MAY 23

2019 GALA

TENEMENT MUSEUM
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proudly supports the important mission of the
TENEMENT MUSEUM
in educating about the essential role of immigration in America.

As we forge ahead at this crucial time to spread our message beyond the Museum’s walls by telling stories of the immigrant experience to reach a larger audience and enhance our impact, we thank our President, Kevin Jennings for his leadership.

We also join in honoring:
Henry Louis Gates, Jr. • Vartan Gregorian • Stephen B. Siegel
for their contributions to the Museum’s work
and/or to the cause of immigration and human rights in our country.
President’s Message

Some of the recent immigration news, such as the Trump administration’s recent proposal to charge asylum seekers to apply for asylum, got me thinking about Samuel Reigar, a former resident of 97 Orchard Street.

Born in 1856, Samuel — like all Jews living in Russia at that time — grew up facing bleak prospects. In 1891, Samuel did the only thing he could: he left. Along with his wife and eldest son, Matthew, he left Russia to start a new life in New York City.

Samuel and his family are lucky they landed in New York during the Harrison and Cleveland administrations and not today. To charge a fee would have almost certainly left families like the Reigars trapped in the dangerous confines of Pale of Settlement for even longer, with potentially catastrophic consequences.

Many immigrants, migrants and refugees today, especially those seeking asylum, find themselves in the same position Samuel Reigar did back in 1891. They are typically fleeing awful situations in great haste, and arrive with extremely limited financial resources. Sometimes they are coming with little more than the clothes on their backs and whatever they can carry in a piece of luggage.

The message the proposal sends — that some people are not worthy of becoming American — is vastly different than the expansive vision of George Washington, who wrote to a group of Irish immigrants in 1783: “The bosom of America is open to receive not only the opulent & respectable Stranger, but the oppressed & persecuted of all Nations & Religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of all our rights & privileges.”

Even if our history is complicated and we haven’t always lived up to our stated ideals, the meaning of Washington’s words remain true: that our nation should be a haven for all those fleeing unjust, inhumane conditions in hopes of finding liberty and the pursuit of happiness in America.

We as a country would be wise to remember that it was precisely that promise that made America what it is today.

— Kevin Jennings

At the Tenement Museum we always think about how our past immigration stories inform today’s.
Two primary challenges demand the Tenement Museum’s full creativity in 2019. Number one is the current historical moment, in which the topic we address — immigration — has become one of the most discussed and divisive. The second is the advent of new technologies that are challenging traditional “brick and mortar” institutions in every industry, but also provide new ways to communicate and reach the public.

Our first foray into answering these challenges is with our inaugural narrative-driven podcast series, which began in early March and will conclude its initial six-episode run at the end of May.

The series, titled How To Be American, explores the incredibly complex and ever-changing question “How do I fit in to America?” at this particularly fraught time for American identity and immigration.

The podcast was meticulously planned, written, and produced by an in-house team at the museum for over a year. It was crafted so that the experience of listening to an episode closely reflects the experience of brick-and-mortar Tenement Museum programming, in its evocative storytelling, immersive framing, and seamless links made between experiences past and present.

As one recent iTunes reviewer put it, “If you don’t know about the museum, the podcast is a little like the way they’ve set up the experience…it reaches back across the centuries to connect us all across history, race and nationality.”

Each episode of How To Be American explores a particular facet of American identity, from food to comics to the actual process of immigrating and acquiring citizenship. It is hosted by Brendan Murphy, an education manager here at the museum, who weaves the narrative of each episode and interviews everyone from scholars to chefs to everyday Americans along the way.

We’ve been blown away by how the podcast has been received so far, with it finding listeners in every state around the country and almost every country in the world. As of the time of writing, the podcast has almost 50,000 total downloads, surpassing our expectations.

Any institution without a digital strategy is likely to go the way of the dinosaur in years to come, and entering the podcast world is simply our first step toward creating a completely new digital dimension to the museum’s programming. It enables people all over the country (and world) to walk away with the perspective and understanding visitors to our physical museum gain: respect and admiration for the experiences of immigrants, migrants, and refugees past and present.

