



# NEWS

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## PRESIDENT OBAMA APPOINTS DR. GARY P. ZOLA TO KEY ADMINISTRATION POST

*Zola to become a member of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad*

**CINCINNATI, OH:---** President Barack Obama has announced his intention to appoint Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives and Professor of the American Jewish Experience at the Cincinnati campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR), to a key Administration post as *Member, Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad*. The Commission—an independent agency of the Government of the United States of America—is directed by law to fulfill two primary functions:

- To identify and report on cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings in Eastern and Central Europe that are associated with the heritage of U.S. citizens, particularly endangered properties, and
- To obtain, in cooperation with the Department of State, assurances from the governments of the region that the properties will be protected and preserved.



**Dr. Gary P. Zola**

Dr. Zola has previously served in a number of leadership positions that have heightened the awareness of how American Jewish history illuminates the history of the American nation. Dr. Zola chaired the congressionally recognized *Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History* (2002 to 2005), and served as a member of the *Academic Advisory Council of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission*.

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Although HUC-JIR presidents have been selected for special assignments by U.S. presidents (Rabbi Stephen S. Wise was a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Advisory Commission on Political Refugees, Rabbi Nelson Glueck was invited to deliver the Benediction at the Inauguration of John F. Kennedy, and Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk was a member of the U.S. Holocaust Commission), Zola is the first member of HUC's faculty to receive an appointment to such a post by a U.S. president.

"The College-Institute is extremely proud that President Obama has elected to appoint our own Professor Gary Zola to membership on the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad," Said Rabbi David Ellenson, President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. "The selection of a faculty member to serve on such a Presidential Commission is unparalleled in the history of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and reflects the outstanding reputation Dr. Zola has achieved as Director of the American Jewish Archives and as Professor of the American Jewish Experience at HUC-JIR. I have every confidence that Professor Zola will contribute significantly to the work of the Commission in preserving historical sites in Europe -- including cemeteries ravaged by the Nazis during World War II -- related to the interests of the American nation and its citizens. I offer my warmest congratulations to Dr. Zola personally on this appointment, and am grateful that the achievements and talents of our colleague and teacher have been recognized in such a singular way."

Zola was one of five individuals appointed to key Administration posts on Friday, April 8, 2011. (Appointments were also made to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health and National Advisory Council on Indian Education.) "I am flattered and honored by the President's decision to appoint me to the Commission," said Zola. "And I earnestly believe that this development is yet another indication of the significant historical resources that the American Jewish Archives and the Hebrew Union College proffer to the nation."

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In making the appointments, President Obama said, "Our nation will be greatly served by the talent and expertise these individuals bring to their new roles. I am grateful they have agreed to serve in this Administration, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead."

*For more information, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109/ [joyce@kamencreative.com](mailto:joyce@kamencreative.com).*

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*The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, founded in 1947 by its namesake on the Cincinnati, Ohio, campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is committed to preserving a documentary heritage of the religious, organizational, economic, cultural, personal, social and family life of American Jewry. The Marcus Center contains over 15,000 linear feet of archives, manuscripts, nearprint materials, photographs, audio and videotapes, microfilm, and genealogical materials.*