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Objects and Memory
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Collection and Recollection Program Description

What are the things in our homes and museums that mean the most to us? How are ordinary objects transformed into irreplaceable carriers of experience, aspiration, and identity? How do we preserve the past and speak to the future? Exploring the interplay of the physical and the intangible provides context for consideration of the human spirit. Historical objects excite the imagination and promote relevance as they illustrate the past. Contemporary collecting demonstrates that we are living through history today.

With excerpts from and material captured in the making of the award-winning documentary film, *Objects and Memory*, this interdisciplinary and multi-level presentation stimulates questions about contemporary history, material culture, evidence, museum artifacts, heirlooms, artistic response, authenticity, memory, and value. In guided discussions audiences are invited to consider their own fundamental motivations and aspirations. Examples help attendees link their lives and the objects that they keep with those of others and see their world with deeper perspective.

Jonathan Fein has long been interested in the interrelationships of the tangible and the intangible. As a sculptor (University of Pennsylvania MFA '78), his work has evolved from the manipulation of physical material to sculpting in time: filmmaking. His credits include the award-winning documentary, *Journeys to Peace and Understanding*; the Emmy Award-winning series, *4Stories*; the documentaries, *The Competition*, *Death Row Diaries*, and *A Change of Heart*; the PBS series *The Fred Friendly Seminars*; the Broadway musical *Nunsense 2*; and the Wisdom Channel series *Innerviews*. Shortly after 9/11/01 he saw that historians and curators were working as history was unfolding, and started filming their thoughts and actions. This led to the nineteen-year journey of *Objects and Memory* and the book he is currently writing about it.