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**THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE TO CREATE A NEW CENTER
FOR THE STUDY OF ANTI-SEMITISM**

**Internationally Renowned Anti-Semitism Authority Abraham H. Foxman to Spearhead the
New Initiative**

*The Center Will Have the Most Extensive Exhibition on the History and Contemporary
Manifestations of Anti-Semitism in the United States and Worldwide*

(New York, NY –March 14, 2016) – A new center for the study of Anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred will be created at the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Bruce Ratner, Chairman of the Museum, announced today that Abraham H. Foxman, former National Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), known throughout the world as a leader in the fight against Anti-Semitism, hatred, prejudice, bigotry and discrimination, will lead the Museum’s new initiative in coordination with Museum leadership.

“It becomes more and more important to educate future generations about why the Holocaust happened and use those lessons to prevent future events,” said Ratner. “Unfortunately, Anti-Semitism has never gone away and other forms of hatred including prejudice, bigotry, and bullying continue to persist. We believe it remains essential to understand the genesis of these events, and I can think of no one better suited to take this on than Abe Foxman.”

The Center will have an extensive exhibition on the history and contemporary manifestations of Anti-Semitism, including materials such as artifacts and documents, and will be the most comprehensive of any exhibition in New York City or elsewhere. It will also offer programming, discussions, courses, school tours, research, and timely news on issues pertaining to Anti-Semitism. The Center will underscore the mission of the Museum—to educate and to always remember – a mission which has enduring relevance today, for Jews and other minorities who face discrimination and persecution.

“I’ve devoted my life to educating about Anti-Semitism,” said Foxman, “and I see this as a continuation of my passion but taking it in a new direction and reaching new audiences. I believe that while the experience is Jewish, the lesson is universal. This is not just for Jews but other groups as well who are experiencing bullying, prejudice and/or persecution.”

Foxman is well-known as an authority on the Holocaust and Jewish resistance to the Nazis. He was born in Poland in 1940, saved as an infant by his Polish Catholic nanny who baptized and

raised him as a Catholic during the war years. His parents survived the war, but 14 members of his family were lost. Throughout his career, he has helped to focus worldwide attention on the heroic efforts of Christian rescuers of Jews and has been a leader in developing education programs about the Holocaust.

Using the Holocaust as history's most extreme example of Anti-Semitism, the Museum's exhibition will focus on the modern era, examine where the specific hatred of Jews comes from, why it continues to persist, and the dangers it poses to a free society. The exhibition will seek to show how in the modern era a potent component of political Anti-Semitism was nationalism, whose adherents often falsely denounced Jews as disloyal citizens, associating Jews with various liberal, cosmopolitan, and international political trends. The exhibition will show how the historic cauldron of nationalism and xenophobic notions against Jews ultimately led to the Holocaust and will demonstrate how these techniques bear a striking similarity to what immigrant groups face today.

About the Museum

The Museum's exhibitions educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the rich tapestry of Jewish life over the past century—before, during, and after the Holocaust. The Museum recently opened a special exhibit relating to Anti-Semitism: *Seeking Justice: The Leo Frank Case Revisited*. It is also home to the award-winning *Keeping History Center*, an interactive visitor experience, and Andy Goldsworthy's memorial *Garden of Stones*. The Museum offers visitors a vibrant public program schedule in its Edmond J. Safra Hall and receives general operating support from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.