

Jewish American Heritage Month Toolkit for May

Jewish American Heritage Month, or JAHM, is a month to celebrate the inspiring history of Jewish people in America, educate diverse public audiences about Jewish culture, and spark crucial conversations about the American Jewish past, present and future. Highlighting these achievements and experiences helps dispel harmful prejudices against Jews and is a crucial tool in the continuous fight against antisemitism. This year's theme highlights all the vital and varied ways Jewish Americans contribute to our nation.

JAHM was first introduced as a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives by **Debbie Wasserman Schultz** in 2005, and in the U.S. Senate by the late **Arlen Specter** in 2006. Passing unanimously, it was then established by presidential proclamation and has since been renewed every May by Presidents **George W. Bush**, **Barack Obama**, **Donald Trump**, and **Joseph Biden**.

Please, utilize the sample content below to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month with your constituents throughout the month of May. The ideas and actions listed below can help recognize the many contributions made by American Jews that influence our lives, not just in May, but every day. If you need assistance to plan or execute any ideas, please reach out to David.Damron@mail.house.gov in my office. For more outreach concepts or messages to share, [tap into the toolkit resources provided](#) by the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History. To demonstrate your support for Jewish communities, we encourage you to use:

Social Media

Highlight local or national Jewish figure achievements throughout the month of May using the hashtags below. Plan and schedule social media posts for Wednesday, May 1, 2024, when we begin celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month. See the messaging guidance below:

Key Hashtags

#MyJAHM | #OurSharedHeritage | #JewishAmericanHeritageMonth

Sample messaging

Today is the first day of Jewish American Heritage Month. Happy #MyJAHM! Join me to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of American Jewish life and the inextricable link between American Jews and our broader history and culture, this May and every day.

Happy #JewishAmericanHeritageMonth! This month, we celebrate the contributions that Jewish Americans provide to the rich fabric of our great nation. #OurSharedHeritage

May is #JewishAmericanHeritageMonth! Let's honor Jewish contributions to American culture and values and join forces in the fight against antisemitism. #MyJAHM

America is great today because of its diversity, understanding, and inclusion. Let us remember that in Jewish American Heritage Month as we celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Jewish Americans and work to combat antisemitism. #MyJAHM

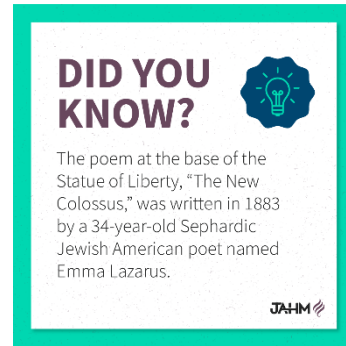
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg broke barriers as a woman, mother, and Jew. She was a trailblazer in gender equity and the embodiment of resiliency. #OurSharedHeritage #MyJAHM

Jonas Salk's polio vaccine saved millions of lives, and his breakthrough discovery served as a model to combat COVID-19. A Jewish American, Salk felt a large responsibility to make contributions that future generations could be proud of. #OurSharedHeritage #MyJAHM

Rabbi Alysa Stanton broke the highest glass ceiling as the first African American female rabbi in the US. Defying all odds, she is a beacon of resiliency and courage and an example to young, aspiring, Black female leaders. #OurSharedHeritage #MyJAHM

In 2023, antisemitic incidents in the United States were the highest number on record. One of the most effective ways to counter hate is to uplift Jewish voices and contributions to our society. #OurSharedHeritage

[Click here for downloadable versions of the sample graphics below](#)



Highlight Prominent Jewish Figures

Ruth Bader Ginsburg – Former Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, second woman to serve on the nation’s highest court.

Stan Lee – American comic book writer, editor, publisher, and producer. Co-created iconic characters such as Spider-Man, the X-Men, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, Ant-Man, the Wasp, Black Panther, Daredevil, Doctor Strange, Scarlet Witch, and Black Widow.

Irving Berlin – Composer and lyricist widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in history. Composed ‘God Bless America’ in 1918.

Judy Blume – Best-selling author of iconic books for children and adults.

Jack Greenberg – Argued against segregation in *Brown v. Board of Education* as co-counsel to Thurgood Marshall and succeeded Marshall as Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Brad Meltzer – Best Selling author of fiction, non-fiction, children’s, advice and comic books.

Jon ‘Bowzer’ Bowman – Singer, member of the band Sha Na Na; game show host.

Rabbi Alysa Stanton – American Reform Rabbi, first African American female Rabbi.

