochat's series *In Praise of a Dream* transports visitors to an idealized garden of fruit trees while inaugurating an exciting new exhibit space on the Museum's concourse level.

Shochat's photographs serve as a dramatic reminder of human responsibilities to the environment in which we live, according to Dr. Josh Perelman, the Museum's Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections. "We are thrilled with this opportunity to exhibit such strikingly beautiful images and provide visitors with a new way to experience the Museum," he said. The installation of *In Praise of a Dream* is part of an initiative to animate the Museum's concourse level and provide more engaging opportunities for visitors, according to Ivy L. Barsky, the Gwen Goodman Museum Director and COO.

"Tal Shochat's photographs are at once spare and lush. Their beauty is arresting throughout the height of our atrium. Sometimes when I am

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## Museum Collaborates on Bat Mitzvah Exhibition With Moving Traditions

On Saturday morning, March 18, 1922 – two years after American women received the right to vote – Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan summoned his daughter, Judith, to the front of the synagogue sanctuary where she read from her own Bible in Hebrew and English along with the requisite blessings. With this revolutionary act, Judith Kaplan and her father initiated what would become the widespread American Jewish practice of bat mitzvah.

To mark the 90th anniversary of Judith Kaplan's bat mitzvah, the National Museum of American Jewish History and Moving Traditions have collaborated to organize a traveling exhibition, *Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age*, featuring the remarkable story of how, in less than a century, individual girls, their parents and their rabbis challenged and changed communal values and practices to establish this now widely practiced Jewish ritual.

"This exhibition illustrates important links between the movement for women's equality and the development of American Judaism," said Dr. Josh Perelman, the Museum's Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections. "Through the lens of bat mitzvah it shows how individuals have the power to make change happen and the ripple effects that accompany these changes."

*Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age* opened March 6 and continues

through April 27 at The Laurie M. Tisch Gallery at The JCC in Manhattan. It will then travel to communities throughout North America.

*(continued on page 2)*



Judith Ginsberg and her mother, Adele Wall Ginsberg, open gifts received at her 1959 bat mitzvah in Larchmont, New York.

Courtesy of Judith Ginsberg



Michael Rosenzweig

## President's Message

Despite our pride in the uniqueness of our Museum, we are often reminded of how much we share in common with other institutions. I was reminded of the power of these commonalities when I was privileged to attend the groundbreaking for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, scheduled to open in 2015 in Washington. To be sure, the story of African American history is strikingly different from ours. African Americans, after all, came to this continent not seeking freedom but in shackles, denied the very freedoms that drew the first Jews—and many that followed—to these shores.

Yet the groundbreaking ceremony, with profoundly moving remarks by President Obama, focused not on the slavery to which the first African Americans were subjected so much as their remarkable journey to freedom. As I sat listening to the president, imagining this grand new museum in our nation's capital, I was struck by how much its story and ours have in common, how it will tell, as do we, a story of struggle and triumph, a story about securing and perfecting the freedoms promised in our foundational documents.

I also thought about how our journeys have intersected along the way. Jewish Americans, of course, played a prominent role in the Civil Rights Movement, so powerfully illustrated by the iconic photograph we display of the Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel marching side-by-side with the Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma in 1965.

On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 16, we honored these intersections with a day dedicated to the legacy of Dr. King. With art projects that allowed children to visualize the meaning of freedom, with tours highlighting artifacts we display relating to the struggle for civil rights and equality, and with screenings of episodes of the amazing PBS series *Eyes on the Prize*, we welcomed nearly 1,000 visitors to the Museum. What a moving, glorious day it was.

I was also honored recently to welcome to the Museum Lonnie Bunch, the Director of the new African American museum, and his wife, Maria. As we talked about our two museums and the different but similar stories we tell, I felt great pride in being an American, and just as I find when walking through our exhibition, I also felt an overwhelming gratitude to have been born in this country, at this time. We at the National Museum of American Jewish History celebrate our uniqueness, but we also look forward to welcoming the new National Museum of African American History and Culture and to continuing our intersecting journeys.

## Bat Mitzvah Anniversary Celebrated

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum scheduled a series of programs, "Coming of Age in America," for the last two Sundays in March. They included a presentation by actress **Mayim Bialik** and a panel discussion on coming-of-age in America, featuring leading scholars on Jewish ritual and rites of passage. The Museum also hosted "Collect-o-Rama," in which visitors explored and shared bat mitzvah stories through personal artifacts or photographs, and offered their objects to the Museum's collection. The Museum also co-sponsored a tallit silk screening workshop with The Fabric Workshop and Museum.

