



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

# HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

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## **History Center Events to Examine Italian-Jewish Heritage in Pittsburgh and Beyond**

***-The History Center's Italian American Program and Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives will co-present talks featuring Barbara Aiello, Italy's first female rabbi-***

PITTSBURGH, October 20, 2017 – The Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, will host guest speaker Rabbi Barbara Aiello for two special lectures focusing on the relationships between the Italian and Jewish communities on Saturday, Oct. 28 and Sunday, Oct. 29.

The lectures are co-presented by the museum's Italian American Program and its Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives.

A Pittsburgh native and Indiana University of Pennsylvania graduate, Aiello is Italy's first female rabbi. She serves Jews throughout Europe as a spokesperson for Pluralistic Judaism, a movement that deliberately blurs denominational lines and extends the hand of Jewish welcome to Jews of all backgrounds.

In a presentation titled "The Story of the Hidden Jews in Southern Italy" on Saturday, Oct. 28 at 1 p.m., Aiello will discuss the Italian Jewish Cultural Center of Calabria (IjCCC), an international organization dedicated to helping those with Italian heritage determine if their family surnames indicate Italian Jewish roots. Aiello is the founding director of the IjCCC.

As part of "Italian Jews and World War II" on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 1 p.m., Aiello will discuss the experience of Italian Jews during World War II, focusing on the southern region of Calabria, where she serves as Rabbi of Congregation Ner Tamid del Sud. Aiello will share stories of the Calabrian villagers and other Italians who protected their Jewish neighbors at great personal risk.

General admission to each lecture is \$20 and free for History Center members. For guests attending both the Saturday and Sunday lectures, admission is \$25. University of Pittsburgh students receive free admission with their Pitt student ID.

Pre-registration is encouraged at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events).

This program is sponsored by Roots in the Boot Italian Genealogy Group, The University of Pittsburgh Jewish Studies Program, with support from the Giant Eagle Foundation Endowment for Community Outreach, University of Pittsburgh, Department of French & Italian, and Classrooms without Borders.

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For more information on this public program, please visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org) or contact Melissa E. Marinaro, director of the Italian American Program, at 412-454-6426 or [memarinaro@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:memarinaro@heinzhistorycenter.org).

**The Senator John Heinz History Center**, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and the largest history museum in Pennsylvania, presents American history with a Western Pennsylvania connection. The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum is a museum within a museum, comprehensively presenting the region's remarkable sports story through hundreds of artifacts and interactive experiences for visitors of all ages. The History Center and Sports Museum are located at 1212 Smallman Street in the city's Strip District, and are open every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The History Center's museum system includes the Sports Museum; the Fort Pitt Museum in historic Point State Park; and Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Pa. in Washington County. More information is available at [www.heinzhistorycenter.org](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org).



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