



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
Historical Park

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Independence National Historical Park

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For Immediate Release

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National Park Service to Join Mikveh Israel in Rededication Ceremony

Join historic Congregation Mikveh Israel and its Cemetery Trust along with the National Park Service to share in the celebration of the cemetery's rededication. Members of the public are invited to a free event on **Sunday, June 14, at 3:00 pm** in the Zubrow Auditorium, Pennsylvania Hospital, at **823 Spruce Street**. All accredited media are invited to attend.

What: Mikveh Israel Cemetery Rededication Ceremony
Where: Zubrow Auditorium, Pennsylvania Hospital, 823 Spruce Street
When: June 14, 2009, at 3:00 pm

Land for the burial ground of one of our nation's oldest Jewish congregations was granted by Pennsylvania's Proprietary Governor, John Penn, in 1740. In 1956 the Spruce Street Cemetery became part of Independence National Historical Park by an Act of Congress. Today, this historic place is managed by the Mikveh Israel Cemetery Trust, established in 1977. The National Park Service provides professional and technical advisement.

The rededication ceremony celebrates the installation of granite plaques that identify previously- unmarked gravesites as well as weathered gravestones. These interpretive additions to the site will be an aid to tourists, genealogists and the descendants of those interred there.

We invite the public and media to join historic Congregation Mikveh Israel, its Cemetery Trust, and the National Park Service, on this momentous occasion for a program in the Zubrow Auditorium of Pennsylvania Hospital followed by a kosher reception and a tour inside the historic cemetery. The event is free, but please RSVP to Betty Samarco at 267- 238- 5401 if you plan to attend.

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