

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM



A SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE
COUNCIL OF AMERICAN JEWISH MUSEUMS
WASHINGTON DC | JUNE 19-20, 2019

COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

The Council of American Jewish Museums knows that its members are on the front lines in the fight against antisemitism. Whether through programs, exhibitions, collecting, or educational efforts, our organizations are public and symbolic centers for deterring hate and promoting diversity, understanding, and respect.

Recent events compel us to confront hatred with heightened urgency and new insight, and our organizations must be prepared to be a lead voice. At the same time, we must also be better prepared for acts of violence in our own communities and facilities.

This two-day program will bring us together to face these topics. The first day's sessions, made possible by the Leon Levy Foundation, will explore programmatic implications of contemporary antisemitism on our work. The second day of programming, made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, will focus on protecting our visitors, staff, buildings, and artifacts from acts of hate. Together we will consider new insights and approaches for facing the immediate future.

—Avi Decter and Gabriel Goldstein
Program Co-Chairs

—Melissa Martens Yaverbaum
Executive Director



LEON LEVY FOUNDATION



06/18

4:00 PM |

**TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM'S
DAVID AND FELA SHAPELL FAMILY COLLECTIONS, CONSERVATION AND
RESEARCH CENTER**

By advanced registration only, contact executive@cajm.net by June 14

Join us for a special tour of the USHMM's Shapell Center—a hub of activity supporting acquisitions, education, and scholarship. This state-of-the-art facility features specialized laboratories and climate-controlled environments. Conservators here work to stabilize and extend the life of objects in the collection while retaining their historical provenance so they reveal an authentic representation of what transpired during the Holocaust.

06/19

ANTISEMITISM AND THE WORK OF MUSEUMS

AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

9 AM |

Registration & coffee

9:30 AM |

MUSEUMS CONFRONTING INTOLERANCE

Considering issues of inequity, race, immigration, and gender: How have museums played a role in addressing longstanding prejudicial attitudes and policies? Where has the needle moved over the years—in ways we had hoped for and in ways we had never imagined?

SPEAKERS

Kinshasha Holman Conwill, Deputy Director, National Museum of African-American History & Culture

Sean Kelley, Senior Vice President, Director of Interpretation, Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site

Fred Wasserman, Independent Curator & Museum Consultant

10:30 AM |

CHALLENGES OF AMERICAN ANTISEMITISM

This session will present an overview of historical and contemporary antisemitism, emphasizing changing dimensions and new concerns. It will identify challenges that have special applicability for our institutions.

SPEAKERS

Ira Forman, Senior Advisor, Human Rights First

With respondent **Abraham Foxman**, Head of the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism, Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

11:30 AM |

CONTENTIOUS ASPECTS OF CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM

This panel will examine contemporary issues that affect antisemitism and our understanding of it—including the media, anti-Zionism, and anti-immigrant sentiment. It will ask how these issues shape the popular imagination and complicate our role as forums for public discourse.

SPEAKERS

Arie Dubnov, Associate Professor, George Washington University

Ronald Kampeas, Bureau Chief, Jewish Telegraph Agency

Annie Polland, Executive Director, American Jewish Historical Society

Robert Williams, Director for Countering Antisemitism and Extremism, Human Rights First

12:45 PM |

Lunch with conversation groups

Registrants will join discussion groups to share perspectives on antisemitism encountered in their home communities, approaches at the local level, and communal responsibilities.

2 PM |

WILL TELLING AND RETELLING OUR STORIES MAKE SOCIETY BETTER?

We have often assumed that telling and retelling stories of prejudice, hatred, and violence will make society better – that an awareness of past injustices will lead to a better present. This session will explore narrative and its potential to shift attitudes and group culture.

SPEAKERS

Clifford Chanin, Executive Vice President, 9/11 Memorial & Museum

Abraham Foxman, Head of the Center for the Study of Anti-Semitism, Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Melissa Hiller, Director, American Jewish Museum, JCC Pittsburgh

Sarah Lumbard, Director, Museum Experience and Digital Media, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3:30 PM |

WHAT SOCIAL INFLUENCE CAN WE EXERT?

