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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2025

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Capital Jewish Museum Reopens with Memorial Tribute from Mayor Bowser, Local Officials, Faith Leaders

After last week's tragic murder of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, the Jewish community comes together to mourn the lives lost and encourage learning of Jewish DC's history

WASHINGTON – This morning, the **Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum** [hosted a reopening ceremony](#), honoring the memories of Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, and bringing together the local community to recommit to telling the story of Jewish DC.

Speakers included the museum's leadership, Executive Director Dr. Beatrice Gurwitz and Board Chair Chris Wolf; Washington D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser; Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt, Senior Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation; The Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington; Imam Talib Shareef, President and Imam of Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque; Joshua Maxey, executive director of Bet Mishpachah; and Sue Stolov, president of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Washington.

Guests explored the museum, including the new and highly anticipated [LGBTJews in the Federal City](#) exhibition, which celebrates the vibrant and diverse tapestry of Jewish identity.

Mayor Muriel Bowser said: "It is not up to the Jewish community to say 'support us.' It is up to all of us to denounce antisemitism in all forms." She later added, "We know one of the goals in the Museum is to inspire visitors to think about our own place in history, and each day, we all have a choice about how we show up." Mayor Bowser concluded, "So, one of my messages to our community here in DC is for people of all faiths to keep showing up for the Jewish community and to keep showing up for the Capital Jewish Museum."

Dr. Beatrice Gurwitz, executive director of the Capital Jewish Museum, said: "We always hope that the stories we tell in this museum will continue to inspire our visitors to find their own way forward. Through our exhibitions and programming, we try to build connections, identify points of commonality, encourage civic engagement and, always, educate the public about the richness, diversity and vibrancy of Jewish life. That work will not stop."

Chris Wolf, board chair of the Capital Jewish Museum, added, "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 history, to foster understanding, and to build bridges with diverse communities that make up our community.”

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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