

NEWS RELEASE

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NMAJH Kicks Off July Public Programs and Exhibitions by Celebrating July 4 with Family Activities and Washington's Letter on Religious Freedom

The National Museum of American Jewish History is delighted to announce an exciting July public programming and exhibition schedule beginning with Independence Day. **On Thursday July 4, the Museum is offering pay-what-you-wish admission and activities designed for visitors of all ages.**

[Celebrate July 4th at NMAJH](#)

**Thursday, July 4 from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Pay What You Wish All Day!**

On view is the original letter written by George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island underscoring the new nation's commitment to religious liberty and equality for people of *all* faiths. Activities throughout the day including self-guided family tours, story times, letter-writing with quills, pin decorating, and more! Interact with **current artists-in-residence and acclaimed Philadelphia-based artists Keir Johnston and Ernel Martinez. Hand-stitch your own pieces of fabric**, which will be incorporated into their textile-based installation, [Hemmed up: Stories through Textiles](#) (July 9 - August 25).



Photo by: Matthew Christopher Photography

[Illustrating Childhood: The History of Children's Book Illustration in the United States](#)

Tuesdays July 2, 9, and 16 from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

\$60/45 NMAJH Members



On Tuesdays July 2, 9, and 16 the Museum will host a series of three lectures about the art and history of children's literature illustration. The series will review the history of illustration from the nineteenth century to the present, introduce students to various illustrative styles, and enhance visual analysis skills. The class will survey a broad spectrum of stylistic and sociocultural developments in children's illustration. Participants will also have an opportunity to share memories of their favorite childhood book(s) and to reflect on the personal and aesthetic reasons for their attachments with insights gained from the class.

This series is in conjunction with the special exhibition, [The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats](#). Instructor: **Mary F. Zwadzki**, a teacher of art and illustration history at Parsons: The New School for Design.

Exhibition: *The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats* July 19 - Oct. 20

[The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats](#) is the first major exhibition in this country to pay tribute to award-winning author and illustrator **Ezra Jack Keats** (1916-1983), whose beloved children's books include *Whistle for Willie*, *Peter's Chair*, and *The Snowy Day*.

The exhibition invites visitors to discover more than 80 original works by this groundbreaking American Jewish artist, the first to feature an African-American protagonist in a modern full-color picture book. Featuring works ranging from preliminary sketches to final paintings and collages, the exhibition also offers a reading area for visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy Keats's art and stories.



Ezra Jack Keats, "Crunch, crunch, crunch, his feet sank into the snow." Final illustration for *The Snowy Day*, 1962. Collage and paint on board. Ezra Jack Keats Papers, de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, McCain Library and Archives, The University of Southern Mississippi. Copyright Ezra Jack Keats Foundation.

Exhibition: *Hemmed Up: Stories Through Textiles* July 9 - August 25

Current artists-in-residence and acclaimed Philadelphia-based artists **Keir Johnston** and **Ernel Martinez** of Amber Art Collective developed this textile-based installation as part of their [Hemmed Up](#) project for the Museum's inaugural year of its **OPEN for Interpretation** artist-in-residence program. The artist team was inspired by the American Jewish relationship to the textile industry and the themes of immigration, labor, and struggle it represented.



Artists Ernel Martinez and Keir Johnston

**Young Friends of the National Museum of American Jewish History present
"A Midsummer's Eve: Celebrating Life, Love, and Tu B'av
Thursday, July 25 from 7:00 pm-10:00 pm**

On Thursday July 25, the Museum's Young Friends - dedicated to meaningfully engaging the young professional community ages 21 to 40 - will proudly present "A Midsummer's Eve," an evening social featuring a DJ, beer, wine, a signature cocktail, fondue, and desserts. In celebration of Tu B'Av, commonly viewed as the Jewish holiday of love, the group will enjoy a beautiful night on our fifth floor and terrace. In keeping with the themes of Tu B'av, we encourage attendees to dress in white attire.* Tickets start at \$18. For more information on this inaugural event, see NMAJH.org/youngfriends or Facebook [YoungFriends Nmajh](#).

** On Tu B'Av, which marked the beginning of the grape harvest in the days of the Temple in Jerusalem, "the unmarried girls of Jerusalem dressed in white garments and went out to dance in the vineyards" (Babylonian Talmud, tractate Ta'anit 30b-31a).*

Coming In August:

**A Snowy Day in August: Keats Family Day
Sunday, August 4 from 10:00 am - 5:30 pm
FREE with Museum admission**

Screenings of animated films of Keats's books including *The Snowy Day*, *Whistle for Willie*, *Peter's Chair*, *Pet Show!*, *A Letter to Amy*, *The Trip*, and *Apt. 3* at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. Museum visitors can enjoy *How to Build a Storm: The Weather Show*, presented by The Franklin Institute at 1:00 pm. Various arts and crafts activities will take place throughout the Museum, including book-making, hat decorating, and puppet making. The Museum will also host hourly storytelling and readings from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**Hemmed Up: Meet the Artists
Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 pm
Pay What You Wish**

Meet artists-in-residence Keir Johnston and Ernel Martinez of Amber Art Collective and take a close-up look at their fabric-based installation, ***Hemmed Up: Stories through Textiles*** (July 9 - August 25). Gain firsthand insights from the artists and view a short film by Kevin Shields about this unique endeavor.

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The Snowy Day and the Art of Ezra Jack Keats

is organized by The Jewish Museum, NY, the exhibition is drawn from the collection of the de Grummond Children's Literature Collection, The University of Southern Mississippi. The exhibition was funded at The Jewish Museum through a generous grant from the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation. Additional support was provided by the Joseph Alexander Foundation, the Alfred J. Grunebaum Memorial Fund and the Winnick Family Foundation.

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.

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. On Wednesdays between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Museum will stay open until 8:00 pm. Admission after 5:00 PM is pay-what-you-wish. For information on the Museum, the public may call 215.923.3811 or visit the website at <http://www.nmajh.org>.

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