With new technology enabling us to deliver our message far beyond the walls of the museum, the only boundary now is our creativity.

The Museum encourages you to listen and subscribe to How To Be American on our website, Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, Spotify, or anywhere else you listen to podcasts!
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Vartan Gregorian has served as president of Carnegie Corporation of New York since 1997. The Corporation is a philanthropic institution founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1911. Previously, Gregorian served as president of Brown University and as president of The New York Public Library. He was the founding dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania and also served as provost. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships, honorary degrees and awards, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the American Academy of the Institute of Arts and Letters’ Gold Medal for Service to the Arts, the National Humanities Medal, and the Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civil award. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed him to serve on the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships. He has been decorated by the French, Italian, Austrian, Portuguese and Armenian governments. He serves on the boards of The National September 11 Memorial and Museum and The Library of Alexandria among others. Gregorian has authored The Road To Home: My Life And Times; Islam: A Mosaic, Not A Monolith; and The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan, 1880-1946.


Totenberg’s coverage of the Supreme Court and legal affairs has won her widespread recognition. Newsweek says, “The mainstays [of NPR] are Morning Edition and All Things Considered. But the creme de la creme is Nina Totenberg.”

In 1991, her ground-breaking report about University of Oklahoma Law Professor Anita Hill’s allegations of sexual harassment by Judge Clarence Thomas led the Senate Judiciary Committee to re-open Thomas’s Supreme Court confirmation hearings to consider Hill’s charges. NPR received the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award for its gavel-to-gavel coverage — anchored by Totenberg — of both the original hearings and the inquiry into Anita Hill’s allegations, and for Totenberg’s reports and exclusive interview with Hill.

Totenberg was named Broadcaster of the Year and honored with the 1998 Sol Taishoff Award for Excellence in Broadcasting from the National Press Foundation. She is the first radio journalist to receive the award. She is also the recipient of the American Judicature Society’s first-ever award honoring a career body of work in the field of journalism and the law. Totenberg has been honored seven times by the American Bar Association for continued excellence in legal reporting and has received a number of honorary degrees.
In his role as CBRE’s Chairman of Global Brokerage, Stephen Siegel advises major corporations and property owners on a broad range of real estate strategies. Widely regarded as one of the industry’s most talented and prolific professionals, he has been called by the media “a powerhouse,” “an icon,” “a game changer” and “the most legendary and revered broker still plying the trade in NY.”

Prior to the merger with CBRE, as Chairman and CEO of Insignia/ESG, Mr. Siegel was largely responsible for masterminding the firm’s expansion nationwide as well as throughout EMEA and the Americas. He also managed a group that completed approximately $2 billion in co-investments in a wide range of U.S. real estate portfolios across property types. Mr. Siegel initially rose to prominence in the industry at Cushman & Wakefield, where he became President and CEO at age 37.

Mr. Siegel is regularly among the Commercial Observer’s Power 100 and has been named by Crain’s as one of the 100 Most Influential Business Leaders in New York City. He has also been honored with Commercial Property News’ Lifetime Achievement Award, and has received prestigious industry awards.

Renowned for his philanthropy, Mr. Siegel has been called by The Wall Street Journal “the most generous person in the industry.” He sits on numerous nonprofit boards — at one point in his career more than 16, including the Tenement Museum — and has endowed fellowships at leading institutions including the Cardozo School of Law.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard University. Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, literary scholar, journalist, cultural critic, and institution builder, Professor Gates has authored or co-authored twenty-four books and created twenty documentary films, including The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross, Black in Latin America, Black America since MLK: And Still I Rise, Africa’s Great Civilizations, Reconstruction: America after the Civil War, and Finding Your Roots, his groundbreaking genealogy series now in its fifth season on PBS. The recipient of fifty-five honorary degrees, Gates was a member of the first class awarded “genius grants” by the MacArthur Foundation in 1981, and in 1998 he became the first African American scholar to be awarded the National Humanities Medal. A native of Piedmont, West Virginia, Gates earned his B.A. in English Language and Literature, summa cum laude, from Yale University in 1973, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in English Literature from Clare College at the University of Cambridge in 1979. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and serves on a wide array of boards, including the New York Public Library, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Aspen Institute, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Whitney Museum of American Art, Library of America, and the Brookings Institution. In 2017, the Organization of American States named Gates a Goodwill Ambassador for the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas.
We are especially grateful to the following individuals:

