

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

A diverse array of programs includes several complementing the special exhibition,
1917: How One Year Changed the World, opening March 17

PHILADELPHIA—The **National Museum of American Jewish History (NMAJH)** announces an engaging variety of programs for visitors of all ages in Spring 2017. Several programs are presented in conjunction with the special exhibition, ***1917: How One Year Changed the World***, on view March 17 – July 16 at NMAJH. The exhibition, co-organized by the American Jewish Historical Society in New York, is the first to explore how three key events of that year—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.

Young Friends Masquerade Ball Celebrating Purim

Thursday, March 9, 7 – 10 pm

\$45/\$35 Young Friends Members

**Special: \$60 for 1 Ticket + YF Individual
Membership; \$100 = 2 Tickets + YF Dual
Membership**

Enjoy a night of revelry, dessert, dancing, and drinks in celebration of the festive Jewish holiday, Purim.

Guests can transport themselves back to nineteenth



Young Friends Masquerade Ball at NMAJH.
Photo by Matthew Christopher.

century Purim balls with waltz lessons from Society Hill Dance Academy. The event is hosted by the Young Friends of NMAJH, which aims to inspire and involve the young professional community of Greater Philadelphia. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

Second Sunday Family Activities

Every second Sunday of the month (March 12, April 9, May 14), 10 am – 3 pm

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 Purim and Women's History Month on March 12, explore the story of Passover on April 9, and honor mothers and women's roles in history on May 14. More information available [here](#).

Adult Education: 1917: War, Revolution, and American Jewish History

With Rabbi Lance J. Sussman, Ph.D. and Joan Myerson Shrager, M.Ed.

Wednesday, March 15 and Thursday, April 27, 3 – 5 pm

Individual lecture: \$20/15 members

Two lectures: \$35/\$25 members

This program will present two visually-rich lectures highlighting the immense changes brought about before and after the transformational year of 1917. The speakers will focus on a constellation of political, social, and cultural events that took place in the Jewish community in America and beyond. The first lecture is titled *Into the Storm: Jews and World War I, 1914 – 1919*, and the second is *Après le Deluge: How World War I Transformed the Jewish People, 1919 – 1932*. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

In conjunction with the special exhibition 1917: How One Year Changed the World.

Cracked Voices: Stories of Jewish Political Dissent and Fracture

Sunday, March 26, 3 pm

\$5 Admission

This program will feature stories of Jewish political dissent and fracture, past and present. Activists, artists, leaders, and scholars come together at NMAJH for an afternoon of spoken word reflections on experiences of political rupture in Jewish life. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

Sponsored by Temple's Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Penn's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, NMAJH, and the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. In conjunction with the special exhibition 1917: How One Year Changed the World.

5th Annual Freedom Seder Revisited

Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 pm

\$36/\$25 Members (Kosher dinner included)

Registration deadline: March 17

Freedom Seder Revisited, one of NMAJH's signature events, returns to the Museum this spring. 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 guests to the Passover table for an evening of commemoration, stories, and community exploration of freedom in America today. This year's stories range from personal experiences in a Japanese internment camp in the US during WWII, 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. For tickets and more information, visit NMAJH.org/freedomseder

In partnership with First Person Arts and the African American Museum in Philadelphia. In conjunction with the special exhibition 1917: How One Year Changed the World.



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

Curator Tour: 1917: How One Year Changed the World

Thursday, April 27, 10 am

Free (Exclusively for Members)

Join Chief Curator and Director of Exhibitions and Collections Dr. Josh Perelman for a tour of the Museum's special exhibition, *1917: How One Year Changed the World*. Click [here](#) for more information. To become a NMAJH Member, visit NMAJH.org/MembershipOverview.

