

**A Community Gathering of Remembrance and Reopening, May 29, 2025**

**Remarks by Chris Wolf**

Board President of the Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum

Friends, colleagues, members of our cherished community,

We gather today under the shadow of immense grief, our hearts heavy with sorrow and disbelief. Just a week ago, a senseless act of violence took from us two bright lights, two individuals dedicated to the ideals this museum stands for: Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Capital Jewish Museum, I stand before you today with a heart full of sorrow to mourn their tragic and untimely passing. Yaron and Sarah were young, full of life, and deeply committed to building bridges of understanding and promoting peace. Their passion and dedication were evident in all that they did, and their loss is an immeasurable tragedy for their families, their friends, and for all of us who believe in the power of connection and shared humanity.

In these difficult days, we have grappled with profound sadness and searched for meaning in the face of such senseless violence. The pain we feel is deep and it is real. We recognize the shock and grief that has rippled through our community, and we want to extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of Yaron and Sarah.

And yet, even in this darkness, we must also find strength. Today, as we mourn, we also gather to reaffirm the unwavering commitment of the Capital Jewish Museum to its founding mission: to preserve our history, to foster understanding, and to build bridges with the diverse communities that make up our community. This commitment is now more important than ever.

As the Board President, I want to state unequivocally that we will not be deterred from this vital work. Last week's senseless act of violent antisemitism sought to sow division and fear. But we, the Capital Jewish Museum, represent a celebration of Judaism and as a testament to the power of unity. Our celebration of Judaism and all it has contributed to society is perhaps the best antidote to antisemitism.

Today's reopening is not simply a return to normal; it is an act of resilience. It is a declaration that we will not allow hate to silence our voices or to diminish our commitment to building a better future. The memory of Yaron and Sarah will not be a cause for retreat, but rather a powerful inspiration to redouble our efforts. Their dedication to peace will fuel our resolve.

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Therefore, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to announce that we dedicate our future work to the enduring memory of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, we will continue to process this tragedy and to heal as a community. We invite you to join us in this journey. Let us honor the memory of Yaron and Sarah by recommitting ourselves to the values they held dear – values of peace, understanding, and the unwavering belief in our shared humanity.

Thank you.

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*The Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum opened in 2023. The Museum explores the Jewish experience in the national capital region and inspires visitors to connect personally and collectively, reflect on the relevance of the past to today, and act on behalf of their communities and values. The Museum connects the past to the present through thought-provoking exhibitions, dynamic programming, and creative public experiences.*

[capitaljewishmuseum.org](https://capitaljewishmuseum.org)