



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN JEWISH
HISTORY

A Smithsonian Institution Affiliate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2015

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY MUSEUM STORE
OFFERS BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED *KETUBOT* (MARRIAGE CONTRACTS)
FOR LGBT AND INTERFAITH COUPLES

When Mandy Rosenblum of Bryn Mawr began her search for a *ketubah* (marriage contract) that would be signed by her and her partner of 22 years, Liz Hecht, she had a lot of trouble finding one with gender neutral language that was designed for a legal marriage and not a commitment ceremony.

“I’m sure you understand that after being denied the right to marry for so long, we really want our ketubah to reflect the actual marriage we will enter,” noted Rosenblum.



Mandy Rosenblum (left) with fiancée Liz Hecht

During their search, the couple immediately fell in love with a design by artist Amy Fagin (who is known for her intricate designs), but noticed that her work did not have the language that they were looking for. “I took a chance and called the Museum,” said Rosenblum. “They went above and beyond the call of duty to assist us. They catalogued each ketubah design that offered gender neutral marriage language. They then reached out to Amy Fagin herself to explain our problem and provided us with a detailed response from the artist along with several ways to get the language we were seeking with the design we chose. We were even offered additional designs!”

The Museum Store at the National Museum of American Jewish History has the largest selection of ketubot (marriage contracts) on the East Coast. Kristen Kreider, the director of retail operations, and her staff are in direct contact with the ketubah artists with whom they work whether they are from Philadelphia or Jerusalem. Their relationships with the artists afford unique opportunities for couples to order a customized document that fits their needs. By providing same-sex or interfaith ketubot*, the Museum Store reflects the Museum’s broader commitment to being a welcoming place for people of all backgrounds.



"Our Heart" ketubah by Amy Fagin

“Almost as long as the Museum has been carrying ketubot, we have offered them with same-sex commitment vows, omitting the words “bride” and “groom.” I am excited that we now get to officially offer marriage vows for everyone, regardless of gender,” says Karen Coleman, e-commerce manager for the online version of the Museum Store, judaicashop.net.

“Ketubot* are readily available for purchase from multiple sources on the internet, but I wouldn’t dream of purchasing our ketubah from any other source,” added Rosenblum.

The couple is looking forward to their September 12 wedding at the Museum.

The Museum Store recently relaunched its online gift registry. The store is preparing for an influx of new registrants on the heels of the recent Supreme Court decision. Couples who are interested in purchasing a ketubah from the Museum Store may call the Museum Store at 215-923-3811, x128 or visit judaicashop.net. Couples interested in renting the Museum for a wedding or special event may contact Ellen Weiss at 215-923-3811, x143 or eweiss@nmajh.org or visit nmajh.org/events.

**Ketubot* is the plural form of *Ketubah*

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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 350-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. On Wednesdays from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the Museum will stay open until 8:00 pm. Admission after 5:00 PM is pay-what-you-wish. For more information, visit NMAJH.org or call 215.923.3811.