

## CAJM 2014 RETREAT PRESENTERS

**MARY ALEXANDER** has led the museum assistance program of the Maryland Historical Trust since 1999, helping historical and cultural museums across Maryland address their professional needs. She has been an active museum educator in Washington, DC since 1970. Alexander has worked for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Museum Education Roundtable, George Washington Bicentennial Center (Alexandria, VA), National Archives, Mount Vernon, American Association for State and Local History's Common Agenda for History Museums, Hillwood Museum and the Montgomery County Historical Society. She is the co-author (with George Hein) of *Museums: Places of Learning*, and she published a revised version of her father's (Edward Alexander) book, *Museums in Motion: An Introduction to the History and Functions of Museums*, in 2008.

**BARBARA SCHAFFER BACON** co-directs Animating Democracy, a program of Americans for the Arts that inspires, informs, promotes, and connects arts and culture as potent contributors to community, civic, and social change. She has written and contributed to publications including *Civic Dialogue*, *Arts & Culture: Findings from Animating Democracy; Case Studies from Animating Democracy; Animating Democracy: The Artistic Imagination as a Force for Civic Dialogue; The Arts & Civic Engagement Tool Kit*, and *Trend or Tipping Point: Arts & Social Change Grantmaking*. Barbara previously served as executive director of the Arts Extension Service at the University of Massachusetts. She is currently a Governor's appointee to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, serves on the board of WomanArts, and is president of the Arts Extension Institute, Inc. Barbara is studying to become Bat Mitzvah in June.

**FORD W. BELL** has been the President of the American Alliance of Museums since 2007. He has more than thirty years experience as a nonprofit executive, board chair, donor, trustee and educator. From 1982 to 1995, Bell served on the staff of the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine, where he taught and did clinical research. From 1995 to 2005, he was president and CEO of the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, a prominent clinical research organization and a nationally recognized provider of community heart health education. He served as board chair of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts from 2003 to 2005 and was co-chair of the Institute's "Bring Art to Life" capital campaign. From 1983 to 2007, he served on the advisory board of the Bell Museum of Natural History.

**SUSAN BRONSON** serves as Executive Director of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. She holds a Ph.D. in Russian History and Jewish History from the University of Michigan, and has worked in non-profit culture and higher education for more than twenty years. Susan served as Program Director at the Social Science Research Council in New York; Director of Planning and Development for Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, MA; and Interim Director of the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, MA. She has consulted to museums, theater companies and foundations including the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Memorial, the Carnegie Corporation, the Kennan Institute, the Berkshire Theater Festival, and the Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

**DEBORAH CARDIN** is assistant director at the Jewish Museum of Maryland. In this capacity, she supervises the Museums exhibitions, collections, education, publications, and programs departments. Ms. Cardin has worked at the JMM since 2000, and served as the Museum's

education director until 2011 when she assumed her current position. As the JMM education director, Cardin was responsible for all aspects of the Museum's education programs, including field trips and off-site programs for schoolchildren, teacher training workshops, visitor guides for exhibitions and historic sites, and docent-led interpretation of the JMM's historic synagogues.

**STEVEN M. COHEN** is Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy at HUC-JIR and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner. Previously, he taught at The Hebrew University, Queens College, Yale, and JTS. He is the author of hundreds of scholarly articles and a dozen books including *The Jew Within* (with Arnie Eisen), *Two Worlds of Judaism" The Israeli and American Experience* (with Charles Liebman), and *Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary* (with Isa Aron, et al.), winner of the National Jewish Book Award. He serves as president of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry.

**AVI DECTER** is the managing partner of History Now. Previously he served as director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland and the Museum of American Jewish History. He also taught at St. Mary's College of Maryland and served as special assistant to the Director of the National Museum of American History (Smithsonian). Decter was the interpretive planner for core exhibits at both the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and The Jewish Museum NY. He has consulted on new museums ranging from the Louisville Slugger Museum to the National Civil War Museum. For 25 years he was a senior advisor to the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, where he organized the Jewish Documentary Film Fund and coordinated several national programs. In 1977, he was a founder of the Council of American Jewish Museums.

