

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY HOSTS ITS FIFTH ANNUAL  
FREEDOM SEDER REVISITED ON APRIL 5**

**All are invited for an evening of commemoration, stories, and a community exploration of  
freedom in America today**

PHILADELPHIA—The **National Museum of American Jewish History** (NMAJH) will host its fifth annual *Freedom Seder Revisited* on **Wednesday, April 5, 2017** at 6:30 pm. Inspired by the original 1969 Freedom Seder, where hundreds of people of all backgrounds gathered to explore and celebrate freedom in the context of the Civil Rights Movement, this communal event invites all 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.*

Since 2013, the Museum has welcomed nearly 300 guests (and many more via the web) for this lively and participatory event that explores American identity, themes of immigration, and the meaning of history and heritage in participants' lives today. At this interpretative seder, storytellers share what freedom means to them through personal stories, reflections, and performance in place of the traditional retelling of the Exodus narrative.

This year's story subjects range from personal experiences in a Japanese internment camp in the US during World War II, to a contemporary border crossing from Mexico, to the intersections of art and activism, and the life journey of a Jewish refugee from the former Soviet Union.

The evening, emceed by NMAJH Community Relations Liaison **Robert Levin**, will feature the following storytellers and performers:

- **Ahmad Almallah**, Poet; Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania
- **Ruth Naomi Floyd**, Vocalist/Composer and Director of Jazz Studies, Cairn University
- **Hiro Nishikawa**, Philadelphia JACL Speakers Bureau; Amateur Historian on WWII camps; Ph.D. Biochemist retired from GSK; Grandparent
- **Erika Guadalupe Núñez**, Artist, Community Organizer; Board Member of Vamos Juntos
- **Rabbi Arthur Waskow**, Leader and Author of the original 1969 Freedom Seder; Founder and Director, The Shalom Center
- **Henry Yampolsky**, Mediator, Collaborative Lawyer, and Conflict Coach

Original music will accompany the stories and will be performed by musicians Jay Ansill, Nero Catalano, Liz Filios, and Andrew Nelson (Music Director). Representatives of the event's Community Partners along with Museum staff will serve as pre-appointed table leaders at each guest table—another nod to Passover tradition—to help attendees feel welcome and guide break-out conversations.

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.



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

This year's event is presented in partnership with First Person Arts and the African American Museum in Philadelphia.

Tickets are available at [NMAJH.org/FreedomSeder](https://NMAJH.org/FreedomSeder) for \$36 (\$25 for Members) through March 31; seating is limited. Kosher dinner included.

For those who cannot attend *Freedom Seder Revisited* in person, all are invited to join virtually day-of via NMAJH's online livestream ([NMAJH.org/livefeed.aspx](https://NMAJH.org/livefeed.aspx)) and a Facebook Live broadcast ([Facebook.com/NMAJH](https://Facebook.com/NMAJH)).

Media sponsor: Al Día

Community Partners: Al-Bustan Seeds of Culture, Art Sanctuary, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, Hillel at the University of Pennsylvania, Jews in ALL Hues, Norris Square Neighborhood Project, Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, Repair the World: Philadelphia, Taller Puertorriqueño, The Shalom Center.

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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 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. Connect with the Museum on [Facebook](https://Facebook.com/NMAJH), [Twitter](https://Twitter.com/NMAJH), [Instagram](https://Instagram.com/NMAJH), and [Pinterest](https://Pinterest.com/NMAJH). For more information, visit [NMAJH.org](https://NMAJH.org) or call 215.923.3811.