

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PRESIDENTS' DAY

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National Museum of American Jewish History Celebrates Presidents' Day on Monday, Feb. 18

Museum to be OPEN and PAY-WHAT-YOU-WISH!

The National Museum of American Jewish History is OPEN and PAY-WHAT-YOU-WISH in celebration of Presidents' Day on Monday, February 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Celebrate the founders and fathers of our nation by exploring the challenges and blessings of freedom, religious liberty, and equality for all people.

Among the special features of the day are:

- **Free cherry pies** from the Museum Café. Grab an individual kosher cherry pie, while supplies last!
- Access to our two special exhibitions, **Beyond Swastika** and **Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges** and **Jewish Artists in America 1925-1945: Selections from the Collection of Steven and Stephanie Wasser**.

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- On display for a limited engagement, the **historic 1790 correspondence between President George Washington and the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island**. Next to the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, it may be the most important 337 words in American history. The letter represents a courageous and historic statement by America's first national leader to both affirm rights and privileges generally unknown to the Jews for millennia and underscore the new nation's commitment to religious liberty and equality for people of *a//*faiths. His iconic address confirmed the new President's commitment to a government that **"gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance."** Explore the documents in an **interactive** and view **Washington's original letter**, only on display from Tuesday, February 12 – Sunday, February 24.
- Interactive where children can look in a mirror with the title, "Portrait of a leader". There will be branded stationery and pencils on the table for kids to draw self-portraits, or portraits of their parents, friends, etc. A prompt on the table will let families know that if they bring their portraits to the store, they will receive a small goodie and have the opportunity to scan their portrait for the Museum's flickr site!
- **Docent led in-gallery discussions** will be available throughout the day in the Museum's core exhibition about the role American Jews have played in American democracy and politics.
- **Special Russian-language tours will be offered at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Limit 15 people. First come, first serve.**

Advance tickets are not needed; all admission is PAY-WHAT-YOU-WISH that day – simply check in at the Admissions Desk upon arrival.

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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2/6/2013 Contact Ilana Blumenthal, iblumenthal@nmajh.org for art and coverage

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