Participating in the coming-of-age panel discussion were **Dr. Joyce Antler**, the Samuel Lane Professor of American Jewish History and Culture and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Brandeis University; **Dr. Melissa R. Klapper**, Professor of history at Rowan University; **Dr. Jonathan Krasner**, Associate Professor of the American Jewish Experience at Hebrew Union College in New York; and **Dr. Pamela S. Nadell**, the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History and Chair of the Department of History and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at American University. Dr. Nadell also serves on the Museum's Historians Committee.

The moderator was **Rabbi Carole B. Balin**, co-curator of the *Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age* exhibition. She is a Board Member of Moving Traditions and a Professor of Jewish history at Hebrew Union College.

"Jewish life in America has always been about negotiating tradition and change and the evolution of bat mitzvah is a compelling example of that," said Ivy L. Barsky, the Museum's Director and COO. "It's more than a coincidence that only two years after women gain the right to vote that the first American girl becomes bat mitzvah. Girls are now shocked to discover that bat mitzvah was a privilege and obligation that their grandmothers did not enjoy."

The exhibit is based on more than 150 responses to Moving Traditions' "Bat Mitzvah Firsts" survey. The selected stories range across the American-Jewish spectrum, from secular to ultra-Orthodox and from small town to urban center.

"In conducting research for the exhibition, we heard from women who were willing to raise their voices and challenge the gender expectations of their time. These 'bat mitzvah pioneers' moved girls and women from the margins to the center of Jewish life," said Deborah Meyer, Moving Traditions Founder and Executive Director. "That bat mitzvah – once a radical innovation – is now a nearly universal tradition shows how Judaism continues to evolve in each generation."



Judith Kaplan Eisenstein at the 70th anniversary of her bat mitzvah, 1992. Archives, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

The exhibition includes oral history recordings of bat mitzvah stories from around the country and across Jewish movements, a timeline of relevant historical milestones, and an interactive component in which visitors can share their own coming-of-age stories and photos.

Weaving the stories of the evolution of American Jewish life with 20th century feminism, the exhibition also includes narratives and artifacts from everyday trendsetters to prominent women, such as Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg, and activist



Camp Cejwin b'not mitzvah, Port Jervis, New York, 1935. Ratner Center Archives at The Library of The Jewish Theological Seminary.

and community leader Ruth Messinger, to illustrate the substantial impact of bat mitzvah on Jewish life and on the girls (now women) themselves.

For information about bringing *Bat Mitzvah Comes of Age* to your community, please contact Assistant Curator Ivy Weingram at [iweingram@nmajh.org](mailto:iweingram@nmajh.org)

*Coming of Age in America* programming has been supported in part by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, the Federal-State Partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation.

## Striking Photographs on View (continued from page 1)

directly in front of them, I think I can smell the grapefruits on the trees," Ms. Barsky said.

*In Praise of a Dream* opened February 1 and helped the Museum usher in *Tu B'Shevat* (the Festival of Trees). It runs through April 22, Earth Day.

The trees Shochat photographed are all located in Israel. Impeccably pruned and photographed against a black backdrop, they have been disembodied from their natural surroundings, yet each stands lush with fruit and in dreamlike perfection. At the same time, the trees invoke questions of rootedness, about Jews' millennial history as a Diaspora people and their relationships to the homelands in which they have chosen to settle.



Photo by Ilana Blumenthal.

At the opening reception for the new exhibit, *In Praise of a Dream*, (from left) are Dr. Josh Perelman, the Museum's Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections; Michael Rosenzweig, Museum President and CEO; Ivy L. Barsky, Museum Director and COO; and Andrea Popowich Meislin, owner of the Andrea Meislin Gallery in New York.

Using a rigorous process, Shochat began by scouring an area for a particular type of tree. Once she found her ideal specimen, she watched carefully and judged when the tree had reached the height of its fertility. Only then did she carefully clean the branches and leaves, and photograph the trees. In this sense, each tree has become the most perfect expression of itself and the entire group of photos a dreamlike garden is one that could never exist in nature.

*In Praise of a Dream* preserves the power and the beauty of these trees and presents them to Museum visitors as an opportunity for imagination and contemplation.