Bella Abzug – American lawyer, U.S. Representative, social activist, and women's movement leader.

Bob Dylan – Jewish American singer, musician, and songwriter, widely regarded as one of the greatest and most popular in American history. Dylan was awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature for “having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.”

Gloria Steinem – Acclaimed journalist, trailblazing feminist and one of the most passionate leaders of the women’s rights movement in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Stephen Sondheim – Award winning composer and lyricist credited for having “reinvented the American musical.”

Alexandra “Aly” Raisman – Artistic gymnast and two time Olympic gold medalist for Team USA.

Ralph Lauren – American fashion designer, philanthropist, and businessman, best known for the Ralph Lauren Corporation.

Ruth Handler – American businesswoman and inventor. Best known for inventing the Barbie doll in 1959, she served as the first president of toy manufacturer Mattel, Inc.

Letty Cottin Pogrebin – Founding editor of Ms. magazine, writer, lecturer, social justice activist, and the author of twelve books.

Albert Einstein – Widely acknowledged to be one of the greatest and most influential physicists of all time, best known for developing the theory of relativity and contributions to the theory of quantum mechanics.

Sandy Koufax – First major league pitcher to pitch four no-hitters and chose not to pitch during a World Series game when it fell on Yom Kippur

Hank Greenberg – The first Jewish inductee in the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1954

Florence Prag Kahn – The first Jewish woman member of Congress

Levi Strauss – Invented blue jeans in the late 1800s, and they remain a durable, fashionable clothing staple today.

Judith Resnick – Electrical, software and biomedical engineer and pilot. She was the fourth woman, second American woman, and first Jewish woman to fly in space.

There are various compilations that profile accomplished American Jews including [this one](#).

Celebrate JAHM in Your Community

- Share the many resources and events available from more than 100 cultural organizations located in your districts and around the country, listed at JewishAmericanHeritage.org.
- Honor your community's Jewish history by recognizing local landmarks or contributions by community members.
- Promote institutions dedicated to Jewish history and culture in your local press or social media, such as Jewish-themed bookstores, museums, and archives.
- Write an op-ed about the importance of American Jewish contributions in history and to your community.
- Host a roundtable discussion at a local college or university with notable African American and Jewish historians to discuss the connection with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Jewish scholars fleeing Nazi Germany in WWII. See historical [background on that here](#).
- Host a roundtable on combatting antisemitism with local multicultural leaders in your community.
- Encourage your local library to create a display about Jewish life in your area.
 - [Wrestling with the Angels: A History of Jewish Los Angeles](#)
 - [Jews of Florida: Centuries of Stories](#)
 - [Jewish Women Pioneering the Frontier Trail: A History in the American West](#)
 - [To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.](#)
 - [Jewish New York: The Remarkable Story of a City and a People](#)
 - [The Jews of Boston](#)
- Participate in uplifting messages each week for JAHM; themes outlined below.

Give JAHM a National Platform, Engage Multiple Levels of Government

- Record a Member video statement on JAHM for social media and share it with district organizations or in a press release and on social media.
- Deliver a floor speech on JAHM.
- Approach local governments to pass a JAHM proclamation. Here's recent examples:
 - City of Warren, MI, 2023
 - City of Portland, ME, 2023
 - City of Dover, NH, 2023
 - City of Palo Alto, CA, 2023
 - City of Tampa, FL, 2023
 - City of Columbia, SC, 2023
 - City of Salt Lake City, UT, 2023
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- Host events highlighting how Jewish, African and Hispanic Americans unite to combat prejudice or commemorate the May crossover of JAHM, Haitian Heritage Month, and Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month. Examples below:
 - [Jewish Americans were honored for contributions to Civil Rights Movement](#)
 - [A Brief History of Jews and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s](#)
 - [Black and Jewish Americans unite to talk about fighting antisemitism and all that jazz](#)
 - [Jews and Asians Uniting Our Voice](#)
 - [Combating Racism and Antisemitism Together: Shaping an Omni-American Future](#)
 - [Latino Jewish Caucus Relaunches](#)

Organize Events

- Host a film screening accompanied by a panel discussion (virtual or in-person)
 - [PBS: Extremism in America](#)
 - [Crossing the Line 2: The New Face of Anti-Semitism on Campus](#)
 - [92nd Street Y post-screening discussion](#)
 - [Partner with a local library to host a variety of events](#)

Jewish American Heritage Month is a time to unite diverse communities and celebrate the important contributions of Jewish Americans to the history of the United States of America. Please reach out to my office if you or your staff need assistance connecting with resources throughout the month. Happy JAHM!