

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SUMMER 2017 PROGRAMS AT THE**  
**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY**

PHILADELPHIA—The **National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH)** announces a variety of programs for all ages in Summer 2017, from special free admission days to family activities to cultural performances. Visitors can explore the special exhibition ***1917: How One Year Changed the World***, on view through July 16. Co-organized by the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, *1917* is the first exhibition to examine how three extraordinary events—America's entry into World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the signing of the Balfour Declaration—brought about changes in American culture and politics that reverberated throughout the world and still impact us today.

**Free Admission Days in Conjunction with *1917: How One Year Changed the World***

**Various Days**

**Free**

The Museum offers free admission on select historic anniversaries and the first Fridays of the month throughout the run of the special exhibition, *1917: How One Year Changed the World*. Remaining free days include **Thursday, June 1** (honoring the 1916 Senate confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, whose judicial robes are on view in the exhibition), **Friday, June 2** (First Friday), **Wednesday, June 28** (honoring the 1919 signing of the Treaty of Versailles,



Photo by Matthew Christopher.

a copy of which is on view in the exhibition), and **Friday, July 7** (First Friday). More information available [here](#).

### **Celebrating Immigrant Families**

**Friday, May 26, 10 am – 3 pm**

**Free with Museum admission**

During this Family Day celebrating immigrant families, visitors can participate in interactive guided tours about the immigrant experience in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as well as enjoy story times and arts and crafts. Guided tours are available at 11:15 am, 1:15 pm, and 2:15 pm (available in several languages including Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Russian).

### **Second Sunday Family Activities**

**Every second Sunday of the month (June 11, July 9, August 13), 10 am – 3pm**

**Free with Museum admission**

The Museum hosts family-oriented events every second Sunday of the month, with exhibition tours, games and lessons, arts and crafts, and other activities tied to a timely theme. Celebrate Fathers' Day on June 11, explore American independence on July 9, and enjoy summertime fun on August 13. More information available [here](#).

### **It's All True: A Play Reading**

**Monday, June 12, 7 pm**

**\$18/\$15 Members**

**InterAct Theatre Company** comes to NMAJH for a one-night only reading of Jason Sherman's *It's All True* about the true story behind Marc Blitzstein's famous musical, *The Cradle Will Rock*, on its 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. InterAct's 2001 production garnered six Barrymore Award nominations, including Outstanding Overall Production. The all-star cast features Barrymore Award-winner **Scott Greer** as Orson Welles and is directed by Barrymore Award-winner **Seth Rozin**. Beforehand, Marc Blitzstein's legacy will be commemorated at an 11 am public dedication ceremony for a new historic marker at his birthplace, 419 Pine Street in Philadelphia. More information available [here](#).



Photo courtesy of InterAct Theatre Company 2001. Scott Greer as Orson Welles (center), David Ingram as Marc Blitzstein (left), and David Bardeen as John Housemann (right).

**Film Screening of *Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria* and Talk Back with Filmmaker Larry Confino**

**Monday, June 19, 7 pm**

**Free, Registration Required**

*Trezoros: The Lost Jews of Kastoria* is a moving documentary that illuminates the lives of a Sephardic community in Greece whose story speaks for all people who have been decimated by war and discrimination. The film uses never before seen archival footage, vibrantly bringing to life just one of the many Jewish communities that had existed in Greece before the end of World War II. The film screening will be followed by a talk back with filmmakers **Larry Confino** and **Lawrence Russo** and a light reception. More information and registration available [here](#).

Presented in partnership with the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

**From Yiddish Folk to Jazz: An Arts Salon**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 7 pm**

**\$18/\$15 Members**

This evening of performances is inspired by the special exhibition *1917: How One Year Changed the World* and curated by award-winning composer and saloniere **Andrea Clearfield**. It will feature music of the era, from Yiddish folk and American jazz to art songs and chamber music, as well as an original dance piece drawing on themes from *1917*. Performers include klezmer fiddler **Alicia Svigals**, jazz and world music duo **Phyllis Chapell** and **Ken Ulansey**, the **Cheah Chan Duo**, **Daedalus Quartet** members **Jessica Thompson** and **Tom Kraines** with violinist **Juliette Kang**, the **Group Motion Multi-Media Dance Theater** with Artistic Director **Manfred Fischbeck**, and the **Hot Club of Philadelphia** led by **Barry Wahrhaftig** with vocalist **Phyllis Chapell**. More information and tickets available [here](#).

**Independence Day at NMAJH**

**Tuesday, July 4, 10 am – 5 pm**

**Free**

The Museum's annual Independence Day celebration invites visitors of all ages to deepen their understanding of how our nation's leaders made history, influenced society, and impacted the American Jewish community. The original 1790 letter written by George Washington to the Jewish community of Newport, Rhode Island will be on view. Visitors can paint their own American flag or other patriotic emblems with Color Me Mine, and enjoy interactive spotlight talks, story times, and other arts and crafts projects.

## **A Midsummer's Eve: Celebrating Life, Love, and Tu B'Av**

**Wednesday, August 2, 8 pm**

**\$40/\$30 Young Friends Members**

**\$60/\$50 Young Friends Members VIP Ticket**

The Young Friends of NMAJH host their 5<sup>th</sup> annual summer fête celebrating *Tu B'Av*, the Jewish holiday of love. Guests are encouraged to dress in white for this breezy summer soiree.



A Midsummer's Eve 2016. Photo by Jessi Melcer.

*1917: How One Year Changed the World* is on view at NMAJH, March 16 – July 17, 2017 and at the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, September 1 – December 29, 2017. The exhibition has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor. Major support provided by Anonymous; David Berg Foundation; and Tawani Foundation. Additional support provided by: Linda and Michael Jesselson, Bryna and Joshua Landes. [NMAJH.org/1917](http://NMAJH.org/1917)

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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://www.facebook.com/nmajh), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nmajh), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/nmajh), and [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/nmajh). For more information, visit [NMAJH.org](http://NMAJH.org) or call 215.923.3811.