"I wish that my work will bring a feeling of longing to the land we all admire, to the place we miss, to the nature that has transformed far away from its genesis," Ms. Shochat said. "Although my works originated in the land of Israel, I think it's excellent that the photographs will get wider recognition at the Museum, both with the Jewish community and other visitors."

Shochat's prints were first exhibited in the Andrea Meislin Gallery in New York, which represents the artist. She is a noted photographer and teacher in Israel and has had solo shows at Rosenfeld Gallery, Tel Aviv, Herzliya Museum of Art and Haifa Museum of Art. Her work is in the Israel Museum, Jerusalem, and the Shpilman Institute of Photography, Tel Aviv.



Tal Shochat, *Tamar #3 (Date Palm)*, 2011, C-Print, 60 x 40.25 inches, Courtesy of Andrea Meislin Gallery, N.Y.



Philip M. Darivoff



Ronald Rubin

## Chairmen's Message

As we approach Passover, it is hard not to make a connection between this central Jewish holiday and the Museum. After all, the fundamental theme of our Museum, from exodus to freedom, is the same as that of the Passover story. And, just as each year we recite the story of the Exodus from Egypt, each visitor to the Museum learns that for three-and-a-half centuries Jews have been coming to these shores to flee persecution and search for opportunity.

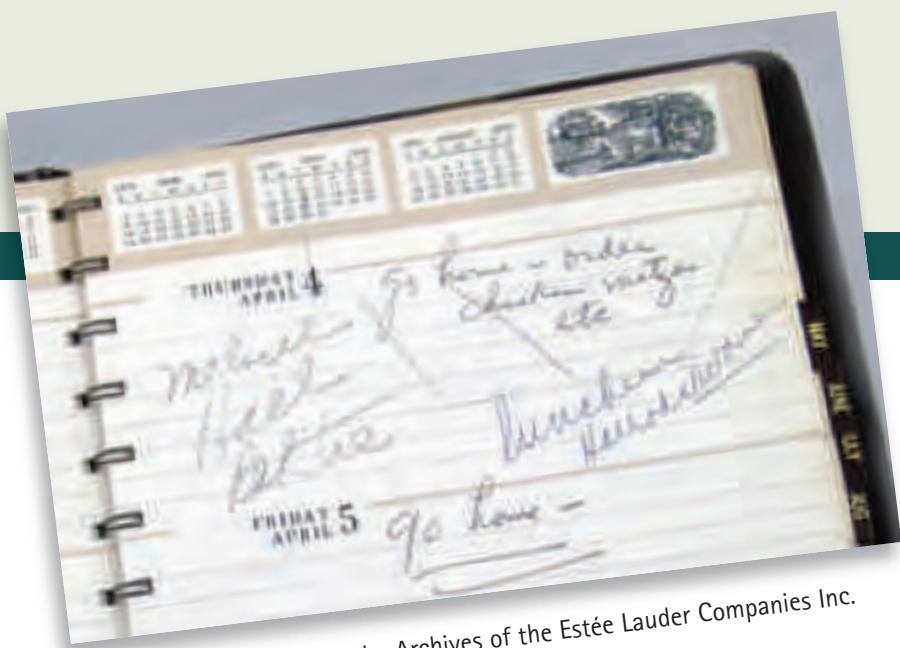
Indeed, the exhibition begins in 1654 with the story of North America's first permanent Jewish settlers. They were 23 brave Jewish men, women and children who fled Recife, Brazil when the Dutch colony was conquered by the Portuguese who gave the Jews and the Protestants just three months to leave.

The great exodus from Eastern Europe took place between 1880 and 1924 when more than two million Jews said goodbye—most of them forever—to their homes, families, and communities. Fleeing grinding poverty and repressive rulers, they set out in search of better lives and many found their way to America.

In more recent times, America continued to provide safe harbor to Jews throughout the world who were seeking personal and religious freedoms. More than 10,000 Hungarian Jewish immigrants came to the United States after the failed 1956 revolution, and after Fidel Castro seized power, close to 10,000 Cuban Jews found refuge in America. Twenty thousand Jews fled to the United States after the Islamic Revolution toppled the Shah of Iran, and between 300,000 and 500,000 Russian Jews settled in the United States since the 1970s.

