

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

CANTORIAL

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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY ACCEPTS  
IMPORTANT CANTORIAL ARTIFACTS INTO COLLECTION

The National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia has received a trove of artifacts that will help the institution interpret the cantorial profession in America during the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray, the second woman to serve as the cantor of a Conservative synagogue and a founder and leader of the Women Cantors' Network, donated archival materials to the Museum related to her own career and that of her grandfather, Adolph Katchko (1886-1958).

Katchko-Gray is a fourth-generation cantor. She recently published "Katchko: 3 Generations of Cantorial Art," a songbook and CD that bring together three generations of cantors in her family. Adolph Katchko's archives are in The Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary. His three-volume "Thesaurus of Cantorial Liturgy" is an important collection of cantorial chanting.

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## CANTORIAL/ADD 1

Katchko-Gray donated a large amount of archival materials including letters, diplomas, prayer books, journals, photographs, recordings, song books and many more artifacts and documents related to her career and to the history of the Women Cantors' Network. She also donated her grandfather's cantorial hat, manuscripts, photographs, recordings and music that he used in his work.

“For the Museum, the donation of this extraordinary collection is a lasting opportunity to exhibit artifacts and educate visitors about the cantorial profession in America. It also allows us to tell the unique story of generations of cantors from the same family,” said Josh Perelman, the Museum's deputy director of exhibitions, programs and collections.

The [National Museum of American Jewish History](#), located in the heart of historic Philadelphia, tells the story of American Jews from their arrival in North America more than 350 years ago to the present – exhibiting and interpreting the American Jewish experience in a new \$150 million, 100,000-square-foot, five-story building on Independence Mall in Philadelphia. It is the only museum in the nation dedicated solely to telling the story of Jews in America.

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