Curated Cocktails Hosted by the Young Friends of NMAJH

Thursday, April 27, 6 – 8 pm

\$12/Free for Young Friends Members

At the Young Friends of NMAJH's Curated Cocktails, attendees can explore the special exhibition, *1917: How One Year Changed the World* and hear remarks from NMAJH Curatorial Assistant, Lauren Cooper. Also welcome at this event are young professionals (ages 21-40) whose companies are Corporate Partners of the Museum. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

The Future of American Jewish Bible Translation

Sunday, April 30, 9 am – 3 pm

Free (Advance registration required)

Participate in a special symposium celebrating the 100th anniversary of The JPS *Holy Scriptures*, with many of the nation's leading Bible scholars. After a look back at the last century, representatives from the major rabbinical seminaries will discuss "Trends in Bible Scholarship and Translation" at the morning session. In the afternoon, scholars involved in the JPS Bible Commentary series will offer "Notes for a New Translation" and address the startling impact of the digital revolution in education and publishing. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

Sponsored by The Jewish Publication Society, Creighton University College of Arts and Sciences, and NMAJH. In conjunction with the special exhibition 1917: How One Year Changed the World.

Dreamers and Doers: Dr. Kathy Fields

Monday, May 1, 7 pm

\$18/\$15 Members

Join Dr. Kathy Fields, world-renowned dermatologist and co-founder of Proactiv® Solution and Rodan + Fields® Dermatologists skincare brands, as she shares personal insights into her entrepreneurial story from the days of creating products in her kitchen with diaper money, to the global success of her life-changing skincare products that have helped millions of people.

Moderated by WHYY's Behavioral Health Reporter and Host of *The Pulse*, Maiken Scott.

Media sponsor: WHYY. This series has been anonymously endowed by a friend of the Museum and admirer of all Dreamers and Doers.

NMAJH Members' Night at the Theater: Jerry's Girls

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 pm

Walnut Street Theatre, 825 Walnut Street

\$36 (Exclusively for Members)

NMAJH Members are invited to an evening of music paying tribute to the all-American master of song, Jerry Herman. Taking center stage are some of Broadway's best musicals, including *Hello Dolly!*, *Mame*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Dear World*, and *La Cage Aux Folles*. After the show, guests can enjoy a private reception with the cast. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information. To become a NMAJH Member, visit NMAJH.org/MembershipOverview.

Then and Now: How 1917 Changed the World

Sunday, May 7, 2 pm

\$10/Free for NMAJH and AJHS Members and PennCard holders

This discussion among leading scholars will focus on the interconnectedness and contemporary resonance of three major world events of 1917, related to the themes of immigration, revolution, and Zionism. Featuring NMAJH and AJHS advisor Dr. Beth S. Wenger, Chair of University of Pennsylvania's History Department; Professor Jennifer Keene from Chapman University; Professor Tony Michels from University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Professor Benjamin Nathans from the University of Pennsylvania. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.



Jacob Lavin (center) with group of American Expeditionary Forces in France. Gift of Marilyn Lavin Tarr.

Presented with the American Jewish Historical Society and Penn's History Department and Jewish Studies Program. In conjunction with the special exhibition 1917: How One Year Changed the World.

Alon Ben-Gurion: Reflections of my Grandfather

Thursday, May 11, 7:30 pm

Free (Advanced registration recommended)

Join Alon Ben-Gurion, grandson of the first prime minister of Israel, as he reflects on the life of his grandfather, David Ben-Gurion. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

In partnership with American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev – Mid-Atlantic Region. In conjunction with the special exhibition 1917: How One Year Changed the World.

Evolution of Jewish Cooking in America

Tuesday, May 16, 7 pm

Tickets coming soon

Hear influential figures from the Jewish culinary world come together for a conversation celebrating the rich traditions of Jewish cooking in America and around the globe. Featuring prolific cookbook author Joan Nathan, renowned chef and co-owner of Philadelphia's Zahav restaurant Michael Solomonov, Philadelphia restaurateur and Zahav co-owner Steven Cook, and *Saveur* Blog of the Year award-winner Molly Yeh. Moderated by Devra Ferst of *Tasting Table*. Cook and Solomonov's *Zahav*, Nathan's *King Solomon's Table*, and Yeh's *Molly on the Range* cookbooks will be available for sale and signing. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

Presented with Jewish Learning Venture.

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

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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. NMAJH offers Free February admission, thanks to the support of Parkway Corporation. Connect with the Museum on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#). For more information, visit NMAJH.org or call 215.923.3811.