

THE JewishMuseum OF MARYLAND

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The Jewish Museum of Maryland

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Special Two-Day Exhibit Opening Extravaganza to Welcome Superhero Exhibit to Baltimore!

Press Update

Baltimore, MD: On Saturday, January 26th and Sunday, January 27th the Jewish Museum of Maryland invites visitors to experience the world of superheroes and villains at the exclusive preview event and public opening of the exhibit *ZAP! POW! BAM! The Superhero: The Golden Age of Comic Books, 1938-1950*.

Curated by the late Jerry Robinson and informed by his long years as a comic book industry insider, *ZAP! POW! BAM!* explores the creative processes and influences that drove young, largely Jewish artists to express their talents through the story lines and art of graphic novels. Working with Batman co-creators Bob Kane and Bill Finger, Robinson gave a name to Batman's young protégé, Robin. He also co-created The Joker, Batman's nemesis and one of the first Super-Villains.

ZAP! POW! BAM! The Superhero: The Golden Age of Comic Books, 1938-1950, will be at the Jewish Museum of Maryland from Sunday, January 27th through August 18th, 2013. An exclusive members-only preview will take place at the JMM on Saturday, January 26th from 7-9pm. Admission to this event is free and only open to current members of the Jewish Museum of Maryland. To learn more about our new membership program at the JMM and how to become a member, visit <http://www.jewishmuseummd.org/museum-membership> or contact Sue Foard at sfoard@jewishmuseummd.org or call 410-732-6400 ext. 220.

The preview evening will feature guest speaker Dr. Arnold T. Blumberg. Dr. Blumberg is an author, editor, book designer, educator, and comic book historian with decades of experience in the industry.

He served as Editor of *The Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide* for many years, helped to develop some of the labels and historical designations now used widely by collectors to define eras of comic book history, covered the comic book world for numerous print and online publications, worked as the curator of Geppi's Entertainment Museum, and teaches a course in Comic Book Literature at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He is internationally known for his University of Baltimore course, *Zombies in Popular Media*, co-authored *Zombiemanía: 80 Movies to Die For*, contributed to *Triumph of the Walking Dead*, *Braaaaainnsss!: From Academics to Zombies*, *The Undead and Theology* (in which he wrote about the Jewish legend of the Golem), and the *Doctor Who: Short Trips* series, and writes regularly for IGN.com and AssignmentX.com. He also teaches courses in science fiction and other media, and has launched his own small press publishing company, ATB Publishing (www.atbpublishing.com).

All are invited to visit the JMM for the public opening on January 27th from 10am to 5pm. Batman will be making a special appearance at the Jewish Museum of Maryland from 11am – 1pm. Admission to the Museum for the public opening is free for members and free for children wearing superhero costumes, \$8 for non-members, \$6 for seniors, \$4 for students and \$3 for children under 12. Please RSVP for the preview and the exhibit opening to rcylus@jewishmuseummd.org or call 410-732-6400 ext. 215.

ZAP! POW! BAM! features a drawing studio, the Batmobile, and a comic book nook. Interactive stations allow children to dress up as Superheroes, transforming themselves via a quick costume change in a telephone booth. Vintage artwork and books, multi-media, and colorful interactive displays immerse visitors in the world of their favorite classic characters. Educational aspects of the exhibition promote literacy, character development, and an understanding of the cultural force of comic books in ways that will delight children and adults alike.

The ZAP! POW! BAM! exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Maryland is supported in part by a grant from the David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation and from the Herbert Bearman Foundation. Support is also provided by the Maryland State Arts Council, and the following JMM Exhibition Endowment Funds: the Hoffberger Family, Stanford Z. and Cory Rothschild, and Harry and Jeanette Weinberg.

The Jewish Museum of Maryland, at 15 Lloyd Street, Baltimore, MD, 21202 is America's leading museum of regional Jewish history, culture and community, located in downtown Baltimore, blocks from the Inner Harbor. Here at the JMM, visitors can uncover the roots of Maryland Jewish history in our landmark historic sites – the Lloyd Street Synagogue, built in 1845, now the nation's third oldest standing synagogue, and B'nai Israel Synagogue, built in 1876 and home to a vibrant congregation. Visit the JMM Sunday to Thursday from 10-5 for more tours, more programs and more fun! For more information visit our website at www.jewishmuseummd.org, email info@jewishmuseummd.org or call 410-732-6400.

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