

# LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM

For Immediate Release

## LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM ANNUAL GALA TO HONOR ESTHER SAFRAN FOER AND DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN ON SEPTEMBER 14

**Washington, DC, August 20, 2025**—The Lillian and Albert Small Capital Jewish Museum will host its annual gala on Sunday, September 14, at an embassy in Northwest DC. Celebrating the theme *Preserving History and Building Bridges*, the event will honor **Esther Safran Foer**, author and Jewish cultural leader, and **David M. Rubenstein**, investor, philanthropist, and historian. **Dana Bash**, Chief Political Correspondent at CNN, will host the event.

Hosting a vibrant gathering of leaders, supporters, and friends from across the cultural sector, civic life, and philanthropy, the evening honors the accomplishments of those dedicated to preserving our cultural heritage. The gala recognizes Foer, an influential leader in DC's cultural community, and Rubenstein, a lauded investor and passionate historian.

"This year's honorees, Esther Safran Foer and David M. Rubenstein, are deeply aligned with the Capital Jewish Museum's work to build connections, identify points of commonality, encourage civic engagement, and educate the public about the richness, diversity, and vibrancy of Jewish life," said **Beatrice Gurwitz, Executive Director**. "It is a privilege to celebrate their service, commitment, and lasting influence on Washington, DC."

Honorees will receive awards designed by Zachary Oxman, a local Jewish artist known for monumental sculptures, Presidential commissioned gifts for world leaders, and an installation in the Capital Jewish Museum's lobby atrium. The award, made of stainless steel, echoes his artwork in the Museum. Three sets of intertwined tubes represent the intersection of communities, stories, and identity. As visitors move through the Museum their perspective of the work continues to change, as their understanding of history evolves.

Tickets may be purchased online starting at \$1,000. Last year's inaugural gala—honoring Senator Ben Cardin and Mrs. Myrna Cardin, Washington Commanders' Josh and Marjorie Harris, and internationally acclaimed musician Pinchas Zukerman—sold out in advance.

### 2025 GALA COMMITTEE

*Meg Flax and Tina Small, Co-Chairs*, Nancy Robinson Breuer, Elisa Glazer, Melissa Hausfeld, Sherry Bindeman Kahn, Jeffrey Z. Slavin, and Chris Wolf

### HONORARY GALA COMMITTEE

Councilmember Charles Allen, Representative Jake Auchincloss, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Representative Suzanne Bonamici, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Councilmember Anita Bonds, Councilmember Matthew Frumin, Councilmember Christina Henderson, Representative Sara Jacobs, Representative Jerrold Nadler, Councilmember Brooke Pinto, and Representative Brad Sherman

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## ADMISSION

Tickets begin at \$1,000 with sponsorship opportunities up to \$100,000. Advertisements in the tribute book are also available for purchase. Please visit [CapitalJewishMuseum.org/2025Gala](https://CapitalJewishMuseum.org/2025Gala) for tickets and sponsorship information.

## LOCATION

The venue is an embassy in Northwest, DC and will be shared upon registration.

## ABOUT THE HONOREES

**Esther Safran Foer** was the Executive Director and CEO of Sixth & I for ten years, where she led the creation of what the national media called “a new paradigm for Jewish life.” In 2008 Ms. Foer was recognized as one of the “Forward 50” Jewish leaders in the country and in 2015 she was named one of the most powerful women in Washington by Washingtonian magazine.

Prior to being recruited to Sixth & I by its founders, Ms. Foer spent most of her professional life in all aspects of the public relations profession, eventually running her own firm representing Fortune 500 companies. She was involved in politics as a state press secretary and state director for a major presidential campaign. She is the daughter of Holocaust survivors, the wife of Bert Foer (an attorney and public interest advocate), the mother of three sons who are all storytellers—Frank, Jonathan, and Joshua Foer— and the grandmother of eight.

Her post-Holocaust memoir, *I Want You to Know We’re Still Here*, was a National Jewish Book Award finalist and named one of the best books of the year by NPR and the Religion News Service in 2020. It was also a BBC Radio book of the week. The book has been published in 9 languages.

Most recently, she deftly led the Museum as Board Chair when it first opened to the public in June 2023 and then as she navigated it through a time of flux, delivering it to success today.

