



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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## Poetry, Film, and Music Highlighted this April at the National Museum of American Jewish History

The National Museum of American Jewish History is pleased to announce a wide variety of programming this April.

**Young Friends of NMAJH Present *Activism & Justice: An Evening with the Inspiring Simon Deng***

**Thursday, April 4 – 6:30 pm**

\$12/\$8 Members

\$10 Students

**Simon Deng**, the South Sudanese activist and survivor of child slavery, was kidnapped and sold into slavery at the age of nine. Deng now travels the world sharing his remarkable story and working to raise awareness about genocide and human trafficking in and beyond Sudan. As Passover comes to a close, Deng's talk provides an opportunity to reflect on the Exodus narrative and Judaism's historic commitment to social justice. *Cocktail reception with Simon to follow.*

**Dogged Defiance: Sidney Lumet**

**Tuesdays, April 9-30 – 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

\$125/\$100 BMFI & NMAJH Members

***Film Class Presented with Bryn Mawr Film Institute***

In a career that spanned more than fifty years, Philadelphia-born **Sidney Lumet** made influential films that defied genre boundaries and resisted Hollywood's edict of moral simplicity.

Join us to explore a small sampling of Lumet's work, including his debut film, *12 Angry Men* (1957), as well as *The Pawnbroker* (1964) and *Network* (1976), and learn why he was called "a master of the morally complex American drama."

Instructor: **Andrew J. Douglas, Ph.D.**, Director of Education, BMFI. This 4-week class begins April 9 and meets at the Museum on Tuesdays.

**Tales from the Forgotten Kingdom: Ladino Songs Renewed**

*Philadelphia Premiere*

**Thursday, April 11 – 7:00 p.m.**

\$12/\$8 NMAJH & Raices Culturales Members

*Presented with the Consulate General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region and Raices Culturales Latinoamericanas*

Step into a new world of Ladino music, alive with passion and humor and grit. This concert will be performed by the award-winning **Guy Mendilow Ensemble**, and sung in the centuries-old Judeo-Spanish language, Ladino.

*Light reception to follow.*

*The Guy Mendilow Ensemble is a group of world-class musicians from across the globe. Formed in 2004, the Ensemble has been enthusiastically received in venues ranging from world and traditional music festivals to performing arts centers, progressive Jewish organizations, and universities.*

**The Clay Studio @ NMAJH**

**Sunday, April 14 – 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (drop-in)**

Free with Museum admission

(...and kids under 12 are always FREE!)

In observance of Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for victims of war, and in celebration of Yom Haatzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, we invite families to join **The Clay Studio** for a special "hands"-on project at the Museum. Create your own *hamsa* – a palm-shaped symbol embraced by many cultures, particularly throughout the Middle East and Africa, as a talisman against the evil eye.

The word *hamsa* comes from the word for “five” (as in, five fingers) in both Hebrew and Arabic. You often see this shape in jewelry and wall-hangings. It is believed to provide defense against evil by many religions, including Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

**jkidphilly@NMAJH**

**Friday, April 19 - 10:30 am**

Free and open to the public

Join **jkidphilly** for a casual playdate at the Museum where kids and families can socialize and enjoy stories, songs, and snacks.

*Most appropriate for children ages 5 and under. Museum Admission not required to participate. Admission and Café discounts available for playdate participants. Kids are always free!*

**Words Off the Page: An Evening with Distinguished Women Poets**  
**Wednesday, April 17 – 7:00 p.m.**  
\$10/\$5 NMAJH Members

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Museum presents **Kathryn Hellerstein, Lynn Levin, Taije Silverman, Elaine Terranova, and Eleanor Wilner**, five contemporary women whose award-winning work has enriched American poetry and the Jewish literary tradition.

Each will read selected poems followed by a discussion and talk-back, moderated by **Ellen Frankel**, Opera Librettist; Former CEO and Editor-in-Chief, The Jewish Publication Society. *Light reception and book signing to follow.*

**Members-only Preview Screening of Koch**  
**Wednesday, April 24 – 6:30 p.m.**

Free and available to all NMAJH members

RSVP to Julie Howard Taylor at [jtaylor@nmajh.org](mailto:jtaylor@nmajh.org) or (215) 923-3811 x104

**Catch Koch in this private members-only screening at NMAJH before its official Philadelphia release on April 25!**

Controversial figure and former **Mayor Ed Koch** was the quintessential New Yorker. Ferocious, charismatic, and hilariously blunt, Koch, who died in February at the age of 88, ruled New York from 1978 to 1988—a down-and-dirty decade of grit, graffiti, near-bankruptcy and rampant crime. First-time filmmaker (and former Wall Street Journal reporter) **Neil Barsky** has crafted an intimate and revealing portrait of this intensely private man, his legacy as a political titan, and the town he helped transform. *Light reception to follow.*

**NMAJH in the Community:**

**Film Screening: Deaf Jam**

**Sunday, April 21 – 3:00 p.m.**

**At The Gershman Y** – Broad & Pine Streets, Philadelphia

\$10 General Admission/\$9 Senior/\$5 Students with valid ID

***Presented by the Gershman Y's Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival and sponsored by NMAJH***

In this breakout documentary, Anita, a Russian-Israeli-American high schooler at the vanguard of a new generation of American Sign Language poets inspired by hip-hop culture, teams up with Tahani, a Palestinian-American college student and spoken word poet. Both strive to make their mark on the world through poetry and performance, eager to profoundly impact the way poetry and language are experienced. A slam poetry performance by the film's stars to follow. Guest speaker: Director **Judy Lieff**.

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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 heritages 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.

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