Much like our immediate forebears, the ancient Israelites endured hardship in order to build a home that allowed them self-determination and the opportunity to practice their religion. The Passover story and the American Jewish experience are both quests for the Promised Land.

For the generation of Israelites who left Egypt, the exodus was arduous, as was that of our grandparents and great-grandparents who left foreign lands for uncertain futures. Yet for each successive wave of immigrants, America was a "land of milk and honey" whose beacon of hope guided them to a place of infinite possibility and the promise of a better tomorrow. So as we say "next year in Jerusalem" at our Seders, let us also take a moment to give thanks for the profound opportunities we have been given in America.



On loan from the Archives of the Estée Lauder Companies Inc.

Visitors to the Museum's *Only in America*® Gallery/Hall of Fame will see that on Thursday, April 4, 1974, Estée Lauder wrote in her day book, "go home – order chicken matzos etc."

A month earlier, visitors would have seen that Ms. Lauder made a note to bring blush and red lipstick to a lunch appointment with a Mrs. Gregory on Friday, May 24.

That's because the pages on the day book are turned regularly, part of ongoing schedule of maintenance the Museum's Curatorial Department undertakes in order to preserve the artifacts in the core exhibition.

"The pages to which open books are displayed are changed to minimize any damage due to sustained light exposure," said Claire Pingel, the Museum's Chief Registrar and Associate Curator. "An important part of our mission is to preserve the artifacts in our care for future generations, and display can be very stressful for these objects. We mitigate the potential for deterioration by taking steps like providing safe mounts, maintaining a stable climate, and rotating light-sensitive materials into storage at regular intervals."

## Visitor Experience Supported by Annual Fund

These efforts are part of daily, behind-the-scenes actions by staff members to keep the exhibition pristine, appropriately cared for and running smoothly. By its very nature it's unseen which makes it difficult to raise funds for this essential work, funded by the Museum's Annual Fund.

The work includes maintaining 26 projectors and more than 50 computers that handle exhibition media. There are more than 500 lighting fixtures in the exhibition, each of which has to be accurately focused and measured to maintain the preservation standard level of light. On average, 20 artifacts a week are changed. A log of the environment inside the cases is maintained and examined regularly.

Of course, artifact protection is ongoing.

Another object the Museum recently changed was a Torah given by a Jew in London in 1737 to Congregation Mickve Israel in Savannah, Ga. It was swapped with an approximately 200-year-old Torah lent by Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia.

Pages in a 1661 bible on loan to the Museum from the collection of Ruth Hendricks Schulson are frequently turned.

Glamorous? No. Critically important? Yes.

"We take seriously our responsibility as the custodians of history," said Marc Porter, Chair of the Museum's Collection Committee and Chairman

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## Two New Board Members Elected

The National Museum of American Jewish History's Board of Trustees has elected two new members.



**Lindy Snider** is the creator and CEO of Lindi Skin. Her pioneering collection of skin care was created with the counsel of leading dermatologists and oncologists for those suffering the skin side effects of specific cancer therapies. An innovative entrepreneur, Ms. Snider conceived the Lindi Skin mission while watching two of her closest friends during cancer treatment. This extensive collection of mild and luxurious serums, lotions and balms is the only full line of skin care products improving the lives of individuals undergoing chemotherapy.

Among Ms. Snider's numerous non-profit affiliations are Fox Chase Cancer Center, Steppingstones Scholars, Mission Kids, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Ms. Snider attended Ithaca College and the University of Pennsylvania.



**Barbara Spiro Ryan** is a marketing and development consultant, speaking at marketing and development conferences and workshops as well as serving as a consultant to educational institutions and non-profits. She served as Senior Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Drexel University and as Vice President for Development and Alumni and Community Relations at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. Previously, Ms. Spiro Ryan was Executive Director of BLOCS, Business Leadership Organized for Catholic Schools.

Ms. Spiro Ryan currently serves on the Board of Project H.O.M.E. and previously was a member of the Board of Trustees of Chestnut Hill College, the Philadelphia Art Alliance and Philadelphia chapter of the Girl Scouts. Ms. Ryan received *Philadelphia Business Journal's* Women of Distinction Award in 2005 and was named a member of the "Philanthropy 400" five times in 6 years from 1998 to 2004, when Ms. Spiro Ryan retired from Drexel.

Ms. Spiro Ryan was graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Md. and a masters degree in education from Temple University.