**MICHELLE DELCARLO** works at the Smithsonian Institution's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, where she grows the Spark!Lab National Network. She graduated from the University of Washington, earning a Master of Arts degree from the Museology Graduate Program and a Nonprofit Management Certificate from the Evans School of Public Affairs. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Michelle has always been passionate about connecting people through stories and giving everyone a voice. In 2011, Michelle created The Pop-Up Museum, a participatory event where, based on a theme, people share personal objects and stories in order to have conversations and build community.

**ZAHAVA D. DOERING** is currently Senior Social Scientist at the Smithsonian Institution. A University of Chicago trained quantitative sociologist and ethnographer; she has had years of experience in social science research and studies in museums. She also serves as Editor of *Curator: The Museum Journal*, and as a member of the Board of the Council of American Jewish Museums. Doering consults, lectures, and conducts workshops and seminars for museums and other cultural institutions throughout the United States and abroad, including New Zealand, Australia, Spain, India, and South Africa. She has also published extensively. Her research is focused on the role of museums in the lives of individuals, especially identity reinforcement and formation.

**LISA B. EISEN** is National Director of the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, part of the Schusterman Philanthropic Network. For more than a decade, she has spearheaded the

Foundation's global grant-making agenda to create and support initiatives that empower young Jews to strengthen their Jewish identities, build vibrant, inclusive Jewish communities, support the State of Israel and repair the world. She is founding board chair of both the Israel on Campus Coalition and the iCenter and was founding board chair of Repair the World. She also serves on the boards of BBYO, the Israel Institute, and Project Interchange. Lisa graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and earned her M.A. with honors at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**RICHARD EVANS** is President and Co-Founder of EmcArts, where he directs programs and strategic partnerships promoting innovation, organizational change, and effective response to a new era in arts and culture. He designed and launched an *Innovation Lab for the Performing Arts* in 2008 with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and an *Innovation Lab for Museums*, supported by MetLife Foundation, launched in 2011. Evans also leads the design and implementation of the *New Pathways for the Arts Initiative*, a national series of community-based innovation programs. Prior to founding EmcArts, he held numerous senior positions in performing arts management and philanthropy, including co-director of the National Endowment for the Arts' Advancement Program, first Coordinator of the National Alliance of Artists' Communities, Chief Executive of the Bath International Festival of Music & the Arts, England, and Vice President of the National Arts Stabilization Fund.

**BENJAMIN FILENE** is Associate Professor and Director of Public History at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Since 2006 he has worked with his students to complete a series of community-based, collaborative projects relating to North Carolina history, and he consults on exhibition projects across the country. Prior to UNCG, Filene was Senior Exhibit Developer at the Minnesota Historical Society (1997-2006). He served as lead developer on *Open House: If These Walls Could Talk* (winner of a WOW Award for innovation and an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History) and *Sounds Good to Me: Music in Minnesota*. Filene co-edited the collection *Letting Go? Historical Authority in a User-Generated World* (2011).

**ALEISA FISHMAN** is a historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., where she works on numerous programs that explore the history of the Holocaust and how that history remains relevant. As part of the Museum's efforts to address contemporary antisemitism, she curates the Museum's audio podcast series *Voices on Antisemitism*. These interviews with a variety of distinguished leaders of different backgrounds aim to raise awareness about the continuing threats of hatred and antisemitism in our world today. A member of the Museum's founding staff, Dr. Fishman received her Ph.D. in American History from American University.

**JOANNE MARKS KAUVAR** has served as CAJM's first Executive Director for the past ten years. A member of CAJM since 1986, she was previously Director of the Mizel Center for Arts and Culture at the JCC and Administrator of the Mizel Museum of Judaica at BMH-BJ Synagogue in Denver. She began her career in arts administration with an NEA internship at the Colorado Council on the Arts and Humanities, and subsequently oversaw creation of the state's Percent for Art Program, Colorado Artists Register, CETA Artists-in-Residence Program, Federal Regional Design Assembly, and State of Colorado Design Improvement Program.

Kauvar also served as Co-Chair of the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District Tier II Community Awareness Project, a consortium of twenty metro Denver arts organizations.

