The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on Philadelphia’s historic Independence Mall, invites you to participate in our annual National Educators Institute (NEI), *The Art and Science of Teaching Jewish History in America*. This free, four-day innovative seminar draws on NMAJH’s collection and educational resources to train day school and congregational school teachers (grades 5-12) in teaching American Jewish history. Attendees will engage with experts in the fields of education and history, collaborate with Museum staff, and share knowledge and best practices with fellow teachers.

**When**  Sunday, July 7 to Wednesday, July 10, 2019  

**THE PROGRAM**

*Why study American Jewish history? How can we justify its inclusion in a packed school curriculum? How do we make it relevant for 21st century learners?*

Launched in 2016, NEI is designed to enhance how American Jewish history is taught in Jewish day and congregational schools. NEI brings together educators from diverse Jewish learning environments to engage with leading scholars in Jewish history, American history, and Jewish education. Participants learn to stimulate curiosity and critical thinking through inquiry-based learning—exposing students to the real, material traces of our shared histories.

NEI guides teachers in creating and implementing state-of-the-art lessons using the Museum’s innovative new curriculum, *Open Book: Discovering American Jewish History Through Objects*. Placing creative thinking and relationship building at the heart of the educational experience, this curriculum, emphasizes object-based teaching, thoughtful interpretation, and rich dialogue about American Jewish life.
Who is it for?

NEI is appropriate for teachers and administrators from across the disciplines, including, but not limited to, Jewish and general history, language arts, social studies, art, theatre, and music. We encourage schools to send 2-3 representatives so that the knowledge gained and skills learned can be applied throughout school curricula.

Part 1: Summer Institute (July 2019)

Participants travel to Philadelphia for an intensive four-day seminar to:

• Discover innovative ways to introduce students to the American Jewish experience and empower them to see themselves in the larger story of American Jewish life.
• Experience high-level, intensive seminars taught by leading scholars.
• Be trained to use the Museum’s unique curriculum, Open Book: Discovering American Jewish History Through Objects, a unique blend of inquiry-based learning, social-emotional development, and havruta study.
• Explore how primary source analysis fosters critical thinking and encourages students to develop a sense of historical empathy.
• Take advantage of dedicated time for planning and experimentation, as well as social opportunities and networking with your peers in the field from around the country.
• Gain access to the Museum’s online collection and resources.

After completing the Institute, participants will receive an honorarium of $250 to go toward implementing Open Book in their classroom.

Part 2: Implementation (Fall 2019 - Spring 2020)

Teachers return to their schools with new knowledge and skills, a toolbox of lessons, and the desire to utilize Open Book to enrich their classrooms. NEI is the beginning of an ongoing relationship with the Museum, and with other participants. Teachers receive one-on-one support from NMAJH educators on lesson implementation and join a growing network of educators around the country who use the Museum as a vital resource.
SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS

The Institute is co-directed by Ronit Lusky, (Senior Manager of Education and Interpretation, NMAJH), and leading scholars of Jewish history and education Dr. Benjamin M. Jacobs (George Washington University) and Dr. Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University). Additional faculty include the Museum’s Chief Historian, Dr. Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University), Dr. Josh Perelman (Chief Curator & Director of Exhibitions and Interpretation, NMAJH) and other renowned scholars of history and education.

COSTS

- Free to participate
- NMAJH provides lodging and most meals during the Institute.
- Participants or their schools are responsible for travel expenses to and from Philadelphia.

Apply here or email education@nmajh.org for more information!

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The Covenant Foundation