## New Officers Named at Museum

The Museum Board of Trustees has elected Philip M. Darivoff as Co-Chair, joining Ron Rubin in that role. He succeeds the late George Ross, whose leadership transformed the Museum into a national institution on Independence Mall.

The Trustees also elected Clifford D. Schlesinger as Treasurer, a position previously held by Mr. Darivoff.

Mr. Darivoff, of Short Hills, N.J., is an Advisory Director of Goldman Sachs & Co. He has been on the Museum's Board for six years.

Among his community activities, Mr. Darivoff is Chairman of the Board of Overseers of the University of Pennsylvania's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and a member of the Board of Overseers of the University's Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and is active with Congregation B'nai Israel in Milburn, N.J.

Mr. Darivoff has a bachelor's of science in economics degree and



**Philip M. Darivoff**



**Clifford D. Schlesinger**

a master's degree in business administration from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Schlesinger, of Bryn Mawr, Pa., is a Managing Director of Goldman Sachs & Co. in Philadelphia.

Mr. Schlesinger serves on the Board of Overseers for the Albert Einstein Healthcare Network. He is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and former President of the Federation's Endowment Corporation. He is the 2003 recipient of the Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Young Leadership Award and the 2008 recipient of the Edward N. Polisher Award in recognition of his distinguished service to the Philadelphia Jewish community.

Mr. Schlesinger is a past President of the Philadelphia Estate Planning Council and a 1998 recipient of its Mordecai Gerson Meritorious Service Award. He is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and its School of Law and is a member of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood, Pa



Photo by Ilana Blumenthal

Museum Director Ivy L. Barsky (left) looks over the wedding dress donated by (from left) sisters Ellen Weisfeld, Joan Mack and Hope Maissner.

## Parachute Addressed Wedding Need

Lieutenant George Weisfeld was co-piloting a mission to deliver ammunition to troops in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge when his airplane was hit by enemy fire and quickly became engulfed in flames. His co-pilot told the crew to jump, but Lieutenant Weisfeld bravely stayed on until the ammunition-filled glider they were towing could safely detach from the tow line.

Once detached, the lieutenant and the pilot parachuted from the plane. Lieutenant Weisfeld was burned severely on his face and neck when he exited the plane through the tail, and had serious scarring and medical issues related to the wounds for many years.

After Lieutenant Weisfeld's military discharge, the parachute was put back into service. "There was no spare fabric in the states," explained his daughter, Hope Maissner. So a dressmaker friend of the family sewed the parachute from his lifesaving parachute into a wedding gown that Lieutenant Weisfeld's childhood and neighborhood sweetheart, Belle Rabinowitz, wore at their wedding.

In addition to the dress, Ms. Maissner and her sisters, Joan Mack and Ellen Weisfeld, and their mother, Belle Weisfeld, recently donated a cache of family items to the Museum, including wedding portraits, a wedding invitation, and objects related to his military service, including flight training materials and a certificate he received after his first solo flight.

"One of the truly satisfying aspects of Museum work is the opportunity to become the custodians of the precious objects and stories that illuminate our shared Jewish and American history," said Ivy L. Barsky, Museum Director and COO.

"We wanted the dress and the other artifacts to be somewhere that they would be appreciated and taken care of. It should be somewhere where people can see it and know where it was," Joan Mack said. "We all think that recycling is something new but it isn't. The dress was a form of extreme recycling."

## Funds Support Museum Experiences

*(continued from page 4)*

and President, Christie's Americas. "The exhibitions and the collections are central to our work as a Museum. Preserving the artifacts for future generations while safely sharing them with a wider public audience is a delicate balance."

"It can be difficult to raise funds in support of the behind-the-scenes activity that takes place in all museums," Mr. Darivoff said. "But these gifts are meaningful for that very reason. It's not as visible, not front and center like targeted gifts can be. But the Annual Fund gifts are what have sustained the Museum since it opened its doors in 1976, and will be even more important

to our future as we expand our mission in our beautiful new facility."

To help support the Museum, please take a moment to return the enclosed reply form with your generous, tax-deductible contribution for the Annual Fund today.