**RANDI KORN** is Director of Randi Korn & Associates, Inc., a company that works with cultural organizations to plan their work to achieve impact, evaluate programs, and conduct audience research. Prior to starting RK&A in 1988, Randi had held a variety of museum positions, including executive director, interpretive planner, and evaluator. Randi presents at conferences, publishes in journals, and lectures regularly at Johns Hopkins University, The Corcoran College of Art, and The George Washington University where she taught for 18 years. She is currently on the board of the Visitor Studies Association and a Research Commissioner for the National Art Education Association.

**LIZ LERMAN** is a choreographer, performer, writer, educator, and speaker. She founded Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1976, leading the company's multi-generational ensemble until 2011. Her aesthetic approach spans the range from abstract to personal to political. *Hiking the Horizontal: Field Notes from a Choreographer*, Liz's collection of essays, was published by Wesleyan University Press. Her work has been commissioned by the Lincoln Center, American Dance Festival, and the Kennedy Center among many others. Her newest performance, "The Matter of Origins," examined the question of beginnings through dance, media and innovative formats for conversation. Liz has been the recipient of numerous honors, including and a 2011 United States Artists Ford Fellowship and a 2002 MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship.

**ZACHARY PAUL LEVINE** recently joined the staff of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington as its Curator, where his efforts will focus on developing that organization's new museum. Previously, he served as Curator at Yeshiva University Museum where he developed exhibitions on the intersection of modern Jewish history and contemporary art, ranging from Jewish women's comics, to the history and social dimensions of the Eruv, to contemporary art installations. Levine cultivated YUM's new-media efforts, expanding the museum's presence far beyond its wall. He came to the museum world by way of academic training in modern European Jewish history. Levine presented at the 2011 and 2012 CAJM conferences, and is a Program Co-Chair of the 2014 CAJM Retreat.

**PETER LINETT** is chairman and chief idea officer of Slover Linett Audience Research, a social research firm for the cultural sector. He and his colleagues help arts organizations, museums, and cultural funders understand their audiences, evaluate their impact, and experiment with new strategies for participation. His clients range from Carnegie Hall, the Getty Museum, and Dance/USA to the American Museum of Natural History, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Irvine Foundation. Linett recently founded Culture Kettle, a nonprofit catalyst for dialogue and research on evolutionary questions about public engagement in the arts and sciences. He is an associate of the Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago and served for more than a decade on the editorial staff of *Curator: The Museum Journal*.

**JOSH PERELMAN** is the chief curator and director of exhibitions and collections at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia. He is the co-curator of the Museum's upcoming exhibition, "Chasing Dreams: Baseball and Becoming American," supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Josh oversaw the NMAJH's core exhibition (2010), and founded the Museum's education, public programming, and visitor

services departments. Perelman has a joint PhD in Jewish Studies and American History as well as eighteen years of experience in museums and non-profit leadership. He writes and lectures on historical interpretation and the intersections of culture, politics, and art; serves on the boards of the Council of American Jewish Museums and Philadelphia's University City Arts League, and is a member of the American Jewish Historical Society's academic council.

**MARVIN PINKERT** was appointed executive director of the Jewish Museum of Maryland (JMM) in Baltimore in June 2012. Prior to joining JMM, Pinkert spent eleven years at the National Archives, developing and managing the National Archives Experience. Among the projects he directed were the creation of the *Public Vaults*, the *Boeing Learning Center*, and the *William G. McGowan Theater* as well as the web tools, the *Digital Vaults* and *DocsTeach*. Pinkert had previously served as Vice President for Programs at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Pinkert received his bachelors degree from Brandeis University, a masters degree in Japanese studies from Yale University and a masters of management degree in non-profit management from Northwestern University.

**KATHERINE PRINCE** is the Senior Director of Strategic Foresight at KnowledgeWorks, where she leads the organization's work on the future of learning. Since 2007, she has helped a wide range of education stakeholders to develop forward-looking visions and strategies for bringing those visions to life. She also writes about what the future of learning will mean for the education system and how today's innovations are signaling a shift toward a vibrant learning ecosystem that puts learners at the center. Before joining KnowledgeWorks in 2006, Katherine worked at Britain's Open University and helped federal agencies and other clients improve service quality by incorporating a customer perspective into their organizational planning. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Union Institute and University.

