

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Yael Eytan
215.923.5978
773.551.6956 (c)
yeytan@nmajh.org

Ilana Blumenthal
215.391.4662
267.294.8425 (c)
iblumenthal@nmajh.org

Final Days of *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American!*
Groundbreaking Philadelphia Exhibition Closes on October 26
Before Embarking on National Tour

The next few weeks are the last chance for east coast visitors to learn the stories of baseball's barrier breakers and change makers, from Hank Greenberg to Roberto Clemente, at the **National Museum of American Jewish History's** grand slam of an exhibition – [*Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American*](#), the Philadelphia debut of **which will close on October 26.**

With major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, in close collaboration with

Major League Baseball, and featuring important loans from the Baseball Hall of Fame, *Chasing Dreams* features more than 130 rarely-seen objects, including uniforms from Sandy Koufax, Jackie Robinson, and Ichiro Suzuki, fan memorabilia, and more. It is the first large-scale, family-friendly exhibition to focus on the role baseball has played in the lives of immigrant and minority communities as they sought to understand—or challenge—American culture and ideals.



Hank Greenberg connects with the ball for a third inning homer against the Philadelphia Phillies, 1947

Those not on the east coast will have the opportunity to see the exhibition when it embarks upon a [national tour](#) beginning in April of 2015.

Upcoming locations for the *Chasing Dreams* artifact exhibition include:

- Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage: The Museum of Diversity and Tolerance, Beachwood, OH – Opening April 2015
- Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA – Opening April 2016



Visitors enjoying the *Chasing Dreams* exhibition at the National Museum of American Jewish History Photo by: Matthew Christopher

“We are very excited to present *Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American*,” says Erin M. Curtis, assistant curator at the Skirball Cultural Center. “The exhibition’s tales of encounters with and integration into baseball—and therefore American life—relate vividly to our mission of exploring the experiences of diverse cultural groups in the United States. Here in Los Angeles, a true baseball town where Sandy Koufax is a sports legend and Jewish icon, we look forward to engaging our visitors with the rich history of

baseball—the heroes, home runs, shortcomings, and struggles that make up both its story and that of our nation.”

Other institutions that wish to host *Chasing Dreams* can also borrow a “pop-up” panel version of the exhibition, appropriate for non-museum environments, that includes many of the stories and visuals from the exhibition, but no artifacts.

Upcoming locations for the *Chasing Dreams* pop-up exhibition include:

- Temple Ohabei Shalom, Brookline, MA – On view now through November 11, 2014
- The Jewish Museum Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI – Opening June 2015

Stay tuned for information about additional stops on the *Chasing Dreams* national tour at <http://chasingdreams.nmajh.org/national-tour/>

Images:

Hank Greenberg hitting a third inning homer against the Philadelphia Phillies, April 29, 1947
Donated by Corbis

Jackie Robinson signing autographs on the first day of spring training with the Brooklyn Dodgers
March 6, 1948
Donated by Corbis

The National Museum of American Jewish History, located on historic Independence Mall in Philadelphia, brings to life the 360-year history of Jews in America. Tracing the stories of how Jewish immigrants became Jewish Americans, the Museum invites visitors of all backgrounds to share their own stories and reflect on how their histories and identities shape and are shaped by the American experience. An open door for all, NMAJH honors the past and contributes to a better future by sharing the power of imagination and ideas, culture and community, leadership and service, in ways that turn inspiration into action.

The National Museum of American Jewish History is located at 101 South Independence Mall East at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets in Philadelphia. Museum hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Saturday and Sunday 10:00 am - 5:30 pm. NMAJH is closed most Mondays, including federal holidays and some Jewish holidays. Museum admission is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for senior citizens and youth, free for children 12 and under, Museum Members, and active military with ID. For information on the Museum, the public may call 215.923.3811 or visit the website at NMAJH.org.