

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA ALERT

SIXTH ANNUAL *FREEDOM SEDER REVISITED*
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

MONDAY, MARCH 26 AT 6:30 PM

WHAT: The National Museum of American Jewish History hosts its sixth annual *Freedom Seder Revisited* on Monday, March 26, inspired by the original 1969 Freedom Seder. The Museum invites everyone to the Passover table for an evening of commemoration, stories, and a community exploration of freedom in America today.



Freedom Seder Revisited 2016 at NMAJH. Photo by Matthew Christopher.

WHEN: Monday, March 26, 6:30 – 9:00 pm

WHERE: NMAJH, 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia

SPEAKERS AND PERFORMERS:

- Remarks from **Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney**
- **Valerie V. Gay**, performing artist, entrepreneur, civic leader; executive director, Art Sanctuary
- **Gabriela Sanchez**, Founder and Managing Director of Power Street Theatre Company

- **Stanford Thompson**, professional trumpeter and educator; founder and executive director of Play On, Philly!
- **Rabbi Arthur Waskow**, founder and leader of the original 1969 Freedom Seder; Founder and Director of The Shalom Center
- **Eppchez Yes**, artistic director, Alma's Engine; founder, DarbGarb
- **Jay Ansill, Nero Catalano and Liz Filios**, ensemble
- **Andrew Nelson**, music director

PROGRAM: Storytellers will share what freedom means to them through personal stories, reflections, and performances in place of a traditional Passover retelling of the Exodus narrative. Stories will touch on the meaning of freedom in America today; contemporary “exodus” narratives of moving from a place of difficulty to a place of rebirth or renewal; contemporary civil rights issues; and the intersection of arts and social justice, inspired by our current special exhibition, *Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music*. Representatives of the event’s Community Partners and Museum staff will serve as pre-appointed table leaders at each guest table—another nod to Passover tradition—to help make attendees feel welcome and prompt conversation. For more information, visit NMAJH.org/freedomseder/.

LIVESTREAM: The event will be livestreamed at facebook.com/NMAJH.

ABOUT THE ORIGINAL FREEDOM SEDER: NMAJH’s event draws inspiration from the original Freedom Seder, held in 1969. On the first anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the third night of Passover—the Jewish holiday that commemorates the story of the Israelites’ exodus from Egypt—this ancient Jewish story of liberation was intertwined with a contemporary struggle for liberation for the first time: Black America’s fight for equal rights. Led by Rabbi Arthur Waskow and interfaith clergy, the event became known as the Freedom Seder.

Presented in partnership with First Person Arts and the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Community Partners: Art Sanctuary, Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, Jews in ALL Hues, Norris Square Neighborhood Project, Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, Repair the World Philadelphia, Taller Puertorriqueño, The Shalom Center, Zones of Peace

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[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 more than 360-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 Wednesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. The Museum will also be open Tuesday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm during Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music. Museum admission is \$15.00 for adults, \$13.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID; reduced prices available if purchased online. Connect with the Museum on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Pinterest. For more information, visit NMAJH.org or call 215.923.3811.