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Jas Chana
David Eng
Da"vid Favaloro
Katie Heimer
Olivia Knauss
Kat Lloyd
Alisa Martin
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The Tenement Museum thanks these Lower East Side restaurants for generously participating in this special program and donating signature dishes for the marketplace.
CONGRATULATIONS
Kevin Jennings and the Tenement Museum staff — what a wonderful year we’ve had!

Thank you for all you do to inspire so many to remember our immigrant history and to value our immigrant future.

Judy Gallent and Scott Metzner

THE TENEMENT MUSEUM IS ONCE AGAIN GRATEFUL TO OUR LEAD SPONSORS

Merryl Snow Zegar and Charles Zegar & Cindy and Thomas Secunda

for their vision and generosity in making our gala a magnificent success!
THANK YOU TO THE LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM FOR CONTINUING TO TELL THE STORY OF AMERICA.

Handel Architects is proud to continue its long-standing support.

Michele Mirman, Esq.Congratulates the Honorees of the Tenement Museum

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CONGRATULATIONS

to Stephen B. Siegel and tonight’s honorees, and a big cheers to Kevin and the entire Tenement Museum staff on another successful year.

– Elaine and Alan Weiler

WE ARE HAPPY TO SUPPORT THE TENEMENT MUSEUM AND THEIR MISSION TO PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF IMMIGRANTS WHO PURSUED THE AMERICAN DREAM

OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO THIS EVENING’S DESERVING HONOREES

KERRY SPERLING & RON MOELIS
GREAT IMMIGRANTS
* THE PRIDE OF AMERICA

Immigrants know America is not perfect, but see it as perfectible. For us, America is not just a past; it is also a future. It is not just an actuality — it is always a potentiality. America’s greatness lies in the fact that all its citizens, both new and old, have an opportunity to work for that potentiality, for its unfinished agenda.

* Vartan Gregorian
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York
THANK YOU, TENEMENT MUSEUM, for giving voice to the experiences of America’s immigrants and the profound role that immigration has played and continues to play in shaping our evolving national identity.

– Liss family and friends

THANK YOU to the TENEMENT MUSEUM for continuing to tell the story of America.

– Ellen and Dan Kramer

Ariel Property Advisors Salutes Tonight’s TENEMENT MUSEUM 2019 GALA Honorees Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Vartan Gregorian & Stephen B. Siegel
There is no edifice that better represents this country than a tenement building.

Alice and Bruce Geismar are thrilled to support the work of the Tenement Museum.

THE AMERICAN STORY IS THE IMMIGRANT STORY

CBRE is proud to support the Tenement Museum in telling the stories that shaped our nation. New York City is a richer, more diverse place thanks to immigrants’ contributions. Congratulations to Henry Louis Gates Jr., Vartan Gregorian, and our own Stephen B. Siegel on tonight’s honors—your perseverance is an inspiration to Americans past and present.

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Congratulations to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum on your amazing accomplishments and

Merryl Snow Zegar & Charles Zegar

on your leadership, dedication, and commitment to the Museum.

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In Celebration with
AMERICAN EXPRESS
Thank you to Kevin Jennings and everyone at the Tenement Museum for embracing and showcasing the rich history of immigration in New York City. The work you do, today and every day, allows the stories of immigrant families to live on, inspiring countless individuals. I am proud to be a part of the Tenement Museum community.

A special congratulations to tonight’s honorees — Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Vartan Gregorian and Stephen B. Siegel.

— Christopher P. Willcox & family

Kathy and Andrew Berkman congratulate tonight’s honorees and salute Kevin Jennings and the entire Tenement Museum staff for their dedication and commitment.

