



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN JEWISH
HISTORY

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THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY EXPANDS
YOUNG FRIENDS BOARD TO INCLUDE SEVEN NEW MEMBERS

PHILADELPHIA—The **National Museum of American Jewish History** (NMAJH) announces the election of seven new members to its Young Friends Board: **Zachary Golen, Ben Hirsh, Jacob Markovitz, Alexandra Sayer, Michael Swift, Alex Weiner, and Andrew Zakroff**. The new members will support the mission of the Young Friends of NMAJH, which aims to inspire and involve the young professional community (ages 21-40) of Greater Philadelphia through social, educational, networking, and philanthropic programming celebrating American Jewish history and culture.

“We are extremely excited to welcome some fresh new faces to the Young Friends Board,” said Young Friends Board Chair, **Shana Golen**. “As we continue to strive for innovative and relevant programming for our Young Friends community, this influx of new ideas is critical to ensure we have representatives across various fields and interests. We are excited to see the new perspectives the group will add and anticipate a renewed focus on professional networking and development in the coming year.”

About the new board members:

Zachary Golen is a Retirement Plan Specialist at MassMutual Greater Philadelphia and a Ben Gurion Society Member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. Originally from Philadelphia, Golen has been an active member of the Young Friends group. He shares, “The events I have experienced have been fun and educational, and I have met great people. I was interested in joining the board to help share these experiences with other young members of the community.”



Ben Hirsh is the Founder and Executive Director of B Good Worldwide. He is on the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and an active volunteer for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Adopted from El Salvador, Hirsh was raised in Huntingdon Valley, PA. Hirsh says, “I have been interested in joining the Young Friends board because the history of American Jews, in its full diversity, has important lessons to learn from and share, not just for Jews, but for all people. Being of color and adopted into a Jewish family has been the biggest blessing of my life.”



Jacob Markovitz is a realtor with Elfant Wissahickon Realtors serving Center City and Greater Philadelphia. He is active on the Board of Directors for Center City Residents' Association and previously served on an event host committee for The Spruce Foundation. Markovitz grew up in East Falls, PA and attended Penn Charter. He states, “It’s important that our young people stay informed about our rich American Jewish history. NMAJH reminds us that our people are here in America and have influenced and achieved many great things.”



Alexandra Sayer is a New Business Development Associate at Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust (PREIT). She is a member of the Young Professional Network with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the International Council of

Shopping Centers, Young Involved Philadelphia (YIP), Tribe 12's The Collaborative, The Chevra, Philadelphia Sports Network, and Philadelphia Sport and Social Club, as well as the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's NextGen, Ben Gurion Society, and Jewish Federation Real Estate groups. Originally from Bryn Mawr, PA, Sayer attended Syracuse University where she was on the Women's Division 1 Crew team in the Big East Conference. She notes, "I am looking forward to working with the other board members in order to further support the Museum and assist in creating an environment for current and new members to socialize."



Michael Swift is the Vice President and Investment Specialist at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in Philadelphia. A fourth generation Philadelphian, he relocated to New York in 2011 to help launch J.P. Morgan's Endowments and Foundations Group, dedicated to identifying, managing, and growing Educational, Institutional, Cultural and Charitable portfolios, and returned to Philadelphia this past April to work as a portfolio manager. He was a board member of the Leadership Council of The Children's Village, a nonprofit working with at-risk youth in urban areas surrounding Manhattan. He is also a member of Maccabi USA and was a goalkeeper and co-captain on the United States Soccer Team at the 1999 Pan American Maccabi games. He adds, "My wife, Perri, and I were married at NMAJH on September 10, 2016. The museum is an amazing institution and I am excited for the opportunity to help ensure its legacy and sustainability."



Alex Weiner is a real estate attorney at Kurtz & Revness, P.C. He grew up in Lafayette Hill, PA. He notes, "I've always been somewhat of a history buff, and the Museum is a great mix of Jewish cultural pride and our people's diverse and rich story and legacy. I wanted to be in a position to share that with the community and collaborate with people who have similar interests."



Andrew Zakroff is an associate in the brokerage division at SSH Real Estate. He is a member of Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's Real Estate group and the Ben Gurion Society. Born in Meadowbrook, PA, he grew up in Penn Valley. He says, "Philadelphia has a vibrant population of young Jewish professionals who are heavily involved in various charities and originations. Now that I am a Young Friends Board member, I look forward to working towards broadening the appeal of Young Friends events and to collaborating with other groups to strengthen both the Museum and the Young Friends."



For more information on the Young Friends of NMAJH, visit NMAJH.org/youngfriends and connect with the group on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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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. For the run of *Bill Graham and the Rock & Roll Revolution*, September 16, 2016 – January 16, 2017, the Museum will stay open until 8 pm on Wednesday evenings. (Please note the Museum will be closed on select Wednesday evenings.) Connect with the Museum on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#). For more information, visit nmajh.org or call 215.923.3811.