



## NEWS

—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—

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### Historic Richmond, Virginia To Be Site of The Marcus Center's Next American Jewish History Study Mission

*Travel tour to take place May 10-14, 2006*

**CINCINNATI, OH:---**The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA), the world renowned archival center dedicated to the study of the American Jewish experience, will host a unique study mission to historic Richmond, Virginia from May 10 through May 14, 2006. This special program constitutes a collaborative partnership between the AJA, located on the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and the Union for Reform Judaism, the umbrella organization that unites the more than 900 North American Reform congregations.

The program, "Travels in American Jewish History," offers participants an opportunity to travel to Richmond to examine the city's particular Jewish heritage while studying with the foremost scholars of American Jewish history. Sightseeing tours of historic Richmond will include a visit to Congregation Beth Ahabah, a thriving congregation with over 200 years of history. There will also be stops at Monticello, the autobiographical masterpiece of Thomas Jefferson and home to a remarkable Jewish family—the Levy family—who restored this rare historical site. Other localities of interest during the study tour include historical Civil War sites and the University of Virginia Rotunda—where a sculpture of Thomas Jefferson by Moses Ezekiel can be found.

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“Those who have joined us for our previous American Jewish history missions tell us that by visiting the sites of some of the most important events in American Jewish history, the stories and the significance of these events come alive in ways they could not have imagined,” said Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and Associate Professor of the American Jewish Experience at HUC-JIR. “The chance to study primary source documents with renowned scholars in American Jewish history is exhilarating and inspiring.”

### **FACULTY**

In addition to **Dr. Zola**—a historian of American Jewry and a highly regarded expert on the development of Reform Judaism—mission faculty members include **Dr. Jonathan Sarna**, the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History in the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies at Brandeis University; and **Dr. Dianne Ashton**, Professor of Religion and Director of the American Studies Program at Rowan University.

### **COST & REGISTRATION**

**The cost to participate in the Study Mission to Richmond is \$950 per person based on double occupancy.** (An additional fee of \$300 is added for single occupancy.) Tour prices include hotel, continental breakfast and lunch each day, three dinners and sightseeing. The cost of transportation to Richmond is the responsibility of each individual traveler. (The program will begin May 10, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. and conclude May 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.)

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**Online registration is available at [www.americanjewisharchives.org](http://www.americanjewisharchives.org),** or contact Lisa Frankel, Director of Programs at The Marcus Center, 513.221.1875 ext. 3218 or via e-mail at [lfrankel@huc.edu](mailto:lfrankel@huc.edu).

***MEDIA: For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109.***

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*The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, founded in 1947 by its namesake on the Cincinnati, Ohio, campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is committed to preserving a documentary heritage of the religious, organizational, economic, cultural, personal, social and family life of American Jewry. The Marcus Center contains over 15,000 linear feet of archives, manuscripts, nearprint materials, photographs, audio and videotapes, microfilm, and genealogical materials.*