**For more information about the Museum's Annual Fund, or ways to participate, visit [www.nmajh.org/annualfund](http://www.nmajh.org/annualfund) or contact the Museum's Development Office at 215.923.3811 ext. 131 or via email at [cweissbach@nmajh.org](mailto:cweissbach@nmajh.org).**





## Children Enjoy Two Days of Family-Friendly Activities

Approximately 2,000 people – parents and children alike – enjoyed family activities at two Museum programs. At “Being Jewish At Christmas,” the Museum’s annual family day of fun, children listened and danced to a band, watched a Hanukkah-themed laser light show, and made dreidels with The Clay Studio. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, admission was free and families took part in self-guided tours highlighting artifacts related to the struggle for civil rights, watched episodes of *Eyes on the Prize*, created watercolors depicting the children’s thoughts on the meaning and feeling of freedom in partnership with the Fleisher Art Memorial, and took part in an interactive exhibit engaging visitors in discussions about Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photos by Jay Nachman and Scott Weiner



## Museum Store Has Upscale Judaica

This crystal tzedkah box with laser cut stainless steel and Swarovski lead crystals, handmade by Israeli artist **Anat Mayer** is available in the Museum Store for \$250. The Museum Store offers an upscale collection of traditional and contemporary Judaica, Ketubot, books and NMAJH logo items. **Shop in person or browse items online at [judaicashop.net](http://judaicashop.net).**



Proceeds from the Museum Store support the educational mission of NMAJH. Museum members receive a 10% discount.

## YOUNG FRIENDS TAKE OVER BOYDS

Wednesday, April 4, 6:00 p.m.

Please note: this event will take place at Boyds Philadelphia, 1818 Chestnut Street

Young Friends of the Museum (and their friends 21-40) are invited to an exclusive after-hours cocktail party at Boyds Philadelphia, the iconic family-owned boutique department store that has been a Philadelphia landmark for almost 75 years. Hosted by Kent Gushner, Jeff Glass and Ralph Yaffe, and the staff at Boyds, guests will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while having special access to the incredible collections at Boyds.

Third-generation owner Kent Gushner, grandson of one of the original founders, will be on-hand to offer insights into the success of his family business behind the famous blue awning and limestone walls, from its days as a men's clothing store, to its now five floors of one of the country's largest selections of fine men's and women's designer fashions. With custom alterations, free valet parking, and the RAW Café, that's not typical, but neither is Boyds.

*Exclusive Boyds discount for event guests only.*

Join Young Friends of the Museum today and you'll receive FREE admission to this event.

Non-members \$18

Call 215.391.4651 for details.

## YOUNG FRIENDS CAMP REUNION

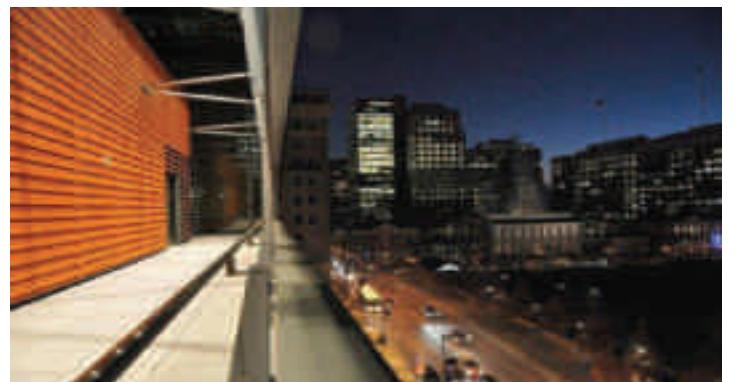
Tuesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE

Did you love camp? Do you dream about camp? Do you miss sitting around the camp fire singing songs with the friends who know you best? Can you almost taste the s'mores? Join us as we celebrate summer camp with a special program just before the summer season.

The mission of the Young Friends of the Museum is to inspire and involve the young professional community (ages 21-40) of Greater Philadelphia through social, educational, networking, and philanthropic programming celebrating American Jewish history and culture.

## Room With A View



This spectacular view of Independence Mall is available at one place, and one place only: the Robbi and Bruce Toll Terrace on the 5th floor of the Museum. With warm weather here, there is no better place to have your event than at the Museum, perfect for any occasion. View included. **To see the Museum's event spaces, contact Ellen Weiss at 215.391.4638 ext. 143 or at [eweiss@nmajh.org](mailto:eweiss@nmajh.org).**

# PROGRAMS

## HAYU LEILOT/THERE WERE NIGHTS AN ARTISTIC JOURNEY IN CELEBRATION OF ISRAEL

Wednesday, April 25 – 7:00 p.m.

