

GOMEZ MILL HOUSE c.1714

Museum and Historic Site

The History of Our Nation is Embedded in These Walls

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOTED RELIGIOUS LEADER AND CHAMPION OF INTERFAITH INITIATIVES
RABBI DAVID J. GELFAND OF TEMPLE ISRAEL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
TO RECEIVE GOMEZ MILL HOUSE 2016 PIONEER AWARD**

**MARTIN COHEN, REV. DR. C.WELTON GADDY, AND LIEF D. ROSENBLATT
TO OFFER TRIBUTES AT CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY ON NOVEMBER 7, 2016**

New York, NY - On Monday, November 7, 2016, at The Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, NYC, the Gomez Foundation for Mill House will honor **Rabbi David J. Gelfand**, noted religious leader and co-founder of the Interfaith Alliance. Rabbi Gelfand will receive the prestigious Gomez Mill House 2016 Pioneer Award in recognition of his leadership and pioneering contributions.

Rabbi Gelfand has touched the lives of many people of all backgrounds through his inspiring teaching of Jewish values and tradition and as a spiritual counselor and leader through his cutting-edge models for contemporary Jewish life based on pluralism, inclusivity, social justice, spirituality, outreach, and excellence in education for all ages.

"I am impressed with the remarkable history of the Gomez Mill House and of its connection to Jewish Colonial America and the founding principles of America," notes Gelfand. "I appreciate that this award is in the name of one of America's first Jewish leaders, whose work also extended beyond the Jewish community of New York to philanthropic and interfaith projects of the time. The evening will call attention to the Mill House and its symbolic importance" states Gelfand.

Gomez Mill House 2016 Gala - Press Release

Currently, Gelfand is Rabbi of Temple Israel of the City of New York. He previously was Rabbi of The Jewish Center of the Hamptons where he initiated the highly acclaimed "Hamptons Jewish Summer Institute," a unique, creative forum for Jewish learning, spirituality and culture. Having begun his career at Temple Beth-El in Great Neck, NY, he also served synagogues in New Jersey (Har Sinai) and Ohio (Fairmount Temple). For over a decade, after helping found the Interfaith Alliance, Washington, DC, the largest interfaith organization in the USA, promoting dialogue and civility, he served as a national officer. He also is a member of the National Council of AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) and has been active in a number of Zionist and Israeli organizations and institutions. Rabbi Gelfand has been an outspoken prophetic voice of social conscience, activist and vigilant in the cause of human rights, social justice, interfaith relations, outreach and inclusion and has been so recognized in the communities he has served and internationally by the WUPJ with their "International Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Pursuit of Justice" of which he is Co-Chair of their national Rabbinic Circle, a member of their International Assembly and a leader of their North American Advisory Board. He currently serves on the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's Board of Governors, their President's Rabbinic Council.

Mr. Jacobs, a descendent of Luis Gomez, notes that, *"The Gomez Mill House is a remarkable representation of the American Experience. The Gala offers us an opportunity to acknowledge contemporary American pioneers, as well as those who have helped support this extraordinary historic site over the years to insure its status as a national treasure."*

General proceeds from the event will support education programs, conservation, and preservation of the Gomez Mill House, the oldest standing Jewish dwelling in

North America and the oldest historic house on the National Register. Leadership level contributions will support the Mill House Media Project and exhibits that will document and bring to the life stories of Mill House historic owners:

Luis Moses Gomez, Colonial Jewish merchant pioneer who in 1714 constructed the first level of Gomez Mill House as a trading post; Revolutionary Patriot, Wolvert Acker; gentleman farmer, William Henry Armstrong; Arts and Crafts artisan Dard Hunter; and social activist Martha Gruening.

Ticket prices are: Friend \$350; Benefactor \$1,000. Leadership Tables are: Pioneer \$25,000; Trailblazer \$10,000; Explorer \$7,500; and Adventurer \$3,500. A reception will be held at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner and the award program at 7:00p.m. Reservations may be made online at www.gomez.org, or by calling the Gomez Foundation office at 212-294-8329.

The Gomez Foundation for Mill House is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) established to support the preservation, conservation, and public programs of the Gomez Mill House and Historic Site. It is the oldest Jewish dwelling in North America, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Located in Marlboro, New York, it is the oldest historic residence in Orange County. For more information, visit www.gomez.org or call the Foundation at 212-294-8329. For site tours, call the Gomez Mill House at 845-236-3126.

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