

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Jewish Museum of Maryland Presents
Leo V. Berger Immigrant's Trunk: Bessie Bluefeld
Living History Performance**

Baltimore, MD: On Tuesday, April 30, the Jewish Museum of Maryland presents its newest living history character, Bessie Bluefeld. Join us for a reception at 6:30pm to celebrate the addition of the third character in the acclaimed *Leo V. Berger Immigrant's Trunk Program*. At 7pm actress Terry Nicholetti will give her debut performance as Bessie Bluefeld. This program is offered free of charge, although reservations are recommended.

Bessie Bluefeld was born in the 1890s in the Volhynia region of Eastern Europe. She and her husband, Charles, immigrated to Baltimore by way of Locust Point in 1906. Concerned about her husband working in construction, Bessie persuaded him to open a grocery store in Fell's Point, and by the 1920s the Bluefelds were operating a stall in Lexington Market. Traveling to Atlantic City and Florida, Bessie developed her refined taste that would later be known as the "Orchid touch" that gave Bluefeld catering its edge as one of the premier kosher catering businesses in Baltimore – a business that would include her entire family. Bessie opened a food stand on a beach near Baltimore, and it became the seed for the Bluefeld Catering business. From 1937 to 1941, Bluefeld Catering blossomed, and Bessie was at the center of everything.

Although Bessie died suddenly in 1941, her husband and children maintained the kosher catering business she had worked so hard to build. For decades, Bluefeld Catering was synonymous with elegance and quality in Baltimore's Jewish community and beyond.

Bessie is portrayed by actor Terry Nicholetti, a former teaching nun who has written two one-woman shows, *Dance with Me*, in 2006 and *Father John Says a Hail Mary*, in 2011. The script for Bessie Bluefeld was written by Jonathan Scott Fuqua and the show is directed by Harriet Lynn of Heritage Theatre Artists' Consortium.

Living history programs at the Jewish Museum of Maryland have been made possible through the generous support of the Leo V. Berger Fund, the Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Fund for the Enrichment of Jewish Education of THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Please RSVP to Rachel Cylus at rcylus@jewishmuseummd.org or call 410-732-6400 ext. 215. The Museum is located at 15 Lloyd Street in downtown Baltimore and is open Sunday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Jewish Museum of Maryland is dedicated to interpretation of the Jewish experience in America with special attention to the collection, preservation and study of Jewish life in Maryland. The Museum is accredited by the American Associations of Museums and is an agency of the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore.

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