



SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

# HISTORY CENTER

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

## Media Contacts:

Brady Smith

412-454-6459

[bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:bmsmith@heinzhistorycenter.org)

Kim Roberts

412-454-6382

[kmroberts@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:kmroberts@heinzhistorycenter.org)

## **History Center's Detre Library & Archives Collecting Materials from Tree of Life Synagogue Tragedy**

***-The History Center will offer Caring for Community tours focused on Pittsburgh's Jewish history and heritage-***

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 2, 2018 – In response to the Tree of Life synagogue tragedy in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood, the Senator John Heinz History Center has announced a collecting initiative and a series of tours focusing on Jewish history in Western Pa.

The History Center's Detre Library & Archives and Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives have established a special [web page](#) to collect materials that document the global response to the tragedy.

"This terrible event promises to be a deeply consequential moment in American Jewish history," said Eric Lidji, Director, Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives. "We must make sure that we document the global response to the fullest extent, so that future generations will be able to analyze what happened here and hopefully understand what it meant."

As efforts take place to memorialize the victims and to aid survivors and their families and communities, the History Center will document moments of healing, giving, protest, and solidarity from all over the world and from here in Western Pa. A selection of materials gathered will be preserved at the History Center and made available for open research.

The Rauh Jewish History Program & Archives is collecting both digital content (images, social media, video recordings, typed recollections) and physical items (programs, signs, transcripts of speeches, commemorative objects) from memorials and civic engagements both locally and internationally.

To contribute, please visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/collections](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/collections) and click on the Tree of Life Tragedy tab or e-mail [RJArchives@heinzhistorycenter.org](mailto:RJArchives@heinzhistorycenter.org) for more information.

### **Caring for Community Tours and Community Response Wall**

As our region heals and looks for ways to rebuild in the coming weeks, the History Center invites visitors to a series of tours focused on the Pittsburgh Jewish community's tradition of caring for the community. In addition to stories of persistence, of triumph, and of pain, the Jewish community's unceasing focus on helping others is a lesson well-taken in this dark moment in Pittsburgh's history. Caring for Community Tours will focus on two History Center exhibitions, **Pittsburgh: A**

***Tradition of Innovation*** and the ***Special Collections Gallery***. These tours are free and open to the public, but pre-registration is encouraged due to limited space.

Upcoming tours:

- Sunday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m.\*\*
- Monday, Nov. 5 at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 8 at 6 p.m.

\*\* To access other History Center exhibitions on Sunday, Nov. 4, regular museum admission applies.

In addition to the Caring for Community tours, the History Center will install a Community Response Wall in the museum's first floor Great Hall this weekend, where visitors can leave their thoughts, condolences, and messages of support to the Pittsburgh community. No admission is required to add thoughts to the Community Response Wall.

**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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