**LAURA SCHIAVO** is Assistant Professor of Museum Studies at George Washington University. She has extensive experience in curatorial and exhibition practice. She has served as Exhibitions Curator of the City Museum, the Director of Museum Programs, Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, and, most recently, as a Curator at the National Building Museum. Her exhibition, "Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s" opened at the NBM in October 2010. The accompanying book was published by Yale University Press. Dr. Schiavo's writing has appeared in *Cultural Narratives: Textuality and Performance in the United States before 1900* (Notre Dame University Press, forthcoming), *New Media, 1740-1915* (MIT Press, 2003) and *The Exhibitionist* (Spring 2013). Her current research focuses on civic engagement in a variety of American museums.

**MARSHA L. SEMMEL** is Senior Advisor at the Noyce Leadership Institute and an Independent Consultant working with foundations and cultural organizations on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, strategic partnerships, cultural policy, and leadership. At the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), from 2003 to 2013, she served as the agency's first director for strategic partnerships, deputy director for the Office of Museum Services, and, acting IMLS director. At IMLS, she played a formative role in *Connecting to Collections* and led the agency's *Museums, Libraries, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills* initiative. Previously, she served as president and CEO of the Women of the West Museum, president and CEO of Conner Prairie, and director of the NEH Division of Public Programs. Ms. Semmel has also worked at the Smithsonian

Institution; the B'nai B'rith National Jewish Museum; and The Taft Museum, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**GARY VIKAN** was Director of the Walters Art Museum from 1994 to 2013. He stepped down from that position to write and teach, to pursue projects at the intersection of the arts and sciences, and to provide consulting services as *Vikan Consulting LLC* to art museums and to dealers. He recently developed an exhibition on neuroscience and art with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Washington, D.C. His recent books include *Early Byzantine Pilgrimage Art* (2010), *From the Holy Land to Graceland* (2012), and *UNRAVELED: How, When and Where the Shroud of Turin was Made by Human Hands* (forthcoming in 2014). He is now writing his memoirs, *Funny What You Remember: Stories from 40 Years in Art Museums*.

**MORRIS J. VOGEL** has been President of the Tenement Museum since June 2008, where he provides oversight of all projects to ensure they advance the Museum's mission and strategic plan. He obtained his Ph.D. in history at the University of Chicago and served on the faculty of Temple University for 30 years, advancing in rank to acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts. He has published widely in the social history of American medicine, cultural history, and urban history. While at Temple, Dr. Vogel founded the NEH-funded Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities (MARCH). Before coming to the Tenement Museum, he served as director of Creativity and Culture at the Rockefeller Foundation, where he initiated strategies for employing culture as an agent of social transformation.

**MELISSA MARTENS YAVERBAUM** is the Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City. At the Museum she has developed exhibitions on the poet Emma Lazarus, the game of mah jongg, the song "Hava Nagila," the Morgenthau family, and the town of Oświęcim, Poland. For ten years, she was the Curator of the Jewish Museum of Maryland where she curated exhibitions on Jewish department stores, Jewish fashion and beauty, synagogue architecture, and Jewish vacation culture. She has also worked at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, and the Newberry Library. She has been in the museum profession for twenty three years, and is an officer of the Council of American Jewish Museums.

**DANIEL G. ZEMEL** is the senior rabbi of Temple Micah in Washington, DC, where he has served since 1983. Rabbi Zemel is a member of the Synagogue 3000 Leadership Network, a select national group of congregational rabbis, cantors, and artists who are working to create sacred communities that are compelling moral and spiritual centers of Jewish life. Rabbi Zemel views his role to be a cultural translator—"translating" our inherited Judaism into a theology and practice that speaks to our place and time. He is a contributor to the *Journal for Reform Judaism* and the multi-volume commentary on the High Holy Days, *Prayers of Awe*. Rabbi Zemel is a graduate of Brown University and the Hebrew Union College -Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and New York