Celebrate Israel Independence Day with the Museum. In collaboration with the Consulate General of Israel in Philadelphia and the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, we will bring you some of the bright stars of Israeli and Jewish music, including **Udi Bar-David**, renowned cellist with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Artistic Director of Intercultural Journeys, and **Mika Hary**, Israeli superstar singer/songwriter, and her acclaimed band, the Mika Hary Group.

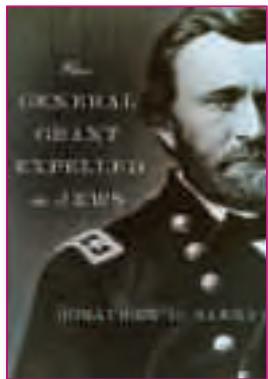


Photo by Paul Arnold

Free for members and students with valid ID • Non-members: \$8

## RELIGION AND POLITICS: WHEN GENERAL GRANT EXPELLED THE JEWS

Wednesday, May 2 – 6:30 p.m.



In a presidential election year fraught with religious debate, **Dr. Jonathan Sarna** will discuss his new book, *When General Grant Expelled the Jews*. It is the first complete account of General Ulysses S. Grant's order, in the middle of the Civil War, to expel all Jews from the territory under his command.

The order came back to haunt Grant when he ran for president. Never before had Jews been so widely noticed in a presidential contest, and never before had they been confronted so publicly with the question of how to balance their "American" and "Jewish" interests. Grant's decision remains the most notorious anti-Jewish order by a government official in American history.

Dr. Sarna, Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis University and NMAJH Chief Historian, is recognized as a leading commentator on American Jewish history, religion and life. In 2004, *The Forward* newspaper named him one of the America's 50 most influential American Jews and is best known for the acclaimed, *American Judaism: A History*.

\$5 Members and students with valid ID • \$10 Non-members

## LEADING THE WAY: AMERICA'S FIRST WOMEN RABBIS

Monday, June 4 – 6:30 p.m.



Sally Preisand



Amy Eilberg



Sandy Sasso



Sara Hurwitz

On the 40th anniversary of Rabbi Sally Preisand's ordination, join the first ordained North American Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist rabbis, and first open Orthodox rabba, as they share their unique experiences as "firsts" in their field. Rabbis **Sally Preisand**, **Amy Eilberg**, **Sandy Sasso**, and **Rabba Sara Hurwitz**, will discuss how and why they decided to become Jewish spiritual leaders, and explore challenges facing the Jewish community today.

\$5 Members and students with valid ID • \$10 Non-members

Visit [www.nmajh.org/publicprograms](http://www.nmajh.org/publicprograms) for more information on these and other programs and for tickets. Reserve your spot today. Questions? Call 215-923-3811 ext. 110.

## UNTOLD STORIES: THE FILMS OF AVIVA KEMPNER

Documentary filmmaker **Aviva Kempner** investigates images of Jews in history, celebrating the lesser-known stories of Jewish heroes for which she has received numerous awards and critical acclaim. She founded the Washington Jewish Film Festival in 1989 and writes film criticism and feature articles for numerous publications, including *The Boston Globe*, *The Forward*, *Washington Jewish Week* and *The Washington Post*.

### The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg

(USA, 1999, 95 minutes)

Wednesday, May 9 – 6:30 p.m.



Join us for this critically-acclaimed film about **Hank Greenberg**, the Detroit Tigers slugger who fought antisemitism, and came close to breaking Babe Ruth's homerun record. He was baseball's first Jewish star. Tall, handsome, and uncommonly good-natured, Greenberg was a secular Jew from the Bronx who became "the baseball Moses," an icon for everyone from Walter Matthau to Alan Dershowitz.

### Yoo Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg

(USA, 2009, 92 minutes)

Wednesday, May 16 – 6:30 p.m.

Join movie critic **Carrie Rickey** ([www.carrierickey.com](http://www.carrierickey.com)) for the story of television pioneer **Gertrude Berg**. Berg was the creator, principal writer, and star of *The Goldbergs* radio show, which became television's first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. She received the first Best Actress Emmy in history, and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry, pioneering that genre by presenting America with an outwardly Jewish family that wore its immigrant heritage on its sleeve.



The Museum will be screening additional episodes of *The Goldbergs* leading up to the film. Free with Museum admission. Visit [www.nmajh.org](http://www.nmajh.org) for a schedule.

