

Sponsoring CAJM Institution: Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum, New York City

Contact:

Curator, Warren Klein: wklein@emanuelnyc.org/(212) 744-1400 x. 259

Co-curator, Rabbi Deborah Prinz: debbierprinz@gmail.com/646-300-5067

Title of the Exhibition: Semi[te] Sweet: On Jews and Chocolate – The Exhibition

Brief narrative description:

Through images of memorabilia and facsimiles of archival materials, the exhibit highlights historical stories of refugee Jews who both worked in the chocolate business and contributed significantly to their respective Jewish communities. Jews, initially Sephardim and later Ashkenazim, were sustained by it in their relocations. These are stories of resilience, sustenance, and resourcefulness about chocolate merchants such as Aaron Lopez (Newport) and the Gomez family (NYC) in the colonial period in North America and, later, 20th century founder of Barton's Stephen Klein (NYC). It explores the claim that Jews brought chocolate making to France, identifies the earliest known rabbinic record of chocolate consumption by European Jews, notes crypto-Jewish ritual use of chocolate in New Spain/Mexico, features the first known connection of chocolate to Passover, and portrays Albert Einstein's childhood chocolate cup. The exhibit touches on stories of Israeli chocolate and also posits connections between festivities for St. Nicholas and chocolate Chanukah gelt.

Relevant local art, memorabilia, and artifacts could also be included.

The exhibition is based on the best selling book *On the Chocolate Trail: A Delicious Adventure Connecting Jews, Religions, History, Travel, Rituals and Recipes to the Magic of Cacao* (Jewish Lights, Second Edition, 2017) by Rabbi Deborah Prinz.

Exhibition Contents: High resolution photos of artifacts, memorabilia, historical documents, section labels, and tombstone labels are available digitally. Some original objects available on request. The exhibit video is also available to borrowing institutions.

Space Required: 500-800 sq. ft

Bernard Museum Rental Fee: \$750.

Insurance Requirements: None

Shipping Requirements: None

Security and Conditions Requirements: None

Accompanying materials:

The book, *On the Chocolate Trail*, functions as the catalog for the exhibit. It is available at Amazon or by quantity discount from the publisher by contacting orders@turnerpublishing.com.

Rabbi Prinz (Co-Curator and author of *On the Chocolate Trail*) is available to consult about accessing local objects/resources, chocolate accompaniments, and events to supplement the exhibition.

Video

Template for the postcard invitation to the opening

Template for wrapper for giveaway chocolate bar

Template for media release

Available: Immediately

Media: See press coverage of the exhibit at the *New York Times*, *Forward*, and *Reform Judaism*.

Categories: Food, History and Community, Immigration, Israel, Jewish Observance