What does the work of changing a culture of hate look like? What are the limits of influence of museums and cultural organizations? This session will consider our potential impact and social influence, and will ask how we might reenvision our work as change agents.

SPEAKERS

Gabriel Goldstein, Independent Consultant

Erin Mast, Executive Director, Lincoln's Cottage

Sarah Pharaon, Senior Director, Methodology and Practice, International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

4:30 PM |

REALITIES AND FIELD IMPLICATIONS

SUMMARY BY

Avi Decter, Managing Partner, Center for History Now

Joel Levy, Former President & CEO, Center for Jewish History

06/20

PREPARING FOR ACTS OF HATE AT MUSEUMS

AT THE NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

9 AM | Registration & coffee

9:20 AM | **WELCOME**
Zachary Levine, Director of Exhibitions & Collections, National Building Museum

9:30 AM | **A THREATENING LANDSCAPE / WELCOMING INSTITUTIONS**
This opening discussion will explore a perplexing tension inherent in our institutions: our museums are symbols of openness and tolerance, and yet they are especially vulnerable. As public-facing institutions that are highly visible, how might we balance a spirit of audacious hospitality while providing safer settings?

SPEAKERS

Elaine Heumann Gurian, Senior Museum Consultant
Interviewed by **Marsha Semmel**, Independent Consultant & CAJM Board Member

10:40 AM | **PREPARING FOR THREATS AND ACTS OF HATE**
This session will address the challenge of dealing with threats and violence using a business approach to security management. What security measures are appropriate for our institutions? How do we put a plan in place for security under changing conditions? How do we keep staff and volunteers comfortable, while instilling a culture of alertness and security? What concrete, realistic measures can our institutions take to protect people from acts of hate?

SPEAKER

Paul DeMatteis, Principal, Global Security Risk Management LLC

NOON | Lunch

1 PM | **NEW REALTIES, NEW APPROACHES**
Over the past year, Jewish organizations and museums have been implementing new measures to protect human lives. What are the new realities at hand, and what are different approaches for contending with them? This session will explore sensible approaches available for increasing security and protecting whole facilities.

SPEAKERS

Ira Forman, Senior Advisor, Human Rights First
Melissa Hiller, Director, American Jewish Museum, JCC Pittsburgh
David Johnston, Protective Security Advisor, US Department of Homeland Security, Western Maryland, Department of Homeland Security

2:10 PM |

SECURING OUR MATERIAL HERITAGE

Jewish museums protect unique assets—historic buildings, collections, and evidence from the past. Although many have taken steps to prepare for natural disasters, how can we better protect historic resources against violence, vandalism, protest, and aggression? We'll hear from museum and design professionals who have considered such questions.

SPEAKERS

Brian Daniels, Director of Research and Programs, Penn Cultural Heritage Center, University of Pennsylvania Museum

Doris Hamburg, Principal, Heritage Collections Preservation Consulting

Leonard Hopper, Landscape Architect, Weintraub Diaz Landscape Architecture, PLLC

Travis Roxlau, Director, Collections Services, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

3:20 PM |

COMMUNITY RESOURCES, COMMUNITY RESPONSES

In the face of new threats, Jewish communities, security experts, and national networks have stepped up to offer responses. This session will provide Jewish museums and like organizations with information on some of the resources, training programs, and expertise now available.

SPEAKERS

Eduardo Azcarate, Crime Prevention Specialist, Fairfax County Police

Mark Jardina, Regional Security Advisor National Capital Region, Secure Community Network

Meredith Weisel, Director of Maryland Government and Community Relations, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington

4:30 PM |

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FIELD, NEXT STEPS TOGETHER

SUMMARY BY

Laura Lott, President & CEO, American Alliance of Museums

Melissa Martens Yaverbaum, Executive Director, Council of American Jewish Museums

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