

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2009 CONTACT: Joyce Kamen —513.543.8109



Dr. Gary P. Zola Invited by Governor Ted Strickland to Participate in Thursday's Interfaith Luncheon

Event to outline Governor's "Call to Action" program designed to engage faith-based communities in assisting Ohio's vulnerable populations

CINCINNATI, OH:---Dr. Gary P. Zola, Executive Director of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, and Associate Professor of the American Jewish Experience at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion—has been invited by Ohio Governor's office to participate in *Serving Ohio Together*, *Celebrating Our Common Humanity: An Interfaith Luncheon with Governor Ted Strickland*, on Thursday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. a the Columbus Athenaeum in Columbus. Zola's address to the gathering will focus on the theme, "America's 'Happy Emblem': A Lesson from July 4, 1788."

Dr. Zola will join leaders of other faith traditions who will speak at the event—which is expected to draw over 600 attendees. During the program, Governor Strickland will outline his *Call to Action* program—an initiative meant to engage faith communities in serving youth and providing for the poor and other vulnerable populations.

"The Governor's *Call to Action* program seeks to recruit faith-based communities to help meet the growing needs of vulnerable Ohioans—especially in these challenging economic times," said Zola. "It is a critical initiative that will provide meaningful pathways for peoples of all faiths to work together to help our most vulnerable neighbors in meaningful, life-giving ways. I am privileged to have been invited to participate in this important gathering at which we will begin this important work in earnest."

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Dr. Zola has been actively involved in community affairs for nearly three decades. He is a past president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Board of Rabbis. Zola has also spearheaded regional commemorations of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial and serves on the Advisory Council of the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

The event is sold out and no further registrations can be accepted.

MEDIA: For more information, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109.

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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.