**David M. Rubenstein** is an investor, philanthropist, interviewer, author, and historian. He is Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of The Carlyle Group, one of the world’s largest and most successful private investment firms. Established in 1987, Carlyle now manages \$453 billion from 29 offices around the world.

Mr. Rubenstein is a Baltimore native and is the Chairman, CEO, and principal owner of Major League Baseball’s Baltimore Orioles. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Mr. Rubenstein is Chairman of the Boards of the Council on Foreign Relations, the National Gallery of Art, the Economic Club of Washington, and the University of Chicago; a Trustee of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Medicine, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Brookings Institution, and the World Economic Forum; and a Director of Moderna, Inc. and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, among other board seats.

Mr. Rubenstein is a leader in the area of Patriotic Philanthropy, having made transformative gifts for the restoration or repair of the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Monticello,

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Montpelier, Mount Vernon, Arlington House, Iwo Jima Memorial, the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian, the National Archives, the National Zoo, the Library of Congress, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Mr. Rubenstein is an original signer of *The Giving Pledge*; the host of The David Rubenstein Show, Bloomberg Wealth with David Rubenstein, and Iconic America: Our Symbols and Stories with David Rubenstein; and the author of *The American Story*, *How to Lead*, *The American Experiment*, *How to Invest*, and *The Highest Calling*.

## ABOUT THE HOST

**Dana Bash** is CNN's chief political correspondent, anchor of Inside Politics with Dana Bash weekdays at 12pmET, and co-anchor of State of the Union with Jake Tapper and Dana Bash, the network's Sunday morning newsmaker show. Bash is based in Washington, D.C., where she covers both campaigns and Congress and regularly serves as a moderator for CNN's political town hall specials. She also moderated CNN's first debate of the 2020 election cycle in Detroit, as well as the last Democratic Presidential Debate of the cycle held in Washington, D.C. Bash also anchored special coverage of Election Night in America surrounding the 2020 election, which lasted several days until CNN was the first to project Joe Biden as the winner. Bash is the winner of the National Press Foundation's 2019 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism.

In 2021, Bash launched her CNN series, *Being...*, which goes beyond her Sunday morning news making interviews. The series features in-depth conversations with individuals affecting American policy, politics, and culture - giving viewers an understanding of the human being behind the public face. In 2017, Bash launched her digital CNN series, *Badass Women of Washington*, highlighting women from a wide range of backgrounds and generations to show how they have shattered glass ceilings on their way up the ranks.

Bash played a key role in CNN's 2016 presidential primary debates, serving as a questioner in six of the network's seven primetime primary debates on both sides of the aisle. Bash also serves as a co-anchor on set in the CNN Election Center for all election night specials. As part of her coverage of the 2016 presidential campaigns, Bash conducted sit-down interviews with majority of the candidates including Donald Trump, Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Bernie Sanders, and Governors Jeb Bush and John Kasich.

Bash also continues to be instrumental to the network's Capitol Hill coverage. In 2015, she broke news on live television that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy would not be running for Speaker of the House and also conducted Speaker John Boehner's final interview on his last day in office. Bash also served as the lead correspondent covering former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's 11-hour testimony before the House Select Committee on Benghazi. She played a key role in the network's midterm Election Night in America coverage providing reports from the war rooms of the RNC, the DNC and CNN's Election Center in Washington. Bash has secured several key interviews with lawmakers, including a television-exclusive with Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) to talk about his gay marriage reversal, the groundbreaking interview with former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (R-Ariz.) and her husband Mark Kelly in Arizona, and the first interviews with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) after each member's Senate filibuster.

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Bash graduated cum laude with her bachelor's degree in political communications from The George Washington University.

## **ABOUT THE CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM**

The Capital Jewish 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. With its experimental spirit, the Museum connects the past to the present through thought-provoking exhibitions and dynamic programming, and creative public experiences.

Admission to the Museum and ongoing exhibitions is free with a suggested donation. The cost of admission to the current special exhibition, *LGBTJews in the Federal City*, is \$12 for general public, \$10 for students & seniors, free for Members and children ages 12 & younger.

The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm, with extended evening hours on the first Wednesday of each month, from 10 am to 8 pm.

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## **For additional information, please contact:**

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