Sara Langbert and Tom Donofrio, on behalf of International Integrated Solutions LLP, are proud to support the amazing Tenement Museum and all the wonderful work that it does.
CONGRATULATIONS
to the Tenement Museum and tonight’s honorees:
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Vartan Gregorian and
Stephen B. Siegel. Proud to be a part of the
Tenement Museum community.
– Eleanor Pelta, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

CONGRATULATIONS

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The Lower East Side Tenement Museum and its Honorees
Our Friend and Board Member Stephen Siegel along with
Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Vartan Gregorian

Congratulations to Kevin Jennings
and Tenement Museum staff for
another successful year.
– The Fleischer Family
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Paul & Gretchen Massey salute
the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, the leadership of
Kevin Jennings, Scott Metzner, Merryl Snow Zegar,
and tonight’s distinguished honorees:
Henry Louis Gates, Jr. • Vartan Gregorian • Stephen B. Siegel

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Congratulations to
Steve Siegel.
Your vision, leadership and commitment have
served as a bedrock for the Tenement Museum
for decades. We lift a glass to you!
– Bruce & Julie Menin

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The Yurke-Davis family
and their friends salute
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Vartan Gregorian
and Stephen B. Siegel, all thought leaders
in advancing America’s understanding and
appreciation of immigration.
No one better exemplifies the true essence of giving and caring than Stephen Siegel.

Congratulations

– Brooke, Bevan and Peter Cohen
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is proud to support the
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and joins in honoring our dear friend and colleague
Stephen B. Siegel
Fairstead Congratulates Steve Siegel on a Job Well Done.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to our good friend, Steve Siegel.

– Mindy Schneider & Michael Lesser

RFR is proud to support the Tenement Museum Gala and its 2019 Honorees

Henry Louis Gates, Jr.,
Vartan Gregorian
and Stephen B. Siegel
Amy and Frank Garrison
thank Steve Siegel
for his numerous contributions to our community and particularly to the Tenement Museum and its recognition and celebration of the critical role of immigration in America.
Savills is proud to support the Tenement Museum in bringing awareness to the Lower East Side’s role in American history.

Congratulations to this year’s honorees
Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
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AMERICA IN THE MAKING
CBRE’s NY Consulting and Agency Groups join in supporting the Tenement Museum for telling the stories that shaped our nation. Congratulations to our friend and colleague Steve Siegel for receiving the Founder’s Award in recognition of his long-term commitment to the museum and its mission of fostering a society that embraces and values the role of immigration in the evolving American identity.

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Vartan Gregorian
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

Stephen B. Siegel
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Congratulations to the Tenement Museum and Steve Siegel for their outstanding work.
– Mindy and Jon Gray
The Board of Trustees is grateful to the Tenement Museum staff for another year of tremendous success and impact.

CONGRATULATIONS to tonight’s honorees
ABOUT THE TENEMENT MUSEUM

The Tenement Museum tells the uniquely American stories of immigrants, migrants, and refugees in the ongoing creation of our nation. At a time when immigration is at the center of our national conversation, the Tenement Museum is more relevant than ever. Since 1988, the Museum has forged emotional connections between visitors and immigrants past and present, through educator-led tours of its historic tenement buildings at 97 and 103 Orchard Street and the surrounding neighborhood, enhancing appreciation for the vital role immigrants play in shaping the American identity. The Museum is one of New York City’s preeminent cultural and educational institutions, welcoming more than 238,000 visitors, including 55,000 students, each year.

The Museum is now using every medium at its disposal, from podcasting to national partnerships, in order to dramatically increase the impact of its programming — reaching millions not thousands — with its message of how immigrants built and continue to build America. In doing so, the Museum hopes to generate a society that embraces and values the fundamental role of immigration in the evolving American identity.
CONGRATULATIONS to our dear friend and partner Stephen B. Siegel on this well-deserved honor from the Tenement Museum. Congratulations to the other honorees as well.

– The Landis Group