### The Rosenwald Schools (Work in Progress)

(Excerpt, approximately 20 minutes)

Wednesday, May 23 – 6:30 p.m.

The work-in-progress documentary explores the incredible story of **Julius Rosenwald**, the son of German-Jewish immigrants who rose to become one of the wealthiest men in America (he teamed with Richard Sears to build Sears, Roebuck & Co.) as well as a beloved humanitarian. Rosenwald's greatest accomplishment is the establishment of grants that seeded the creation of more than 5,500 schools for poor, rural African-American children in Southern states at a time when few received any public education. A talk-back with **Ms. Kempner** will follow.



Members \$5/Film Series \$12  
Non-members \$10/Film Series \$24  
Save 20% when you purchase all three programs



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF  
AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

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President and CEO

**Ivy L. Barsky**  
Gwen Goodman Museum Director and COO

**Jay Nachman**  
Public Relations Director

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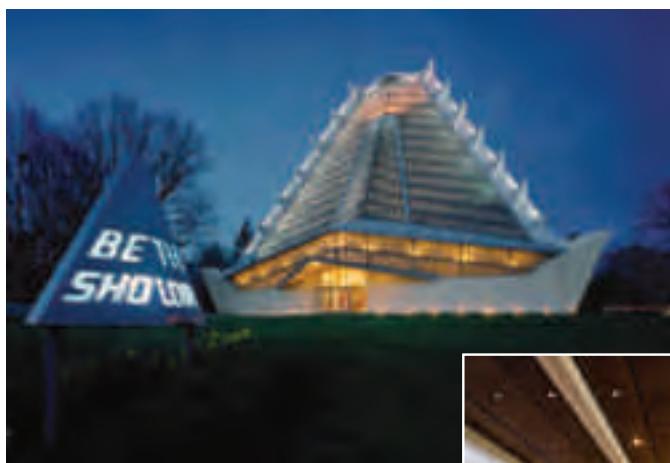


Actress Tovah Feldshuh (center) visits the Museum's *Only in America*® Gallery/Hall of Fame with Ivy L. Barsky, the Gwen Goodman Museum Director and COO and Michael Rosenzweig, the Museum's President and CEO. Ms. Feldshuh narrates and appears in a film about Golda Meir in the Museum's *Only in America*® Gallery.

Photo by Ilana Blumenthal

## Tours of Historic Proportions Now Available

One marker of post-World War II Jewish identity is that communities built, or rebuilt, well over 1,000 synagogues between 1945 and 1965. One of these is Beth Sholom, the only Jewish house of worship designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.



The National Museum of American Jewish History has joined with the synagogue, designated a National Historic Landmark in 2007, to offer group tour packages for both institutions.

The joint tour is one of a number of packages that NMAJH is offering to enhance groups' visits to the Museum and Philadelphia.

Also historic, but with a far longer history, is Congregation Mikveh Israel, an active Sephardic congregation, known as the synagogue of the American Revolution. With a newly offered combined tour, visitors can learn about the historic synagogue's history and tradition. We can also arrange tours of the Mikveh Israel cemetery, which dates back to 1740.

A third partnership, beginning May 12, is with The Franklin Institute and *Dead Sea Scrolls: The Exhibition, Life and Faith in Ancient Times*. The exhibition features the most comprehensive collection of 2,000-year-old Dead Sea Scrolls ever organized and displayed in North America, plus over 500 artifacts from Israel & Qumran, and offers an unparalleled glimpse into the ancient past.



Mikveh Israel interior, 2011, J. Smith for GPTMC

If you have a group of 15 or more, let us help you plan a meaningful visit to the Museum, combined with Beth Sholom or Mikveh Israel, starting at \$15 per person. Packages with the *Dead Sea Scrolls* exhibition start at \$24. Evening ticket times are available for The Franklin Institute Thursday through Sunday.

**For more information on these, and other Museum packages, please call 215.923.3811 ext. 141 or visit [www.nmajh.com/groupvisits](http://www.nmajh.com/groupvisits).**



Dead Sea Scrolls for The Franklin Institute by Darryl Moran

The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in caves on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea between 1947 - 1956. Considered among the world's greatest archeological discoveries, the Scrolls contain the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Bible. The exhibition was created by the Israel Antiquities Authority from the collections of the Israel National Treasures.