

# The West End Museum

150 STANIFORD STREET, SUITE 7, BOSTON, MA 02114

## Museum to Honor Leonard Nimoy, Other Notable West Enders of Jewish Descent During Jewish Heritage Month

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2016**

Boston, MA—As part of Jewish Heritage Month, [The West End Museum](#) is celebrating notable West Enders of Jewish descent. On Tuesday, May 17, the Museum will host its **Jewish Heritage Honoree Night** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The honorees are **Leonard Nimoy, Fanny Goldstein** and **Gladys Shapiro**, all whom are being honored posthumously. Presentations to honoree family members and friends will be followed by a reception with refreshments.

**Leonard Nimoy** [1931-2015] Leonard grew up in Boston's West End and never forgot his childhood community and how it influenced his life. He revisited the area many times as an adult and—in the last year of his life—starred in his son Adam's documentary, [Leonard Nimoy's Boston](#), which featured the neighborhood and the West End Museum. Leonard said his experiences in public speaking at the West End House and in the theater program at the Elizabeth Peabody House "...set me on a path, which became my life's work." Leonard is most renowned for his role as Mr. Spock in the *Star Trek* franchise. In 2015, an asteroid was named 4864 Nimoy in his honor. In 2016, the feature documentary, *For the Love of Spock*, surveyed his life and career. To West Enders, Leonard will always be a favorite son and a source of pride.

**Fanny Goldstein** [1881-1961] Fanny was born in Russia and emigrated with her family to Boston's North End in 1900. In 1913, she became a librarian at North End branch of the Boston Public Library (BPL). In 1917, she helped organize the Saturday Evening Girls, a club for immigrant girls, and edited the group's magazine. From 1922 until her retirement in 1957, she served in the West End Branch of the BPL, where she built and published collections of immigrant-themed books, pioneered exhibitions and initiated Negro History Week, Jewish Music Month, Catholic Book Week, Brotherhood Week and Jewish Book Week. This last event grew into the Jewish Book Council of America and the National Jewish Book Week Program. Fanny was the first Jewish woman to direct a branch library in Massachusetts and, in 1954, became the BPL's first Jewish woman curator of Judaica. After retiring, she served as literary editor of the *The Jewish Advocate*.

**Gladys Shapiro** [1911-2001] While small in stature, Gladys was a towering figure, especially for young women of her day. She attended Portia Law School (now the New England School of Law) and, in 1937, passed the bar and became a lawyer, a very rare achievement for women at that time. She began her practice in the West End and went on to be a successful and prominent trial lawyer. During urban renewal in the neighborhood, she fought hard for property owners to receive fair market value and—together with Senator LoPresti—successfully saved the northern slope of Beacon Hill from demolition and redevelopment. During WWII, Gladys served as an officer in the Women's Defense Corp and helped train members in Red Cross first aid. She held several offices in the Women's Democratic Party and actively campaigned for JFK when he ran for Congress and for president.

**Media Contact:**

Matt Ellis  
[matt@ellisstrategies.com](mailto:matt@ellisstrategies.com)  
617.278.6560

**Museum Contact:**

Susan Hanson  
[director@thewestendmuseum.org](mailto:director@thewestendmuseum.org)  
617.723.2125

*About the West End Museum:*

*The West End Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation and interpretation of the history and culture of the West End neighborhood. The Museum's permanent exhibit, "The Last Tenement," highlights the immigrant history of the neighborhood through its decimation under Urban Renewal in 1959; two additional galleries feature rotating exhibits. The Museum is located near North Station at 150 Staniford St. Suite 7. Hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:00pm - 5:00pm; Saturday 11:00am - 4:00pm. Admission is free.*

###